

# LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Seventh Session  
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Friday, March 3, 2006/Phalgun 12, 1927 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for raising a matter in 'Zero Hour' ...*(Interruptions)* Yesterday the nation has been disparaged, the father of the nation has been insulted. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take it up later.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): I have given notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir there has been an insult to our self respect at Rajghat. A sniffer dog has been used for security checkup at the Samadhi of the Father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will listen you in the 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Discussion on the Railway Budget has been completed, You may speak after the reply of the hon'ble Minister.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you time in the 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: After Question Hour, I will give you time.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will allow you in the 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The discussion on the Railway Budget is over. I will see to it after the hon'ble Minister's reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Have you given any notice?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will listen to you in the 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going to be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, do not show the paper.

...*(Interruptions)*

11.05 hrs.

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

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First you go to your respective seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

11.06 hrs.

*(At this stage Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya and some other hon'ble Members went back to their seats.)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the 'Samadhi' of Gandhi ji was defiled by the sniffer dogs of George Bush. It is matter of insult to us. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go to your seat.

*[Translation]*

All of you may please resume your seats. I will give you an opportunity in the 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY KRISHNA (Barh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, sniffer dogs are being allowed to go near the Samadhi of Gandhiji. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may raise this issue in the 'Zero Hour'.

*[English]*

I will give you time during 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government should give a clarification in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government should apologise to the entire nation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, sniffer dogs of Bush were permitted to sniff the 'Samadhi' of Gandhi ji. It is a shameful incident. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please raise this issue in the 'Zero Hour'. At that time, I will give you an opportunity to speak.

*[English]*

Please sit down. Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND

\* Not recorded.

MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please ask them to raise this issue in the 'Zero Hour'. The Government have listened to them. For now let the question hour commence. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: The Samadhi of Gandhi ji is being sniffed by the dogs. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please raise this issue in 'Zero Hour'. The hon'ble Minister will listen to you.

SHRI VIJAY KRISHNA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please give us an opportunity to speak in the 'Zero Hour'. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Ram Kripal ji, please raise this issue in the 'Zero Hour'. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the developmental projects of the Railways in Madhya Pradesh have been discontinued. No provision has been made for the said developmental projects in the current Railway Budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have not given any notice in this regard.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record. Moreover, you have not given any notice on this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY KRISHNA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a very condemnable incident. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government should give reply in this regard. The Government should apologise to the entire nation. ...*(Interruptions)* The people bow their heads in reverence at Rajghat. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Azmi ji, nothing of what you say is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 'julm jab-jab Badhte hai, sabra ke dariya me tufan ata hai, Lahren Machal Uthti hai, Kinare Tut Jate hain.

We do not want to cross our limits, however, the Government have violated the bounds of propriety. No fund has been provided in the Railway Budget for the development of Madhya Pradesh, that is why I said. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

...*(Interruptions)*

11.09 hrs.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri K.S. Rao, Q. No. 182

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### Production of Nano Chips

\*182. SHRI K.S.RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the level of production of hardware used in computers;

(b) the future of development of Nanometer size Chips;

(c) India's share in world production of Semi-conductor Chips;

(d) whether the Government proposes to formulate a policy to encourage the development and fabrication/production of Nano Chips to ensure fair share of the industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### *Statement*

(a) The hardware used in computer primarily consists of Microprocessor, Storage Devices, Motherboard, add-on-cards, Chassis, SMPS (power supply), Monitor, Keyboard, Mouse, etc. According to the Manufacturers' Association for Information Technology (MAIT), the current

local value addition based on the amount of local sourcing is around 10-15%.

(b) The nanometer technology is developing quite rapidly. Intel is already shipping microprocessors based on 65 nanometer technology and has recently disclosed initial details of its 45 nanometer process.

(c) India's share in world production of semi-conductor chips is estimated to be less than 0.1%.

(d) and (e) The Government is continuously taking steps to encourage domestic production of hardware including chip fabrication. Details of the incentives being provided are enclosed in annexure.

#### *Annexure*

#### *Steps taken by the Government for promotion of Electronics/IT Hardware Industry*

1. Approvals for all foreign direct investment upto 100% in the Hardware manufacturing sector are under the automatic route.
2. National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government emphasises on energizing and sustaining the growth of manufacturing industry including IT Hardware.
3. Peak rate of customs duty has been reduced to 12.5%. Customs duty on ITA-1 items (217 items) has been abolished from 1.3.2005. All goods required in the manufacture of ITA-1 items have been exempted from customs duty subject to Actual user condition. Customs Duty on specified raw materials/inputs used for manufacture of electronic components or optical fibres/ cables is 0%. Customs duty on specified capital goods used for manufacture of electronic goods is 0%.
4. Excise duty on computers is 12%. Microprocessors, Hard Disc Drives, Floppy Disc Drives, CD ROM Drives, DVD Drives, USB Flash Memory and Combo-Drives have been exempted from excise duty. Parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular phones are exempted from excise duty.
5. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) allows import of capital goods on payment of 5% customs duty. The export obligation under EPCG

Scheme can also be fulfilled by the supply of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items to the DTA provided the realization is in free foreign exchange.

6. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items and notified zero duty telecom/electronic items in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP)/Export Oriented Unit (EOU) units are counted for the purpose of fulfilment of positive Net Foreign Exchange Earnings (NFE).
7. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes. Sales from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) to SEZs are being treated as physical export. This entitles domestic suppliers to Drawback/DEPB benefits, CST exemption and Service Tax exemption. 100% Income Tax exemption on export profits available to SEZ units for 5 years, 50% for next 5 years and 50% of ploughed back profits for 5 years thereafter.
8. Second hand capital goods are freely importable.
9. EOU/EHTP units are eligible for Income Tax exemption on export profits, upto 2009-10, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.
10. To induce more investment for Research and Development activities, a weighted deduction of 150% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have the excellent brains in this country. The intelligence of Indians is admired world over. The hon. Minister in his reply was telling that the India's share in the production of Semi-conductor Chips in the world is estimated to be less than .1 per cent, with 17 per cent of the world's population in India. It means that we have to improve our present position by 200 times.

Sir, unfortunately, because the merit is not being recognised in this country, and the red tapism and corruption are coming on the way, many of the investors are not coming forward. In this case, I just want to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that 15 years back, the Non-Resident Indian engineers in America were telling

that they could tap the conversation between Rama and Anjanaya, if it were to be true what is written in Ramayana. That was the scale of the intelligence of an Indian even at that time.

So, I wish to know from the hon. Minister that having given a lot of incentives by way of tax benefits and all that, whether the Government would cut red tapism and give approval through single window clearance for all the permissions that are required. It is because, this technology is so fast developing and if there is a delay on the part of the Government, the technology evolved would become obsolete by that time; and the industry would be crippled irrespective of whatever be the incentives given.

Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether he would assure that if an industrialist or an investor were to come forward – like what has happened in Andhra Pradesh where a Fabcity is coming up – all the clearance would be given to him in a specified time of three months or four months.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am glad that the hon. Member has asked this very significant question. In fact, the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech set out that some incentives should be given to the semiconductor industry; and in that context, he stated that the time is ripe for India to make India a preferred destination for the manufacture of semiconductors. In that context, he has proposed that in the event that the semiconductor industry wishes to set up fabrication units, then for viability gap funding, the Government will consider equity participation; and in that context, create a window of opportunities in India.

So, in response to the hon. Member's question, the answer is yes; if there is somebody who wants to set up a Fabcity and to set up a Fabcity unit in India, the Government would positively look at it and see in what manner we can help in the context of our policy framework.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, the market is set to be of the order of 363 billion dollars by 2015. Even in 2005, the market share was of the order of 28 billion dollars, which means Rs. 1,26,000 crore, which comes to four per cent of the GDP. I wanted the hon. Finance Minister also to hear this. He was craving to improve the GDP from eight per cent to 10 per cent. By encouraging this hardware industry alone, he can increase the GDP by four per cent.

So, I wish to know from the hon. Minister whether he

has got any proposal to encourage the research and development, which is being done in an intensive manner in the Silicon Valley in America by the NRIs alone. Has he made any efforts to motivate some of the Non-Resident Indians living in America?

**SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:** Sir, first of all, I would like to compliment the Finance Minister that in two years time, he has taken the GDP growth rate from six per cent to eight per cent. If the hon. Member waits for another two years, perhaps it will move up to 10 per cent.

In the context of the question that the hon. Member has asked, I would like to assure him that as far as the Science and Technology Ministry is concerned, yes, we are now formulating schemes to incentivise NRIs abroad who do R&D to come to India. In a lot of sectors of our economy, the FDI inflow is 100 per cent on the automatic route, and if people want to set up manufacturing facilities in the hardware sector, especially in the electronics industry, we are willing to welcome them. But I wish to tell the hon. Member that in the context of hardware, the maximum value, which is the intellectual property, is owned by the micro-processing industry throughout the world.

Unless that technology is developed in India, we will not be able to get the kind of share of the market the hon. Member is talking about. It is precisely because of this that the Finance Minister in his speech said that we would like to encourage the micro-processing industry. He was talking about the 'fab-city'; if there is a joint venture, if there is a technology transfer and if a micro-processing unit is set up, that will create intellectual property and create value in the industry; then perhaps slowly get a larger share of the market in the micro-processing sector.

**SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:** Nano-technology is one of the frontier areas of science. Rashtrapati Ji has also mentioned this as one of the six very focused areas where we should concentrate. But unfortunately, even in our top class IITs and Centres of Excellence, even today, nano-technology is lagging far behind and even initial steps are yet to be taken. It is because of resource constraint. I know that the Government is very eager to support R&D in this area. But the potential beneficiaries of the outcome of the researches in nano-technology are there. Both public and private sectors have a lot to do in this respect. May I request the hon. Minister whether he would approach and request the Finance Minister to provide necessary incentives to the Indian industries including public sector so that they may provide — along with Government

support — the necessary support to the Centres of Excellence and the IITs, for development in focused areas like nano-technology?

**SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:** I am thankful to the hon. Member to have asked this question. I may just mention to him that India has launched a nano-technology mission over a period of five years with an investment of about Rs.1,000 crore and an amount of Rs.200 crore will be invested every year. We have already taken on board two IITs in which Rs.100 crore has already been invested and an amount of Rs.100 crore will probably be given by another Ministry. We are extremely concerned about this issue. Nano-technology is an area which cuts across all technologies — whether it is in the pharma sector or biotechnology sector or space or health care or electronics, etc. As it is, cell phones that we use have a nano-chip. It can solve power problems of the world through photovoltaic cells which also use nano-technology. We are very cognizant of this issue; and the Government, in fact, is committed to give a big boost to nano-technology because we know the future benefits of nano-technology. I may mention to the hon. Member that ten core groups/units of nano-science are established with state of the art facilities. We have IIT, Kanpur, NSL, Pune, S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata, IISc., Bangalore; we also have University of Pune and Banaras Hindu University. We are setting up nano-technology centres in Kolkata, in Bangalore, in Kanpur, in Mumbai, in Kochi, etc. So, we are taking this up in a very big way.

#### Central Schemes

\*183. **SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to wind up certain ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is any plan to merge certain schemes with other schemes;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the manner in which Government proposes to ensure that the interests of the weaker sections of the society are not adversely affected in the process?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):** (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) to (e) The decision to wind up/merge Centrally Sponsored Schemes is taken by the Planning Commission on the basis of: (a) Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) exercise carried out before a Five Year Plan; and (b) interim rationalization of Plan Schemes during the course of the Plan period. These exercises are carried out in consultation with concerned Ministries/Departments.

The Planning Commission had undertaken a review of the existing Plan schemes and subjected them to Zero-based Budgeting, at the time of commencement of the Tenth Plan, retaining only those schemes in the Tenth Plan that were demonstrably essential. Subsequently, in 2004-05 the Planning Commission also carried out an exercise in consultation with the Union Ministries/Departments regarding transfer/rationalization/review of ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and communicated them to the Ministries/Departments.

An Expert Group has since been set up by the Planning Commission to develop proposals for restructuring and rationalisation of CSS, in pursuance of the decision taken in the 51st meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) held on June, 27-28, 2005. The Planning Commission has also decided that a Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) exercise will be carried out for carrying forward Plan Schemes into the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The purpose of such exercises is to enhance the utility and impact of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, keeping in view the welfare of weaker sections of society also.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the proposal to wind up certain on-going Centrally Sponsored Schemes is in line with the recent announcement that Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, the Deputy-Chairman of Planning Commission made in late-January 2006 at Hyderabad? Let me quote what he said.

"After thorough deliberations by the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission, the Government proposes to adopt Zero Based Budgeting from the Eleventh Plan onwards."

Sir, Zero Based Budgeting was first introduced in the United States in late-1970s and was abolished in the 1980s. Some of the countries which have adopted this system, later abolished that subsequently.

Will the hon. Minister explain the rationale and the justification for subjecting the Centrally Sponsored Schemes to Zero Based Budgeting and whether the Government proposes to apply Zero Based Budgeting to Centrally Sponsored Schemes?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, according to the National Common Minimum Programme, all Centrally-sponsored schemes should in course of time be transferred to the States. I think that is the right approach. In the initial years it may be necessary for the Centre to sponsor a scheme but once the scheme has taken roots and capacity has been built, the States must be the instrument through which these schemes are implemented. The State Governments are closer to the people. The Panchayat Raj institutions are closer to the people and, therefore, implementation and monitoring must be in their hands. Therefore, the first rationale for subjecting all CSS to zero-base budgeting is, what can be transferred to the State Governments. In fact, it empowers the State Governments.

The second rationale is that many of these schemes have outlived their utility. You cannot carry on a scheme from Plan to Plan without subjecting it to an evaluation. Upon an evaluation we find whether the scheme has either outlived its utility or is no longer relevant or can be curtailed or expanded. These conclusions can be drawn only when it is subjected to a rigorous examination called zero-base budgeting. The Standing Committee on Finance, Parliamentary Committee, all have recommended zero-base budgeting. That is the rationale for zero-base budgeting. That exercise is on now and zero-base budgeting will be applied to all schemes before we decide which are the schemes that should be continued as CSS in the Eleventh Plan period.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Many States are not in a position to take advantage of CSS due to financial crunch. The guidelines insist the State Governments to make a matching share for implementing the scheme. States are not in a position to even meet the non-plan expenditure. In this context, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would consider an alternative funding mechanism to ease the financial burden of the States.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The conception that the States are under a very severe fiscal constraint requires to be modified by the hon. Member. Things have changed. In 2004-05 the Centre devolved upon the States a State share of approximately Rs.74,000 crore. In 2005-06 the

devolution is approximately Rs.95,000 crore and next year, according to the Budget estimates, the devolution will be Rs.1,13,000 crore. The States cash balance today, all of them taken together, is very healthy and, therefore, I think the States have the capacity to take over whatever programmes are relevant to that State and implement them with even greater vigour. In the Budget speech I have given the figures for the States' fiscal position. It is improving. The gross general Government deficit is declining. The States are able to control fiscal and revenue deficits just as we are making an effort to do so. I think the States have the capacity today to pick up whatever CSS schemes they want and implement them according to their needs. What is good for one State may not be relevant in another State. CSS has a rather uniform approach. The States must have a choice to pick up whatever schemes which are relevant and good for the States and implement them. I think the States' capacity to implement these schemes is increasing every year.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask from the hon'ble Finance Minister that there are several Centrally Sponsored Schemes, but the common man is unable to get any benefit from them. The main reason for this is that sufficient funds are not released for those schemes. For instance, 'Swajaldhara' is a very good scheme, in which 10 percent of the fund is to be collected by the villagers and the remaining 90 percent comes from the Centre.

But due to non provisions of any fund in the budget of the last two years i.e. 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 I would like to give an example of Udaipur District of Rajasthan where no work could be completed. Through you, I would like to ask whether the Government propose to wind up the 'Swajaldhara' Scheme? The Employment Guarantee Scheme has been introduced recently for the unemployed people. The employment Guarantee Scheme too faces the same situation. To run this scheme, our District requires an amount of Rs. 15 crores per month whereas only Rupees 5 crores have been released for the Udaipur District. The Scheme has been introduced with a lot of applause and wide publicity was given in the newspapers that we are introducing a Employment Guarantee Scheme but what will be the result of the Employment Guarantee Scheme if we are unable to provide employment to the unemployed in actual terms. My question

is that the Government should announce a scheme in the budget and people get influenced from them and it also gives a message that the scheme is very good.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: What are your views with regards to proper budget allocation for those scheme? Please tell us about that.

*[English]*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the hon. Member is unduly harsh in her criticism. There is no basis for such criticism. The figures allocated are in the Budget papers. In the discussion, if you wish I can take you through each Scheme, show you the page in the Budget papers, amount allocated, amount spent and amount to be allocated in the next year. I can not obviously answer on any particular Scheme now. I will be very happy to furnish the information to her and give all the answers in the discussion. But let me tell you broadly, for the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, the provision is being increased from Rs.3645 crore in the current year to Rs.4680 crore in the next year. I shall write to you the page number and the volume.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: She is saying that it is not adequate.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It can never be adequate. The needs of India are so much, whatever allocation that is made can never be considered adequate. That was the position in 1999 to 2004 and it is the position from 2004 till now. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI: 'Swajaldhara' Scheme has been closed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Due to non-availability of funds, the scheme becomes as good as closed. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: On any particular project that the hon. Members have in mind, I am willing to send a reply and I am willing to reply to them in the discussion on the Budget. Broadly, what I am saying is that the question of adequacy must be measured against the need. It can never be adequate. The question is, are we providing

more money; are we ensuring more money reaches to the States and are we ensuring that the money is spent? I shall be very happy to furnish information on the two Schemes that you have mentioned. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have not given any notice. A notice is necessary.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not going to be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No notice has been received from either you or anyone else

...*(Interruptions)*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: With your permission, I would like to give some information to the hon'ble Minister. He said that the Centrally Sponsored Schemes have a very specific purpose but the targets fixed under them are never achieved-why these things happen? All our schemes like Employment Assurance Scheme, some other development schemes, or 'Black Board' Scheme remained incomplete due to this reason. The construction work has been over but somewhere the roof is incomplete or the plastering has not been done, somewhere the construction of roads has remained incomplete and the scheme has either been stopped or has been closed. I want that the Government should not close any scheme once it is introduced until the work specified under that is not completed. I would like to know about the steps being taken in this regard?

*[English]*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I think the point is well made. You cannot start a scheme, leave it half complete and then announce another scheme. In fact, the bane of the schemes has been the proliferation of the schemes without focus and without looking at the quality of the delivery on the ground.

This is why I have been emphasising that the Government of India must focus on a few flagship programmes and then ask the State Governments to take responsibility for most programmes and ensure that funds are given to the State Governments. That is the right approach. At the risk of repetition, let me say that it is the State Governments and the Panchayati Raj Institutions which are closer to the people and they are in a much better position to implement the schemes.

Sir, most of the education related schemes are now subsumed under the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan; most of the drinking water schemes are now subsumed under the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission. If the hon. Member wishes to know as to what has happened to a particular scheme, which we call the 'Operation Blackboard', I shall be happy to furnish the information. I will tell him what has been spent and where that scheme has now been subsumed.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: What about the Employment Assurance Scheme?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: On Employment Assurance Scheme I would say that it has got subsumed in the 'Food for Work' programme which has now been expanded into the Rural Employment Guarantee Programme. These are the flagship programmes in which some of the smaller elements are subsumed. I will invite the attention of the hon. Member to the Budget papers, he can then satisfy himself about what has happened, what are the new schemes and what has been proposed in these schemes.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Sir, the State of Kerala is in a disadvantageous position insofar as the Centrally-sponsored schemes are concerned. Many of the Centrally-sponsored schemes cannot be implemented in our State. The reason being the socio-economic status of the State, so the allocations under these Schemes are not given to the State. This point was raised by the hon. Chief Minister of State in the meeting of the National Development Council and the hon. Prime Minister assured then saying that while considering the Centrally-sponsored schemes the State of Kerala should be given a separate status. In many of the flagship programmes of the UPA Government, the allocations under the schemes like in the National Rural Health Mission, Bharat Nirman and in the Drinking Water programmes the State is not receiving its share. The State of Kerala is not even included under the National

Rural Health Mission. The various criteria laid down in the programmes under Bharat Nirman also not applicable for the State of Kerala.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister, in such a situation, how could a State like Kerala get adequate share for implementation of some other schemes? Also, how could the State get its share in respect of schemes under the National Rural Health Mission and Bharat Nirman?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, it is true that the Human Development Index of Kerala in many sectors is in advance of the Human Index Development of other States in these sectors, which is why I have taken pains to say that the Centrally-sponsored schemes which are relevant in one State will not be relevant in another State. That is why, my approach has been that most of the schemes must be transferred to the States; money must be transferred to the States and the States must have the freedom to apply a particular scheme, or choose whatever scheme it wants to do. That is the approach. If all of you co-operate and I am sure, you will, in the Eleventh Plan we will take that approach.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: But a State like Kerala should not be victimised.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It would not be victimised. If money is transferred, each State will then decide as to what it wants to do. In one State it may be necessary to build roads; in one State it may be necessary to expand the Health Mission and in another State it may be necessary to do some other thing. I want this whole House to support this approach of 'Zero Budgeting' and in the Eleventh Plan we will start with a new paradigm - money will be transferred and the States will be free to decide what programmes should apply.

Sir, as far as the NRHM is concerned, I cannot off hand answer as to why Kerala is included or not included. I will pass on this question to the Minister of Health and I am sure, he will be able to answer that.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, review of the Central Sponsored Schemes is an on-going process and, in every Five Year Plan period, this type of a review is normally done. I would draw the attention of the hon. Minister through you regarding the new scheme which has been propounded only last December about the Urban Renewal

Scheme where 63 cities have been identified keeping the population in view. Mega cities which have a population of more than four million, cities which have a population of more than one million and certain cities which are State capitals having a population of more than three lakhs have been identified.

Here an anomaly is arising. On 6th of March, a review is being done and I am sure, the hon. Finance Minister also will be attending that meeting because this is a scheme which is very much essential. If you have taken into account certain urban growth centres with a population of more than three lakhs, then why not take all the cities having a population of more than three lakhs keeping in view the three criteria, that is, it should be a historic city of the State, the geographical location of that city in the State and the growth centres established there? For example, Tirupati is a religious city of that State. So, are you going to take up cities keeping these three criteria in view?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is with regard to religious cities.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I wish I could do that. But please understand that there are limitations of funding and money. Within the funds that can be made available to the Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission, the Planning Commission, in consultation with the State Governments and the Ministry of Urban Development, has identified, as you said, 63 cities. I know that if I come from one of the cities which are not selected, then I feel hurt. But the point is, we are making a beginning and 63 cities have been chosen and some are left out. I am sorry that Tirupati has been left out. But I am sure that Lord Venkateshwara will look after Tirupati.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, in reply to the Question, the hon. Minister has made a difference between adequacy and possibility. I agree with him that in certain schemes adequacy would be the norm as adequacy of funds. Let me come to open-ended schemes. You have specifically said about the National Rozgar Guarantee Scheme. You have given the guarantee. So, there is no open-endedness in this. I want to know whether, in such cases, you will ensure that you will give money in the budget to any number of families. You have allotted Rs. 11,300 crore for this. Now by working out Rs. 500 per family per month which comes to Rs. 6000 per year, you will just get 20,000 families. Are you catering for 20,000

families in the entire country? If the number is increased to, say, one lakh families, will you provide that amount to those families irrespective of the number of families? You may not allow open-ended allotment and you may say it is on requirement basis. Would you please clarify this point?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: In the districts to which the NREG Act applies, and if a person applies for a job under that Act, then one person per household will be guaranteed employment for 100 days in a year and the money required for that will be provided.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had given a notice.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no notice from you.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Central Government have introduced a National Employment Guarantee Scheme in Maharashtra. Government have taken a very good decision. As the unemployed labour in the rural areas have been given the Guarantee of Employment, I urge upon the Government that the same Guarantee of Employment should also be extended to the educated unemployed people. Do the Government have any scheme in this regard? Whether Hon'ble Minister will give any aid to the educated unemployed people under this scheme?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, at the moment, the NREG Act applies to 200 districts. Any other suggestion will be taken on board and will be considered at an appropriate time.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Sir, I have also given a notice. It is a very important matter. I may also be given an opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given the opportunity to two members of your party.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

**Credit to Agriculture Sector**

+

\*184. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether private and foreign banks are reluctant in advancing credit to agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the loan to agriculture sector vis-a-vis other sectors advanced by these banks during the last three years, year-wise?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) to (c) A target of 18% of Net Bank Credit has been stipulated by Reserve Bank of India for lending to agriculture by domestic scheduled commercial banks, both in public and private sector. As regards lending to agriculture by foreign banks, no special target for agriculture is stipulated in view of the fact that the foreign banks have no rural/semi urban branch net work. The advances to agriculture and other sectors by Private Sector Banks and Foreign Banks are as under:-

(Rs. Crores)

As on the last reporting Friday of	Private Sector Banks			Foreign Banks		
	March 2004	March 2005	Sept. 2005 (Provisional)	March 2004	March 2005	Sept. 2005 (Provisional)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Total Priority sector advances	48920	69384	74734	17960	23843	23895

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Total advances to agriculture	14730	21475	20448	137	84	84
SSI Advances	7590	8668	8701	5307	6906	6320
Other Priority Sectors	26600	39241	45585	12516	16853	17491

*[Translation]*

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Agricultural production of our country is falling year after year. During the year 2003-2004 when NDA was in the power, our agriculture production was 10 percent. Thereafter, during the year 2004-2005 it came down to 0.7 percent and in the current year the agriculture production is just 2.3 percent. Due to this decline in agriculture productions, our farmers are unable to get loans from the banks. Due to this our farmers are forced to take loans from the money lenders at very high rates of interests and on finding themselves unable to repay the loans, they are compelled to commit suicide. As has been stated in the reply that the Government have fixed a target of 18 percent to provide loans to the farmers. Through you, I would like to know whether the Government propose to enhance the existing target of 18 percent under the present circumstances? I think the Government should increase the limit.

Secondly how many banks have been penalized which have not provided loans to the farmers on easy terms who borrow the money from the Rural Infrastructure Development Funds at lower rates so as to provide easy loans to the farmers. The government should invariably take such action under these circumstances so that the farmers do not commit suicide and our agriculture production increase.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ultimately you have ended up making a suggestion.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, with great respect to hon. Member, I would like to say that it is not correct to say that agriculture credit growth rate has slowed down. In fact, since the UPA Government came, the increase in the flow of agricultural credit has been phenomenal. Let me

give the numbers. In 2000-01, the total credit flow to agriculture was Rs. 52,827 crore. In 2003-04, it increased to Rs. 86,981 crore. So, in a period of four years it went up from Rs. 52,827 crore to Rs. 86,981 crore. It is an increase of about Rs. 44,000 crore. In the first year of the UPA Government, as I said in the Budget speech, it went up from Rs. 86,981 crore to Rs. 1,25,309 crore. It is an increase of Rs. 41,000 crore. For this year, we have set a target of Rs. 1,41,500 crore. I am confident that we will exceed that target. For the next year, we have set a target of Rs. 1,75,000 crore. I am confident that we will exceed that target also. My respectful submission is that 18 per cent of NBC which was fixed some time ago does not quite accurately reflect the increase in the flow of credit. The better measure is 'year-on-year' increase. Anyone who is familiar with mathematics will know that 18 per cent will always be elusive if the denominator grows faster than the numerator. Therefore, the much better measure is to look at what is the increase in the flow of credit. Between 2003-04, that is in the last year of the NDA Government – I am not criticising anyone and I am just stating the facts – and the first year of the UPA Government, the increase is 44 per cent. We said we will double it in three years. We will actually double it in two and a half years. So, we will be well ahead of the target.

The hon. Member has asked as to what happens to a bank which does not meet the 18 per cent formula. The money then goes to the RIDF. RIDF's corpus has been Rs. 8,000 for many years. For the next year, I have increased it to Rs. 10,000. I have opened another window of Rs. 4,000 crore for rural roads. So, the RIDF's corpus for the next year will be Rs. 14,000 crore. Any bank which does not meet its 18 per cent of NBC target will be obliged to contribute it to the RIDF. This is the penalty. This is penalty in the sense that what they do not lend, they have to make it available to the NABARD and NABARD and the RIDF will take care of that.

*[Translation]*

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have asked from the Government whether the foreign banks provide loans to our farmers as other commercial banks of the country? In reply, I was told that they were provided loans amounting to Rs. 137 crores, Rs. 84 crores and Rs. 84 crores in March, 2004, March, 2005 and September, 2005 respectively. Through you, I would like to ask from the Government that if our Cottage Industry or heavy Industry can get a huge amount of loans from the foreign banks, I do not want to give details of which due to paucity of time whether the Government is negotiating with these banks to ensure that the foreign banks do provide loans to our farmers also. What is the intention of the Government in this regard? The farmers should also get loans from the foreign banks on the lines of industries. Secondly, as the Government have fixed a target of 18 percent for our banks, whether there is any proposal to fix such targets for the foreign banks also so that our farmers may get the loans easily.

*[English]*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I invite hon. Member's attention to another part of my answer. It says: "As regards lending to agriculture by foreign banks, no special target for agriculture is stipulated in view of the fact that the foreign banks have no rural/semi urban branch net work". If foreign banks must be asked to lend to agriculture, I must allow foreign banks to open branches in rural areas. I am not sure that it is the right thing to do.

*[Translation]*

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with reference to the reply given by the Minister in response to my Question No. 84, I would like to say that around 70 percent people of the country are engaged in agriculture and Finance Minister had included some good proposals in the budget to provide loans to the farmers. I would like to thank the Minister that now loans will be provided to the farmers at the rate of seven percent. Presently the private banks are providing loans to the farmers at 11 percent rate of interest and though, the NABARD is re-financing the cooperative banks, yet they are lending at 11 percent rate of interest I wish that when the Commercial Banks are providing loans to the farmers at 9 percent rate of interest and in the new budget it has been proposed to reduce the rate of interest to seven percent, then the private Banks

should also provide loans to the farmers at 7 percent rate of interest. There are three channels involved – 'NABARD' gives finance to the State Co-operative Banks, the State Co-operative Banks are lending to the District Banks and the District Banks are financing the societies and ultimately these societies are providing loans to the farmers-these three channels should be removed and 'NABARD' should directly finance the co-operative societies. I would like to know what steps are proposed to be taken by the Government and the Finance Minister to ensure that the farmers get agriculture loan at seven percent rate of interest as presently farmers are trapped in several problems. The farmers are committing suicide due to wrong policies. The Government should formulate a specific policy to ensure that the farmers get loan at lower rate of interest. It is my suggestion that the 'NABARD' should directly provide agriculture loan.

*[English]*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, NABARD is a re-finance institution. NABARD does not have branches in the villages of India to lend credit directly to the farmers. NABARD re-finances apex cooperative societies which finance district central cooperative societies which finance the PACs. NABARD also refinance the RRBs. Therefore, NABARD cannot directly lend to the farmers. NABARD only provides re-financing. To the extent possible, I have addressed this issue in the Budget. Let us hope that from kharif 2006 the farmer who gets loans from PAC's and RRBs will be able to get it at 7 per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my suggestion is that NABARD can directly allocate finances to the societies. The middle channels such as State Cooperatives and District banks should not be involved in the process and allocating finances directly to societies will make a difference.

*[English]*

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, the sad part is that those farmers who had availed of this credit, they are in eternal debt trap. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: *Silence please.*

SHRI SURESH KURUP: This is common knowledge that due to their inability to pay back this loan amount, the

farmers are committing suicides all over our country. The Wynad District in Kerala is a case in point. Everyday, the farmers are committing suicide in that district. Now, 57 widows have come all the way from Kerala and they are on a *dharna* at Jantar Mantar. Their demand is that the special package should be announced for Wynad and the money should be remitted to the bank as loan amount and their interest should be written off.

Sir, I would like to know whether the Finance Minister would consider this.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I am not sure, but, I think, this question concerns either the Ministry of Agriculture or the Ministry of Rural Development which may have announced the special package. More likely, the special package has been announced in consultation with the Government of Kerala. But, I am not aware of the details. If there is a problem of reaching the money to the widows of the farmers who committed suicide, certainly we will look into the matter and see how the money can be reached to the accounts of the widows.

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whenever I call your name I find you pondering.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister stated in his reply that due to non-availability of the network of foreign banks the government are unable to provide loan facility to farmers. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister what efforts have been made by the government to set up the network of foreign banks.

Recently, the hon'ble Minister made a very good announcement for farmers in his budget speech for which the people of the entire country would like to express their thanks to him and the U.P.A. government.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Put your supplementary.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: It has been stated in the budget that the rate of interest on loan provided to farmers will continue to remain at 7 percent. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the said decision is also

applicable to foreign banks as well, so that loan could be provided to the poor and the farmers at the interest rate of 7 percent. Since both things are inter-connected, therefore, through you, I would like to know this from the hon'ble Minister.

*[English]*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I have already answered that licensing of branches is a matter that the Reserve Bank of India does in consultation with the Government. We do not have a policy today of allowing foreign banks to open branches in rural areas and there is no proposal to reconsider that policy. Unless foreign banks are allowed branches in rural areas, you cannot ask them to lend to the farmers. Therefore, I think, we should leave matters there and not force the revision of the policy, which I am not sure. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Farmers should come to the urban cities!

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: No farmer will come to the city. Therefore, I do not think we should force reconsideration of the policy. I think, the policy today is a sound policy.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So many villages are there adjoining many cities.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The farmers can reside in a city but the farm loan is given where the farmland is. Therefore, the branch there must give the loan. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Avinash Rai Khanna.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please.

*[Translation]*

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all the replies given with regard to this question or all the questions asked by the hon'ble members revolve around the issue of suicides committed by the farmers. I

would like to inform the government that private and other financial institutions also provide loans to the farmers.

They have made a declaration that farmers will be provided loan on negligible rate of interest. For your information I would like to state that moneylenders and finance companies charge 3 to 10 percent interest per month from the farmers. This is the major reason why a farmer finds it hard to repay his loan and commits suicide. I would like to know whether the government is prepared to take action against all those institutions that charge more rate of interest than as declared by the government by imposing cognizable offence on them? Whether the government is prepared to salvage the farmers from the burden of loan?

*[English]*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: In my Budget Speech, I have revealed that out of the cultivator-households, only 27 per cent get it from formal institutions and to about 22 per cent get from informal institutions. In fact, most of the cultivator-households do not have any access to credit. Now, it is true that money lenders provide credit to farmers at very high rates. The Constitution allows the State Legislatures to pass laws in that behalf. Many States, I think, all States have passed the Usurious Loans (Prevention) Act or the Usurious Loans (Prohibition) Act. Many States have declared that any interest rate above the rate stipulated by the Government is an illegal rate and it is not binding on the borrower. Therefore, this is a subject for the State Legislature and the State Government. The usurious lenders can be punished by the State Government.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I would like to congratulate our Finance Minister and thank him on behalf of the agriculturists for presenting a memorable Budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: My question was that what action is being taken by the Union Government in this regard? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

*[English]*

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: In his Budget Speech last

week, he has made a remarkable announcement that short-term credit at 7 per cent would be offered to agriculturists. In view of the pathetic situation prevailing among most of our agriculturists in this country, who are born in debt, live in debt and die in debt, I would like to know, through you, Sir, whether the 7 per cent credit facility would be extended to agriculturists for the development of their lands. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, you put your supplementary.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Yes, I am coming to the question. In fact, I have already come to it. As I said earlier, I would like to know whether the 7 per cent credit facility would be extended to agriculturists for the development of their lands, for irrigational purposes such as digging up of wells so that they can be relieved from the clutches of the private, greedy money lenders.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The present proposal is to ensure that the farmer gets short-term credit, that is, crop loan, at 7 per cent. There is no other proposal at the moment. I will bear in mind what the hon. Member has said.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, agriculture is the backbone of our economy. The farmers of our country have to depend on loans. They are facing the loss of 50 percent of their crop due to loans. Whether they will be provided loan on easy installments by the government and whether the government have any scheme to promote agriculture sector by recognizing its contribution in the field of productivity.

*[English]*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Agriculture is a priority sector. The credit flow to agriculture is being enhanced year after year. We have now intervened and said that we would ensure that short-term credit is available at 7 per cent. If there is any other suggestion, I am very happy to consider the suggestion.

12.00 hrs.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister has agreed that there is a gap of 73 per cent which means that 73 per cent of the farming

community depend upon private money lenders. This is a fact. Every farmer wants to take loan from commercial banks and cooperative banks, but there are no facilities available. Despite the hon. Minister increasing the credit by 30 per cent every year, the gap remains at 73 per cent. The gap has to be bridged. That is the most important thing. Then only farmers will get benefit and they will not commit suicides. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how he is going to bridge the gap.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the hon. Member is right. The gap cannot be bridged in one step or two steps. Let us be candid about it. In the first year of the UPA Government – I am talking from memory, I think I am broadly right – we added about 60 lakh farmers to institutional credit. In the second year, the figures will come, but, I think, we have already added about 55 lakh farmers to institutional credit. We started with Rs. 4 crore and now we have added about Rs. 110 lakhs. Please allow us time. I am confident that we will add 50 to 60 lakh new farmers to institutional credit every year.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Spectrum Policy

\*185. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

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

(a) whether certain shortcomings have been observed in planning and allocation of spectrum to telecom service providers in the past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a new Spectrum Policy is likely to be introduced shortly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Within the constraints of spectrum availability, the same was made available to the mobile telecom service providers.

(c) and (d) Formulation of Spectrum Policy, taking into account all relevant factors, is under consideration. This would include mainly the efficient and optimal utilization of spectrum, allocation procedure, spectrum pricing and introduction of emerging technologies.

### Delimitation Commission

\*186. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of work completed by Delimitation Commission as on date in each State;

(b) whether the process of delimitation of Lok Sabha and Assembly Constituencies is likely to be completed as per schedule;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has recommended some suggestions and views of people's representatives received from various quarters in this regard;

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The Delimitation Commission constituted under section 3 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 has completed the process of delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies in respect of the States of Goa, Kerala, Tripura, Mizoram, Rajasthan and West Bengal and the Union territory of Pondicherry. The delimitation process in respect of the States of Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Sikkim and the National Capital Territory of Delhi is in advanced stage. In respect of the other States and Union territories the work of delimitation is in full swing except for the State of Manipur where the work of the delimitation has been stopped in pursuance of the Orders dated 14-12-2005 of the Gauhati High Court (Imphal Bench) in Writ Petition (PIL) No.16 of 2005. Further, a status report showing the present status of the ongoing work of delimitation by the Delimitation Commission is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) The Delimitation Commission is required

to undertake the work of delimitation in accordance with the provisions of, and the guidelines contained in, the Delimitation Act, 2002. As such, there is no scope for the

Government to recommend any suggestion in this regard to the Delimitation Commission.

**Statement**

*Status Report on Delimitation Exercise*

S. No.	Name of State	Compilation of Data and Maps	Preparation of Draft Working Paper	Consultation with State Election Commissioners	Consultation with Associate Members	Public Hearing	Final Notification
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	✓	✓	✓	✓		
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	✓	✓				
3.	Assam	✓	✓	✓	✓		
4.	Bihar	✓					
5.	Chhattisgarh	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
6.	Goa	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7.	Gujarat	✓	✓	✓	✓		
8.	Haryana	✓	✓	✓	✓		
9.	Himachal Pradesh	✓	✓	✓	✓	Sch. for June '06	✓
10.	Jharkhand	✓	✓				
11.	Karnataka	✓	✓				
12.	Kerala	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13.	Madhya Pradesh	✓	✓	✓			
14.	Maharashtra	✓	✓	✓	✓	Sch. for May 06	
15.	Manipur	✓					
16.	Meghalaya	✓					
17.	Mizoram	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18.	Nagaland	✓	✓				
19.	Orissa	✓	✓	✓	✓	Sch. for April 06	
20.	Punjab	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
21.	Sikkim	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
22.	Rajasthan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23.	Tripura	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24.	Uttaranchal	✓	✓	✓	✓		
25.	Tamil Nadu	✓	✓	✓	✓		
26.	Uttar Pradesh	✓	✓	✓	✓		
27.	West Bengal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28.	Pondicherry	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29.	Delhi	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

(Sch. = Scheduled)

[Translation]

**Review of National Food for  
Work Programme**

\*187. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has curtailed the allocations under the "Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana" for introducing NFFWP;

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

(e) the progress made under various rural development schemes during the Tenth Five Year Plan, till date;

(f) whether certain schemes have been introduced by replacing the old ones during the said period; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred thereon, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) is regularly reviewed at various levels. The programme was launched in November 2004 in 150 identified District. Apart from the regular reviews, 9 regional review workshops were held in major States to review the implementation of the programme. The regional reviews were attended by Minister (RD) and senior officers of the Ministry. Two video conferences were held on 3rd March and 1st April, 2005 for review of NFFWP. The programme was also reviewed by Minister (RD) in Performance Review meeting held on 15.3.2005 and the meeting of the State Secretaries and Project Directors held in October, 2005. Senior officers of the Ministry had also been visiting the States to review the performance of the programme. Due to constant review and persuasion, the programme has gained momentum and the pace of utilization has also increased. As a result all the 150 districts have been released 1st Instalment and 109 districts have been released 2nd instalment during the current financial year. Since inception, a total of 27.43 crore mandays have been generated, 130793 works have been completed and 76922 works are under progress under the programme till January 2006.

NFFWP was an interim programme and will be subsumed with the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) that has come into force w.e.f. 2nd February 2006 in districts identified for first phase of implementation which include all the districts where AFFWP was being implemented.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. SGRY allocation for 2005-06 has increased. Revised Estimates (RE) under Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) during the current financial year 2005-06 is Rs.5500 crore as against Rs.4500 crore during the last year i.e, 2004-05 for cash component. The revised estimates for foodgrains component for the year 2005-06 is Rs.3000 crores as against Rs.600 crores in 2004-05.

(e) The progress made under various rural development scheme during the 10th Plan till date is given in the Statement enclosed.

(f) and (g) In the beginning of the Tenth Plan, SGRY was in operation. NFFWP was started in November, 2004 as a new scheme, as a precursor to NREGA. NFFWP was in addition to SGRY with separate additional allocation. Consequent upon the passing of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, NREGA has been introduced w.e.f. 2nd February 2006 and from financial year 2006-07, NFFWP and SGRY will be subsumed in NREGA in identified districts. SGRY will continue in the remaining districts.

#### **Statement**

#### *Scheme-Wise Performance Under Various Rural Development Schemes - All States/UTs during 10th Five Year Plan*

#### **SGRY**

1.	Central Allocation of Funds ( Rs. in Crore)	17564.53
2.	Central Release of Funds ( Rs. in Crore)	17144.85
3.	State Releases (Rs.,in core)	5010.5
4.	Utilization of funds (Rs. in Crore)	21436.36
5.	Foodgrains Released (Lakh Tonnes)	182.53
6.	Food Grains Lifted (Lakh Tonnes)	159.69
7.	Employment Generated (Crore Mandays)	298.09
8.	Works Completed (In lakh)	56.95

#### **NFFWP (Programme launched in November 2004)**

1.	Central Allocation of Funds ( Rs. in Crore)	6515.30
2.	Central Release of Funds (Rs. in Crore)	5567.72
3.	Utilization of funds (Rs. in Crore)	1895.13
4.	Foodgrains Released (Lakh Tonnes)	31.85
5.	Food Grains Lifted (Lakh Tonnes)	15.78
6.	Employment Generated (Crore Mandays)	27.43

7.	Works Completed (In lakh.)	1.31
<b>SGSY</b>		
1.	Central Allocation of Funds (Rs. in Crore)	3367.90
2.	Central Release of Funds ( Rs. in Crore)	2883.04
3.	State Release (In crore)	841.93
5.	Utilization of funds ( Rs. in Crore)	4085.81
6.	No. of SHGs Formed (Lakh Nos.) (Since 1.4.99)	22.06
7.	Individual Swarozgaris Assisted (in lakhs)	12.27
8.	SHGs Sawarozgaris Assisted (in Lakhs)	23.09
9.	Total Swarozgaris Assisted (Lakh Nos.)	35.36
<b>DRDA Administration</b>		
1.	Central Allocation of Funds ( Rs. in Crore)	890.00
2.	Central Release of Funds ( Rs. in Crore)	857.45
<b>IAY</b>		
1.	Central Allocation of Funds (Rs. in Crore)	8719.97
2.	Central Release of Funds ( Rs. in Crore)	8690.84
3.	State Release (Rs. in crore)	2894.25
4.	Utilization of funds (Rs. in Crore)	10882.44
5.	Target (lakh Houses)	58.03
6.	Constructed/Upgraded (Lakh Houses)	53.69
<b>PMGSY</b>		
1.	Amount Released (In crore)	15791.21
2.	Expenditure (Rs. in crore)	12100.46
3.	Length of Road works approved (In Km)	149422
4.	No. of Road Works Completed	29564
5.	Length of Road Works Completed (Kms)	82792

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**Note:** The project under PMGSY are approved Phase-wise and the cumulative progress is monitored for each

**ARWSP**

1.	Central Allocation of Funds (Rs. in Crore)	8546.93
2.	Central Release of Funds (Rs. in Crore)	8231.56
3.	Utilization of funds (Rs. in Crore)	6179.53
4.	Target (No. Habitations) - In lakhs	3.10
5.	No. of Habitations Covered (In lakhs)	2.05

**Swajaldhara**

1.	Central Allocation of Funds (Rs. in Crore)	1076.89
2.	Central Release of Funds (Rs. in Crore)	623.75
3.	Expenditure of funds (Rs. in Crore)	197.84

**Computerization of LR and SRA & ULR****Funds Released (In crore)**

1.	CLR	177.07
2.	SRA & ULR	90.74

**IWDP**

1.	Central Release of Funds (Rs. in Crore)	1231.30
2.	No. of Projects	800
3.	Area (in Ha)	4091532

*[English]***Rural Infrastructure Development Fund**

\*188. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of funds allocated for Rural Infrastructure Development Fund and the funds utilised there against during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of projects under RIDF pending for the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the measures taken to complete those projects in time?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b): The Projects under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) are implemented over a period extending upto three years including the year of sanction. State-wise allocation, utilisation and details of incomplete projects for the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) NABARD constantly pursues with the State Governments for expeditious implementation and completion of the on-going projects. The implementation of the projects is regularly reviewed by a High Powered Committee, consisting of a senior officer of NABARD and chaired by the Chief Secretary of the respective States.

## Statement

As on 21st February, 2006

Name of State	RIDF IX (2003-2004)				RIDF X (2004-2005)				RIDF XI (2005-2006)							
	Allocation	SANC	DISB	No. PROJ	INCOM	Allocation	SANC	DISB	No. PROJ	INCOM	Allocation	SANC	DISB	No. PROJ	INCOM	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>South Zone</b>																
Andhra Pradesh	331.00	866.07	422.94	1283	1269	1036.00	1560.86	320.23	1705	1668	684.25	1212.51	97.04	2559	2559	
Karnataka	245.00	297.17	157.10	915	702	440.00	420.96	48.27	2256	2247	431.67	428.81	2.12	1723	1723	
Kerala	126.00	81.17	8.19	119	108	259.00	222.74	34.34	299	296	206.40	186.52		233	233	
Tamil Nadu	195.00	547.73	381.04	1279	979	560.00	657.72	215.75	4437	4437	889.67	400.19		1023	1023	
SZ Total	897.00	1792.14	969.27	3596	3058	2295.00	2862.28	619.09	8697	8648	1711.99	2228.03	99.16	5538	5538	
<b>West Zone</b>																
Goa	23.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	15.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	40.12	0.00	0.00	0	0	
Gujarat	217.00	899.21	677.44	11904	404	597.00	1311.69	560.56	25	24	459.58	872.73	11.53	321	321	
Maharashtra	340.00	67.03	44.46	263	144	649.00	258.43	0.00	416	414	566.72	100.81	0.00	1	1	
WZ Total	580.00	966.24	721.90	12173	548	1261.00	1570.18	560.56	441	438	1066.42	973.54	11.53	322	322	
<b>North Zone</b>																
Haryana	94.00	153.62	105.89	122	119	223.00	173.21	40.47	443	443	166.54	196.81		64	64	
Himachal Pradesh	108.00	142.03	65.49	184	126	217.00	91.64	19.30	146	106	210.74	196.14	7.03	251	251	
Jammu & Kashmir	185.0	153.82	44.10	147	147	224.0	49.36	6.55	12	12	331.55	6.23		7	7	
Punjab	68.00	288.18	162.86	720	657	321.00	312.63	131.68	289	286	145.98	286.85	23.23	653	653	
Rajasthan	332.00	140.27	67.28	3	3	418.00	356.26	169.91	2953	2770	546.09	544.96	45.29	2316	2316	
Uttar Pradesh	552.00	217.84	105.23	45	37	725.00	516.34	121.64	2706	2700	739.16	669.92		1009	1009	
Uttaranchal	96.00	228.65	126.25	133	28	100.00	308.44	156.39	257	257	186.73	49.85		128	128	
NZ Total	1495.00	1324.41	677.10	1354	1117	2228.00	1807.88	645.94	6806	6574	2326.89	1950.76	75.55	4428	4428	



**Committee on Solid Waste Management**

\*189. CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH:

SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee has been constituted to look into various aspects of solid waste management in Class-I cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has presented its report;

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

(e) whether the Committee has recommended setting up of a National Technology Mission for improving solid waste management practices in the country; and

(f) if so, the follow-up action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir. A Committee was constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme court of India in January, 1998 to look into all the aspects of Solid Waste Management in Class-I cities of the country.

(b) and (c) A copy of the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 16.1.1998 containing the directions on the constitution of Committee is given in Statement-I enclosed. The Committee submitted its report in March, 1999.

(d) The Committee studied the following aspects of Solid Waste Management (SWM) in the country:

- (i) Waste generation
- (ii) Composition of waste
- (iii) Technology adopted for storage, collection, transportation and disposal of waste.
- (iv) Primary collection, waste storage depots, street sweeping, transportation of waste, processing & disposal of waste, Institutional, arrangement and community involvement.

Recommendations of the Committee for moderni-

zation of solid waste management practices in Class-I cities are given at Statement-II enclosed.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Pursuant to the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in place of a Mission the Government constituted a Technology Advisory Group (TAG) in August, 1999.

**Statement-I**

In the Supreme Court of India  
*Original Jurisdiction*

WRIT PETITION (C) NUMBER 888 OF 1996

Almitra H. Patel & Anr.

...Petitioners

Vs.

U.O.I. & Ors.

...Respondents

Order

We have heard learned Additional Solicitor General and Shri Vallapalli, learned Senior counsel. We consider it appropriate at this stage to constitute a Committee and to specify the specific aspects which the Committee is required to examine. We direct accordingly.

The Committee for class-I Cities (having population over one lac) shall consist of the following:-

- |    |  |          |
|----|--|----------|
| 1. | Mr. Asim Burman<br>(Commissioner, Calcutta<br>Municipal Corpn.)  | Chairman |
| 2. | Mr. S. R. Rao<br>(Secretary, SSI, Govt. of Gujarat<br>& ex-Commr., Surat)  | Member   |
| 3. | Mr. S. K. Chawla,<br>(Chief Engineer, CPWD)  | Member   |
| 4. | Mr. P.U. Asnani<br>(Urban Env. Infrastructure Rep. for<br>India, USAID and Consultant,<br>Ahmedabad Mun. Corpn.) | Member   |
| 5. | Dr. Saroj<br>(Jt. Director, Ministry of Environment<br>& Forests)  | Member   |

6. Mr. Rajat Bhargava  
(Commissioner, Vijaywada  
Mun. Corpn.) Member
7. Mr. Yogendra Tripathi  
(Dy. Secy. Urban Dev. MOUA&E) Member  
Secretary
8. Mrs. Almitra Patel  
(Convener, INTACH Waste Network) Member

The terms of Reference for the Committee shall be as under:

To look into all aspects of urban solid waste management, particularly:

1. Examine the existing practices and to suggest hygienic processing and waste disposal practices and proven technologies on the basis of economic feasibility and safety which the Corporation/Government may directly or indirectly adopt or sponsor.
2. Examine and suggest ways to improve conditions in the formal, and informal sector for promoting eco-friendly sorting, collection, transportation, disposal, recycling and reuse.
3. To review Municipal bye-laws and the powers of local bodies and regional planning authorities and suggest necessary modifications to ensure effective budgeting, financing, administration, monitoring and compliance.
4. Examine and formulate standards and regulations for management of urban solid waste, and set time frames within which the authorities shall be bound to implement the same.

The Committee is requested to give its report as early as possible preferably not later than 30th June, 1998. The Committee is also requested to give such interim reports as it may find convenient so to do.

The Secretarial assistance at Delhi will be provided for the Ministry of Urban Development which will also make all other arrangements required by the Committee for its proper functioning while arrangements within the States/ Union Territories would be made by the concerned State/ UT. The expenses incurred for the purpose to the same extent would be borne at this stage by the Ministry of Urban Development and the concerned State Govern-

ments/UST. The final responsibility for meeting these expenses would be decided later on.

The Local authorities and concerned State Governments/ Union Territories shall extend all cooperation and assistance to the Committee for its proper functioning.

List the matter on 20th July, 1998/

Sd/- CJI

Sd/- J.  
(B.N. Kirpal)

Sd/- J.  
(V.N. Khare)

New Delhi  
January 16, 1998

#### **Statement-II**

#### **Recommendations for Modernisation of Solid Waste Management Practices in Class-I cities**

#### **Ban on Throwing of Wastes on the Streets**

No waste shall be thrown on the streets, footpaths, open spaces, open drains or water bodies.

#### **Storage of Waste at Source**

Waste shall be stored at source of generation in 2 bins/bags, one for food/bio-degradable wastes and another for recyclable waste. Domestic hazardous waste, as and when produced shall be kept separately from the above two streams.

Multi storeyed buildings, commercial complexes and group housing shall additionally provide community bins for storage of waste generated by their members. Community bins shall also be provided in slums by the local body for the community storage of waste by slum dwellers.

#### **Doorstep Collection of Waste**

Both the streams of waste, organic/biodegradable waste as well as recyclable waste, shall be collected from the doorstep. Containerised handcarts or containerised tricycles or small-motorised vehicles shall be used for daily collection of food/biodegradable waste from the doorstep through public participation using a bell, whistle or horn as a means of announcing the arrival of the collection staff.

For collection of recyclable waste from the doorstep NGOs may be encouraged to organize the rag pickers. They may allot them the work of collection of recyclable material from the doorsteps instead of picking it up from the streets, bins or dump-yard, thereby upgrading their status. This waste can be collected once or twice a week according to the convenience of the households, shops or establishments.

Hazardous toxic waste material which is occasionally generated, shall however be disposed of by the citizens in special bins to be provided in the city at suitable locations by the urban local bodies.

### **Sweeping of Streets on All Days of the Year**

Sweeping of streets and public places having habitation or commercial activities on one or both sides shall be done on all days of the year irrespective of Sundays and public holidays. Arrangements for rotating weekly rest-days are to be made by the local bodies.

### **Work Norms for Sweeping of Streets**

Work norms ranging from 250 to 750 running meters of road length have been recommended, depending on the density of the area and local conditions. Giving a demarcated "pin point" area for street sweeping and waste collection is also recommended for optimum utilisation of manpower.

### **Provision of Litter Bins at Public Places**

Provision of litter bins at railway stations, bus stations, market places, parks, gardens and important commercial streets may be made, to prevent littering of streets.

### **Abolition of Open Waste Storage Sites and Other Un-Hygienic Street Bins**

The pathetic condition of street bins must be corrected by the provision of neat mobile closed body containers into which waste can be directly transferred from the containerised hand carts or tricycles and all open waste-storage sites as well as cement concrete or masonry bins must be abolished in a phased manner.

### **Transportation of Waste of Synchronize with Waste Storage Facility - Dispense with Manual Loading of Waste**

For the transportation of waste, a system which synchronizes with both primary collection and bulk waste storage

facilities may be introduced. Manual loading and multiple handling of waste may be dispensed with and instead, hydraulic vehicles for lifting the containers may be used in larger cities and tractor trolleys or a tractor container combination may be used in smaller cities.

Transportation of waste shall be done on a regular basis before the temporary waste-storage containers start overflowing. For economy in expenditure, the vehicle fleet should be used in at least two shifts. Workshop facilities may be optimised to keep at least 80% of the vehicle fleet on road. Transfer stations may be set up in cities where the distance to waste-disposal sites is more than 10 kms.

### **Processing and Disposal of Waste**

#### **Conversion of Organic Waste/Bio-degradable Waste Into Bio-organic Fertiliser (Compost)**

With the availability of land for processing and disposal of waste becoming scarce and the food and bio-degradable component useful to agriculture going waste, measures for conservation of land and organic waste resource shall be taken and organics shall be returned to the soil. To meet these objectives, all food waste and bio degradable waste shall be composted, recyclable waste shall be passed on to the recycling industry and only rejects shall be land-filled in a scientific manner. Decentralised composting with public and NGOs/CBO participation, may be encouraged wherever possible, and centralised composting of the rest of the waste may be done. Microbial or vermi composting processes may be adopted. A variety of composting options has been given in the report and their processes are explained.

#### **Caution Against Using Unproven Technologies**

Local bodies are cautioned not to adopt expensive technologies of power generation, fuel pelletisation, incineration etc. until they are proven under Indian conditions and the Government of India or expert agencies nominated by the Government of India advises cities that such technology can be adopted.

#### **Land to be Made Available on Priority for Processing and Disposal of Waste**

Availability of land for setting up processing plants and for disposal of waste is a major problem faced by urban local bodies. Government wasteland must therefore be given on top priority for this purpose free or at nominal cost, and

if such land is not available or not found suitable, private land should be acquired or purchased through negotiated settlement. A Committee at the district level should identify suitable land and State Governments should form Empowered Committees to give speedy final clearance and prompt possession of suitable land to the ULB.

#### **Criteria for Site Selection, Site Development and Landfill Operations**

Criteria for site selection, development of land fill sites and scientific landfill operations may be adopted. Remediation of old abandoned landfill sites should also be done as suggested in the report. Bio-medical Waste, industrial waste and slaughter-house waste may be managed as per the relevant Rules and guidelines of the Government of India and/or Central Pollution Control Board.

#### **Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building**

Institutional strengthening is the key to success of the SWM system. Professionalism in administration, decentralisation of administration, delegation of financial and administrative powers, induction of environmental/public health engineers in the solid waste management services and fixation of work norms and proper supervisory levels are recommended. Human resource development through training at various levels needs to be taken up. Municipal Commissioners and Chief Executives should not be transferred frequently and should have a tenure of at least 3 years to perform effectively. Inter-city meets for sharing of experience are recommended.

Adequate safe-guards for the supervisory staff against abuse of the Schedule Caste/Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1984 may be provided through suitable amendments in the law to enable the Supervisory staff to perform their duties fearlessly.

#### **NGO/Private Sector Participation in SWM Services**

There is a need to improve accountability and the level of services through NGO/Private sector participation in SWM services to improve overall performance without harming the interests of the existing staff. Suitable amendments in the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act 1970 may be done by the Govt. of India to permit private sector participation in this service.

#### **Enforcement**

A system of levy of administrative charges or special cleaning charges from those who litter the streets or cause

nuisance on the streets may be introduced and powers to punish offenders may be given to the local bodies through suitable additions to the Municipal acts & rules.

#### **Management Information System**

MIS is the key to monitoring the performance of manpower and machinery and to help in planning for the future. Detailed management information systems suggested in the report may be introduced.

#### **Financial Aspects**

The poor financial health of ULBs is major constraint in improving SWM systems. The financial condition of local bodies may first be improved by setting the house in order and a series of measures towards financial discipline, avoidance of wasteful expenditure, prioritising the expenditure on essential services, as recommended in the report may be taken. Taxes, user charges and fees should be raised and linked to the cost-of-living index. Area-based property-tax reforms may be taken up to improve the finances of the ULBs.

#### **Financial Support to ULBs By States and Central Governments**

Financial support to ULBs from the State Government and the Central Government in terms of the 74th Amendment to the Constitution may be given expeditiously and funds may also be allocated to ULBs for a period of three years as per the formula given in the report. In the meantime, transfer of unspent grants by the 10th Finance Commission to the ULBs may be considered for modernising their SWM practices. Fiscal autonomy to local bodies, tax free status for municipal bonds, incentives to recycling and composting industries may be considered by the Central and State Governments and Union Territories.

#### **Health Aspects**

Improper SWM practices give rise to problems of health and sanitation. Twenty-two types of diseases are associated with improper SWM practices. Proper management of processing and disposal sites, special attention to cleaning of slums, provision of low cost sanitation facilities to prevent open defecation, prevention of cattle nuisance, proper training to the workforce and use of protective clothing are some of the measures the local body should take immediately to protect the health of the citizens and the work force.

**Legal Aspects**

Citizens' active participation may be ensured through massive public awareness campaigns. Simultaneously, adequate provisions may be made in local State laws governing the local bodies to ensure public participation and action against defaulters. Legislative provisions to be made by each State have been suggested in the report.

**Public Awareness Strategy**

Public awareness campaign using Information, education and communication (I-E-C) techniques may be used. Waste Reduction, Reuse, Recycling (R-R-R) may be advocated to reduce the burden on the local body and citizens may be motivated to store waste at source in a two-bin system, co-operate with the doorstep primary collection system and keep the city litter-free. Hygienic Solid Waste Management needs to find a place in the National Agenda.

**Technology Mission for Solid Waste Management**

Given the vastness of the country and the present condition of urban local bodies, implementation of these recommendations requires very effective follow-up, monitoring and technical support. A Technology Mission for SWM may therefore be urgently constituted by the Government of India under the Ministry of Urban Development for a period of 5 years, having a mandate to monitor the performance of various local bodies, to guide the local bodies about various technologies for processing and disposal of waste, to give technical assistance as well as financial assistance by channelising funds from various Government sources as well as financial institutions to develop material for awareness programmes, identify training needs, benchmark performance indicators and give continued and focused attention to the reform of SWM practice nationwide.

**Time Frame**

A time frame is necessary to implement the recommendations which have been prescribed ranging from 3 months to 3 years as per the details given in the report.

**Opening Post Offices**

\*190. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has relaxed the criteria for opening of post offices in remote, tribal, hilly and border States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the target fixed for opening or upgrading the branch/post offices during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) whether this target has been achieved in the said Plan period;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The population and income norms fixed for opening of post offices in hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas, including those in border States are highly relaxed as compared to those fixed for normal rural areas. There is also a provision to relax the distance norm in such areas under special circumstances. Details are given in Statement-I.

(c) to (e) During the Ninth Plan against the target for opening 2598 Branch Offices and 250 Departmental Sub Post Offices in the country, 2154 Branch Offices and 254 Sub Offices were opened. Details are given in Statement-II.

(f) Since the data pertains to Ninth Five Year Plan which was completed in March, 2002, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House shortly.

**Statement-I****Norms for Opening Post Offices**

Norms for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices:

**1.1 Population:****(a) In Normal Areas:**

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village)

**(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:**

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

**1.2 Distance:****(a) In Normal Areas:**

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

**(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:**

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

**1.3 Anticipated Income:****(a) In Normal Areas:**

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 1/3% of the cost.

**(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:**

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

**2. Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub Post Offices:****(a) In Rural Areas:**

The minimum workload of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

**(b) In Urban Areas:**

In Urban areas, the post office should initially be self supporting, and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other Urban areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. for each other.

A delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

**Statement-II****Circlewise Targets and Achievement for Opening of Post Offices in 9th Five Year Plan**

Sl. No.	Circles	Branch Offices		Sub Offices	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	65	33	7	10
2	Assam	194	161	16	20
3	Bihar	275	262	11	7
4	Chhattisgarh	50	50	2	2
5	Delhi	19	19	10	10

1	2	3	4	5	6
6	Gujarat	126	103	12	13
7	Haryana	60	40	9	8
8	Himachal Pradesh	36	20	5	3
9	Jammu & Kashmir	71	66	4	4
10	Jharkhand	37	Nil	2	2
11	Karnataka	104	91	16	16
12	Kerala	32	29	9	8
13	Madhya Pradesh	163	167	17	17
14	Maharashtra	279	278	24	27
15	North East	194	107	12	14
16	Orissa	75	69	10	11
17	Punjab	59	51	16	15
18	Rajasthan	130	127	11	9
19	Tamil Nadu	66	66	10	11
20	Uttar Pradesh	286	232	15	13
21	Uttaranchal	31	21	1	2
22	West Bengal	246	162	31	32
	Total	2598	2154	250	254

### Pending Court Cases

\*191. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of civil, criminal and other cases are pending in Supreme Court and various High Courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise and duration of pendency-wise;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to

fill up the vacant posts of judges and for speedy disposal of long pending cases in courts;

(d) whether the Law Commission has suggested enactment of legislation to prevent filing of frivolous and vexatious litigations in courts and to ensure speedy disposal of other pending cases; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Two Statements showing the desired information are enclosed as Statement-I and Statement-II.

(c) The Judge strength of the High Courts is

reviewed every three years. The next review of judge strength is due in 2006 for which action has already been initiated. The Government has been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts, Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States, from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up of the present and anticipated vacancies during the next six months. The Central Government has also been periodically requesting the State Governments to fill up the vacancies in the subordinate judiciary

In order to reduce pendency of cases Government has initiated a number of measures which include, timely filling the vacancies of judges, increasing the judge strength, grouping of cases, involving common question of law, constitution of specialized benches, organizing Lok

Adalats at regular intervals encouraging alternative modes of dispute resolution like negotiation, mediation and arbitration, and setting up of special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunals, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts and Labour courts. The Government has extended the term of existing 1562 Fast Track Courts for another five years i.e. upto 31.3.2010 for clearing huge pendency of cases at District level.

(d) and (e) The Law commission in its 192nd Report on 'Prevention of vexatious litigation' has made some suggestions regarding enactment of legislation to prevent filing of frivolous and vexatious litigations in courts. These recommendations are under examination in consultation with the concerned authorities.

**Statement-I**

*Details of Civil and Criminal Cases Pending in Supreme Court and High Courts*

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	As on	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases	Total
	Supreme Court	23.11.05	28276	5359	33635
Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	As on	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Allahabad	30.6.05	551630	187151	738781
2	A.P.	30.6.05	137666	17479	155145
3	Bombay	30.6.05	296888	49054	345942
4	Calcutta	31.12.04	212448	40270	252718
5	Delhi	30.6.05	64302	12913	77215
6	Gujarat	31.12.04	113505	25962	139467
7	Gauhati	30.6.05	51531	7061	58592
8	Himachal Pradesh	30.6.05	18160	5918	24078
9	Jammu & Kashmir	30.6.05	41022	2729	43751
10	Karnataka	30.6.05	75948	11176	87124
11	Kerala	30.6.05	116088	22824	138912
12	Madras	30.6.05	272494	16871	289365

1	2	3	4	5	6
13	Madhya Pradesh	30.6.05	141475	60427	201902
14	Orissa	30.6.05	176708	16854	193562
15	Patna	30.6.05	69012	24784	93798
16	Punjab & Haryana	30.6.05	195321	43293	238614
17	Rajasthan	30.6.05	154314	44930	199244
18	Sikkim	30.6.05	70	8	78
19	Uttaranchal	30.6.05	30446	6548	36994
20	Chhattisgarh	30.6.05	45752	22855	68607
21	Jharkhand	30.6.05	23199	17432	40631
<b>Total</b>			<b>2787979</b>	<b>636539</b>	<b>3424518</b>

**Statement-II****Detail of pending cases court-wise and duration of pendency-wise**

Sl. No.	Year ending on 31st Dec	Supreme Court Pendency	High Courts Pendency
1.	2000	22,145	28,86,839
2.	2001	22,722	30,56,614
3.	2002	24,335	31,87,527
4.	2003	26,750	32,39,295
5.	2004	30,151	33,79,033
6.	2005	33,635	34,24,518

**Access Deficit Charge**

\*192. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

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

(a) whether a three-stage process to eliminate the Access Deficit Charge (ADC) regime by 2008-2009 has been put forward by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has advocated for continuation of ADC in order to support BSNL in its rural telephony effort;

(d) if so, whether the Government has taken any decision in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) vide para 98 of its "The Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges Regulation, 2003 dated 29.10.2003" noted that the ideal regime would be a USO type regime that is both simple to implement and does not impose regulatory incentives/disincentives based on differential ADC burden for different kinds of calls. The TRAI is of the opinion that the prevailing ADC regime should be made to transition towards an USO type of regime by 2008-09.

(c) to (e) Department of Telecommunications is of the opinion that ADC should continue in order to provide services at affordable tariffs. TRAI has been apprised accordingly.

**Urban Haats**

\*193. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a new scheme of 'Urban Haats' for providing direct marketing facilities to artisans and weavers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Urban Haats set up along with the benefits given to weavers and artisans;

(d) whether any financial assistance is being given to the states under this scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The scheme of 'Urban Haat' was launched in January 1999 to provide direct marketing facilities to the craftspersons and weavers.

(b) Under this scheme the maximum project cost ceiling is Rs. 200 lakhs out of which 70% is shared by the Government of India. The remaining 30% cost is borne by the Implementing Agencies (IA) recommended by the concerned State Government. Land is also to be arranged by the IA. The area of the Haat may not be less than 18,000 sq. meters with atleast 40 to 50 stalls for sale of products by the craftspersons/weavers. Properly serviced food stalls are also an important part of Urban Haat.

(c) So far 37 Urban Haats have been approved out of which 5 have become functional. Craftspersons and Weavers are allotted stalls in the Urban Haats on fortnightly basis at a very nominal rent where they get the opportunity to display and sell their products.

(d) and (e) The financial assistance is provided directly to the IAs, the detail of which has been compiled State-wise for the last three years as per statement enclosed.

**Statement**

(Amount in Rupees)

States	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
Gujarat	-	14,87,500	20,00,000
Nagaland	-	23,17,000	-
Orissa	-	19,10,000	1,61,63,000

	1	2	3	4
U.P.		70,00,000	20,00,000	-
Rajasthan		35,00,000	35,00,000	70,00,000
Assam		20,00,000	-	-
J&K		49,90,000	35,00,000	-
Karnataka		-	-	34,30,000
Uttaranchal		31,67,500	31,67,500	-
Andhra Pradesh		13,40,000	-	-
Tripura		13,50,000	-	-
Haryana		-	-	28,05,000
Madhya Pradesh		-	-	17,25,000
Nagaland		-	-	23,17,000

**Confirmed Demands**

\*194. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-recovery of confirmed demands and non-adjudication of demands of Central Excise Duty resulted in blockage of revenues of Rs.545.32 crore;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-recovery of confirmed demands; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to recover the entire amount of confirmed and adjudicated demands?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March, 2004 (No. 11 of 2005) indicates that the non-recovery of confirmed demands and non-adjudication of demands resulted in blockage of revenue of Rs 545.32 crore (with reference to paragraphs 2.10.1 and 2.10.2 of the Report). The amount pending recovery in the cases of confirmed demand is shown to be Rs 65.23 crore and the amount pertaining to non-adjudication of demands is Rs 480.09 crore, thereby totaling to Rs 545.32 crore. These figures pertain to the manufacturers of motor vehicles for transport of persons and goods in 13 Central Excise Commissionerates.

(b) Out of the amount of Rs 65.23 crore, an amount of Rs 49.29 crore has been set aside by the Customs, Excise and Service Tax Tribunal against which Department has preferred an appeal in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Final order of the Supreme Court is awaited. Further, an amount of Rs 12.42 crore has been remanded back to the original adjudicating authority by the Tribunal for fresh adjudication. This order has not been accepted and a reference application has been filed in the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court. Hence, an amount of Rs 61.71 crore is presently not recoverable.

Out of the balance amount of Rs 3.5 crore, Rs 70 lakh has been recovered and the balance amount is presently not recoverable as the Tribunal remanded the case back to Commissioner (Appeals) who, in turn, has asked the adjudicating authority to re-determine the duty liability.

Regarding the amount of Rs 480.09 crore involved in cases pending for adjudication, cases involving total amount of Rs 369.85 crore were adjudicated, but have been stayed by the Tribunal/Courts. 14 cases involving an amount of Rs.27.28 crore presently cannot be adjudicated since similar issues are pending in Courts/Tribunal or Audit objections are being contested by the Department. Others are being taken up for adjudication.

(c) In respect of the above, the departmental officers have been directed to decide the cases pending before them on priority-basis. In respect of cases pending in Tribunal/Courts, applications are being filed for early

hearing. Wherever arrears are not restrained and thus due for recovery, the departmental officers have been directed to recover the said amount immediately.

#### Purchase of Raw Jute

\*195. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the jute growers are in distress due to very low purchase of raw jute by Jute Corporation of India (JCI);

(b) if so, the total quantum of jute purchased by the JCI during each of the last three years in comparison to total jute grown in the country; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of the jute growers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) During the current Jute year 2005.06 (July-June), the prices of raw Jute are ruling much higher than the Minimum Support Price (MSP) since the beginning of the season. As a result, the MSP procurement of raw jute by JCI has been negligible during the current jute year. The question of any distress for the jute growers due to low purchase of raw jute by JCI, therefore, does not arise.

(b) The total quantum of jute purchased by the JCI during the last three years is as follows:

(Fig. in lakh bales)

2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
Purchase by JCI	Production of crop	Purchase by JCI	Production of crop	Purchase by JCI	Production of crop
13.09	104 (approx.)	11.22	96 (approx.)	3.56	85 (approx.)

(c) Steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of the jute growers:

(i) Encouragement to farmers by offering better raw jute prices every year through fixation of Minimum Support Price for various grades of raw jute

(ii) MSP operation by JCI in raw jute and mesta to provide a safety net to jute farmers to prevent them from distress sale of their produce.

(iii) Continuation of Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987 keeping in view the interests of jute growers and workers involved in the jute industry and prescribing the norm of 100% compulsory packaging of foodgrains and sugar in jute during 2005-06 (upto 30.06.2006)

(iv) Introduction of better retting facilities

(v) Launching of National Jute Policy, 2005

(vi) Proposed launching of Jute Technology Mission.

[Translation]

**Pending Cases in CEGAT**

\*196. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in Custom, Excise and Gold (Control) Tribunal as on January 31, 2006 and the amount of revenue locked up therein;

(b) number of cases pending for two years out of them; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for expeditious disposal of the said cases and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The total number of cases pending in the CEGAT, renamed in 2003 as Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) is 33269 as on 31.1.2006. According to information provided by CBEC, the amount of revenue locked-up in the cases, which were pending as on 31.12.2005, is Rs.12,797.65 crores.

(b) Out of 33269 cases pending as on 31.01.2006, 10529 cases are pending for two years.

(c)

i) Directions have been issued to all concerned to scrupulously follow Section 35C of Central Excise Act, 1944 and Section 129B of Customs Act, 1962.

ii) The procedure of weekly Roster has now been replaced with two months Roster.

iii) The Cause list of final hearing matters is now prepared subject-wise in respect of 50 cases in chronological order.

iv) These measures have resulted in improvement in disposal of cases.

[English]

**R&D for Rural Welfare**

197. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public funded R&D institutions and the scientific community are not adequately responding to the needs of rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the response of R&D institutions and scientific community towards welfare of rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The government has several schemes related to societal development to catalyze and support research, development and adaptation of relevant and appropriate technologies for empowering and improving the quality of life in rural areas. Technology institutions/R&D laboratories function as the source of relevant technologies and models which are implemented in rural areas through voluntary agencies and other institutions. The impact has been felt at local levels. However, due to inadequacy of funds and other resources for such programmes, large scale dissemination and replication has suffered. In spite of the constraints many models and local level technologies have been developed and are being practiced. Some of the proven technologies/packages are:

- Fruit/vegetable processing and preservation for value addition at village level with quality control. Model is working at 23 locations in the country,
- Agro technologies for cultivation/semi processing of high value medicinal plants by women,
- Drier for coconut gratings; paper and biomass based drier for horticulture produce,
- Techniques of Dehydration of flowers,
- Biofertilizers eg. Azolla, BGA,
- Development of wool carding machine,
- Ergonomically suitable tools/equipments for use by women in sericulture,
- Fish Aggregation Devices (FAD) for coastal fisherfolk,
- Technology package for low-temperature glazing for making red clay pottery developed and many units are in operation especially in Kanyakumari area,

- Low-cost diagnostic medical kits for urinary tract infections,
- Setting up of bio villages,
- Setting up of 16 Women Technology Parks and 5 Rural Technology Parks as integrated model for technology dissemination,
- Biogas plants using spoilt grains, fruits, etc. for small restaurants/dhabas. 500 units have been installed in Maharashtra,
- Water filter ultrafine membrane capable of removing bacteria and virus without use of electricity,
- Non pressurized sarai cooker using charcoal which takes 40 minutes for complete cooking. This is under commercial production,
- Standardization of tissue culture techniques for producing disease free banana in Sundarban delta. 4 lakhs plantlets have been sold by trained women group,
- Lac extraction and processing machines is being popularized in lac producing area of Jharkhand,
- Technology for low-cost sanitary napkins has been developed and disseminated,
- Upgradation of watermills with multipurpose use for generating electricity in remote mountain regions of Uttaranchal, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and North-East. About 2000 watermills have been upgraded.

#### **Rural Teledensity**

\*198. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether any year-wise targets have been set for achieving high teledensity in the rural areas upto 2012;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. New Telecom Policy 1999 (NTP-99) has fixed a rural teledensity target of 4.0% by the year 2010.

(c) Following steps are being taken/planned for increasing teledensity in rural areas:-

- (i) A non-lapsable Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has been set up to provide support for expansion of telecommunication services in rural and remote areas. Both public and private sector licensees are eligible for such support.
- (ii) Provision of rural fixed line individual connections in 1685 commercially unviable short distance charging areas (SDCAs).
- (iii) Provision of shared infrastructure for mobile services in rural areas to facilitate speedy penetration of mobile services in rural areas.
- (iv) A number of initiatives have been taken by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to increase rural teledensity including planning of large-scale deployment of WLL network in rural areas, relaxation of the distance for laying outdoor cables from 2.5 Km to 5.0 Km for Landline exchanges to facilitate larger coverage from the existing exchanges and deploying its mobile network in all the highways, important towns, pilgrim centres and State highways to give incidental coverage to large parts of rural areas.
- (v) In addition to the efforts made by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), the private operators are also offering their services to meet the rural demand for telephones.
- (vi) Village Public Telephones (VPTs) have been provided in 5,37,236 villages. 49,640 remaining uncovered villages which have more than 100 population and are not lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infected areas etc. will be provided with VPTs by November, 2007.

[Translation]

#### **Curtailment of Funds for Rural Schemes**

\*199. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to curtail the allocation of funds for rural development schemes as reported in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated February 5, 2006;

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

(c) whether the amount allocated for rural development schemes during 2005-06 has been fully spent;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor indicating the details of such schemes under which the allocated funds have not been spent; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the allocation of funds and to spend the allocated funds within stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR.

RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development implements at present through State Governments major rural development schemes like the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), National Food For Work Programme (NFFWP), Indira Awaas, Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Watershed Development Programme viz, Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Sawjaldhara and the Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP)/Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC).

(b) The Government has not decided to curtail the allocation of funds for rural development schemes as reported in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated 5th February, 2006. The Central allocations under the major schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 are given as under:

(Rs. In crores)

S. No.	Name of the Schemes	Central allocation during 2005-06	Budget Proposals of Central allocation during 2006-07
1	2	3	4
1.	Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)	1000.00	1200.00
2.	Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) including foodgrain Component	5500.00	3000.00
3.	National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP)	4500.00	0.00
4.	National Rural Employment Guarantee (NREGA)	0.00	11300.00
	Total of SGRY, NFFWP & NREGA (SI No. 2, 3 & 4)	10000.00	14300.00
5.	Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)	2775.00	2920.00
6.	Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) including EAP component	4235.00	5225.62
7.	Watershed Development and Land Reforms Schemes (Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Computerization of Land Records (CLR), Strengthening of Revenue Administration & Updating of Land Records (SRA & ULR)	1396.00	1418.00

1	2	3	4
8.	Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)	4060.00	5200.00
9.	Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP)/Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)	700.00	800.00

(c) The utilization of funds reported by the States/UTs so far is satisfactory. In the remaining months of the current financial year for which reports are yet to be received, the utilization of funds will further go up. In some cases, the allocated funds could not be spent fully due to factors like natural calamities and elections, etc.

(d) Ministry of Rural Development has been regularly interacting with the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission for enhanced allocations under all its schemes so that the benefit may be extended to the maximum target groups in right spirit.

(e) In order to implement the schemes properly, the Ministry of Rural Development places special emphasis on monitoring and evaluation of its programmes. The important instruments of monitoring mechanism include Review by Union Ministers, Meetings of Performance Review Committee, Area Officer's Scheme, Field Visits, Monitoring of Release of Funds, Analysis of Periodical Progress Reports, Receipt of Audit Reports and Utilisation Certificates, Monitoring by National Level Monitors (NLMs) & District Level Monitors (DLMs), Concurrent and Quick Evaluation Studies and Impact Assessment Studies. The State Governments have been advised to adhere to multi pronged strategy including awareness about the Rural Development Schemes at grass root level, transparency, accountability and social audit by the Gram Panchayat to provide benefits of the rural development programmes to the target groups. The Ministry of Rural Development has also adopted a four pronged strategy comprising (i) creation of awareness about the schemes (ii) transparency (iii) peoples partnership and (iv) accountability, in order to expedite the works related to all these schemes.

[English]

#### **Diversion of Funds by DRDAs**

\*200. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that certain District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) are involved

in misuse and diversion of funds and are also involved in violation of guidelines, etc.

(b) if so, whether the funds allocated by the Government to DRDAs for various Rural Development Schemes have been misused during the last three years and current year;

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

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check such activities of DRDAs?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Rural Development implements through the State Governments a number of schemes namely, the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) for self employment, the Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and the National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) as wage employment, the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) for providing shelter, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for rural connectivity, Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Integrated Wastelands Development Projects (IWDP) for Area Development through Watersheds Projects, the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and the Swajaldhara for providing safe drinking water and the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) for Sanitation Programmes. The Ministry has instituted an in-built monitoring mechanism in the guidelines of each Scheme which mention that no funds should be diverted/misutilised and that the implementing agencies should ensure that the objectives of the scheme are achieved. The complaints regarding diversion of funds/mis-utilisation, mis-appropriation including irregularities are promptly attended to with the concerned State Government for immediate remedial action. In the year 2004, 25 complaints were verified through the National Level Monitors (NLMs) and during the year 2005-06, 126 complaints were enquired through National Level Monitors.

2. With a view to ensuring that the benefits of Rural Development Schemes reach the targeted persons, the Ministry of Rural Development has put in place a comprehensive system of monitoring the execution of the Programmes, including the utilization of funds, through periodical Progress Reports received from the States/UTs, field visits by Area officers of the Ministry and discussions with the State Secretaries and with the Project Directors of the District Rural Development Agencies/Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Parishads/Panchayats, monitoring by the District Level Monitoring agencies and National Level Monitors. Besides, Concurrent Evaluations and Impact Assessment Studies are also conducted to find out more effective ways of achieving the programme objectives. The Ministry of Rural Development has also adopted a four pronged strategy comprising (i) creation of awareness about the schemes (ii) transparency (iii) peoples partnership and (iv) accountability, in order to expedite the works related to all these schemes.

#### UASL Agreement

\*201. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Operators have failed to fulfil the roll-out obligation under the Unified Access Services Licence Agreement;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Unified Access Service Licences are technology neutral and a licensee can provide wireline, wireless or both types of access network. The Licensees are to cover 10% of the District Headquarters within one year from the effective date of the licence. As the various licensees have failed to submit requisite test certificates, action as per the terms and conditions of the licence agreement is under consideration.

#### Stagnation in CBEC

1406. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the acute stagnation in the cadres of Inspectors & Superintendents of Central Excise in Maharashtra due to irrational and unscientific methods adopted during re-structuring exercise in Central Board of Excise & Customs;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by the Government to remove the stagnation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any representation has also been received by the Government in this matter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) The last cadre restructuring was done in the year 2001 with the approval of the Cabinet, after taking into account all the related aspects including functional requirements of the department and revenue collection. Consequent upon the cadre – restructuring, the sanctioned strength of Superintendent of Central Excise in Maharashtra Central Excise has been increased from 1043 to 1455. This increase helps in better promotion prospects from Inspector to Superintendent, Central Excise. So far as promotion of Superintendent to Assistant Commissioner is concerned, these promotions are done on all India seniority list and the prospects of promotion in Maharashtra are the same as in any other State of the country.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has received three references from Hon'ble Members of Parliament (Shri Shivaji Adhalrao Patil, Shri Laxman Rao Jadhav (Patil) and Shri Anant G. Geete) on this and related issues. This department has already conveyed its response in replies furnished to the three Hon'ble MPs.

#### Setting up of PCOs

1407. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government for setting up of PCOs in the remote hilly areas;

(b) if so, the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Sir, the Public Call Offices (PCOs) are allotted by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to all applicants who are of 18 years of age or above, without any restrictions of educational qualification, employment etc. throughout the country including remote hilly areas, subject to technical feasibility.

However, subsidy support is provided from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for providing Village Public Telephone (VPT) in the remaining uncovered villages in the country including remote hilly areas. Agreements to this effect have already been signed with M/s BSNL in November, 2004 to provide subsidy support for provision of VPTs in 66,822 numbers of uncovered villages excluding those villages having population less than 100 and those affected with insurgency. Out of these, 18,473 VPTs have been provided till January, 2006. The remaining 48,349 villages are likely to be provided with VPTs by November, 2007.

#### **New CA Course**

1408. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending with the Union Government for a new four year Chartered Accountants Course by reducing the existing five years and three months course;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) A proposal has been received from Institute of Chartered Accountants of India for a new scheme for Education and Training for Chartered Accountancy Course. Salient features of the proposal are indicated in the statement attached.

(c) The proposal is under examination by the Government.

#### **Statement**

The salient features of the proposed new Education and Training for Chartered Accountancy course are as under:-

- Enrol with the Board of Studies for the Common Proficiency Test (CPT) after passing Class X examination (or its equivalent) or thereafter;
- Take the Common Proficiency Test after appearing in 12th Standard examination (or its equivalent) or thereafter provided there is a gap of at least three calendar months between the enrolment for CPT and appearance at CPT; and after passing both namely 12th Standard and CPT;
- Register for practical training and enrol with Board of Studies for undergoing theoretical instruction for Professional Competence Course (PCC), simultaneously;
- Undergo integrated theoretical instruction and practical training for a period of three and a half years while pursuing Professional Competence Course and Final Course;
- Undergo compulsory Information Technology Training (ITT) of minimum of 100 hours (or as decided by the Council from time to time including modalities thereof) which may commence immediately after appearing at CPT examination or during practical training relevant to professional subjects included in the chartered accountancy course (to be decided by the Board of Studies from time to time in consultation with the Council) to be eligible to appear for the Professional Competence Examination;
- Pass the Professional Competence Examination after 18 months of commencement of practical training;
- Undergo General Management and Communication Skills Course of minimum 100 hours (or as decided by the Council from time to time as to duration and modalities thereof) after passing the Professional Competence Examination but before enrolment as a member of the Institute;
- Pass Final Examination conducted by the Institute.

#### **Commercial Debt**

1409. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of commercial debt, both, short-term and long-term debt during the last three financial years;

(b) whether this debt has been increasing especially by corporate sector;

(c) If so, the percentage of rise during the above period;

(d) whether the short-term debt can play havoc with payments crisis; and

(e) If so, the steps to be taken to check its impact of balance of payments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The outstanding external commercial debt during the last three financial years are given as under:

Type of Debt	(US \$ Million)		
	As on 31st March		
	2003	2004	2005
A Long-Term Debt*	27,467	26,797	32,116
	(-4.3)	(-2.4)	(19.9)
B Short-Term Debt#	2,707	4,127	7,524
	(52.3)	(52.5)	(82.3)
C Commercial Debt (A+B)	30,174	30,924	39,640
	(-1.0)	(2.5)	(28.2)

Note: Figures in brackets indicate percentage rise over the year.

\*: Includes external commercial borrowings and export credits.

#: Includes only Trade Credits

(b) and (c) The increase in long-term commercial debt reflects increased access by Indian corporates to international capital markets. The rise in short term debt is due to larger oil imports and trade credits due to increased domestic economic activities.

(d) and (e) India's short-term debt is within manageable limits. Short-term debt forms only 6.1% of total debt outstanding and 5.6% of foreign currency assets as at the end of March, 2005.

*[Translation]*

### Grants for Construction of Lavatories

1410. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various State Governments particularly Chhattisgarh has forwarded proposals to Union Government for providing hundred per cent grants for the construction of lavatories;

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

(c) the decision taken by the Central Government on these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) State Government of Chhattisgarh have informed that they have not forwarded any proposal to Union Government for providing hundred per cent grants for the construction of lavatories.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

### Cultivation of Opium

1411. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has curtailed the opium cultivation area in Barabanki district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the effective measures taken by the Government to increase the opium cultivation area in the said district;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the opium growers are being trained to do opium cultivation in a scientific manner; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The maximum area a cultivator is licenced to grow opium in has been reduced from 20 acres (1/5 of a hectare) to 10 acres (1/10 of a hectare) for all opium growing areas in the country (including Barabanki district) since the crop

year 2004-05, considering the stocks of opium and demand for opium.

Further, licences for cultivation of opium are issued only to such cultivators who tendered the Minimum Qualifying Yield (MQY) in the previous crop year and fulfil other licensing conditions. Cultivators, including those of Barabanki district, who could not tender the MQY and/or do not fulfil the other eligibility criteria of opium Licensing Conditions, were not issued licences resulting in reduction in number of licensed cultivators and licensed area.

At present, the Government has no plans to increase the opium cultivation area in Barabanki or anywhere else in the country.

Area under poppy cultivation has to be strictly controlled as opium is prone to abuse. Only that quantity of opium, which is required for medical and scientific purposes needs to be produced. As such, opium cultivation area cannot be increased either in Barabanki district or anywhere in India, keeping in view the large stocks of opium with the government factories and the relatively low annual demand.

(d) and (e) Opium cultivators in the traditional opium growing areas possess the requisite expertise in the cultivation of opium poppy crop and in extracting of opium through the capsule incision process. In addition, the Department distributes technical literature/pamphlets prepared by Agricultural scientists amongst the poppy licensees/cultivators at the time of grant of licence. This literature indicates the best practices for cultivation of opium poppy crop as well as precautions to be taken to prevent damage to opium crop due to pests, etc.

*[English]*

#### **Sale of National Savings Certificates**

1412. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of National Savings Certificates sold in Gujarat during the last three years, district-wise;
- (b) the details of amount earned through the sales of the said certificates;
- (c) whether Government have received any

complaints regarding frauds being committed in managing the National Savings Certificates;

- (d) if so, the details in this regard, district-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Finances to Rural Poor**

1413. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government attention has been drawn to the World Bank report titled "Sealing up access to finance for India's rural poor";
- (b) if so, the details of suggestions made in the report;
- (c) the response of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the action taken or likely to be taken by the Government on the basis of report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. World Bank has brought out a report in December 2004 titled "Scaling up Access to Finance for India's Rural Poor." Certain observations have been made in the report regarding functioning of rural financial institutions in India including problems faced by rural poor relating to absence of flexible products & services, high transaction costs, insistence on collaterals and interest rate restrictions. Certain suggestions have been made including providing flexible products at competitive prices to rural poor, need for composite financial services, simplification of banking procedures, better staffing policies and door step banking, use of technology etc. Further, it has been suggested to revisit the policies on setting caps on interest rate on deposits and advances, priority sector lending, restructuring the RRBs and Rural Cooperative Banks, better regulation and supervision and active role of government in facilitating rural finance markets.

(c) and (d) Government and RBI constantly monitor the credit needs of different sectors of the economy and undertake corrective measures, whenever required, to ensure that adequate funds flow to Agriculture, Small & Medium Enterprises and such other important sectors. The interest rate on advances has already been deregulated in 1997. Credit flow to agriculture alone has increased from Rs.86,981 crore in 2003-04 to Rs.1,25,309 crore in 2004-05. The following steps taken, inter-alia, led to enhanced credit flow in rural areas:-

- (i) The banks have been asked to simplify the procedure for sanction of loan.
- (ii) One page documentation has been circulated among banks for adoption.
- (iii) Reserve Bank of India, has instructed banks not to insist on collateral or margin for loans upto Rs.50000/-.
- (iv) Banks have been asked to issue Kisan Credit Cards to all eligible farmers.
- (v) Financing of Self Help Groups is being emphasised.
- (vi) A project has been initiated for lending by banks to joint liability groups of tenant farmers and oral lessees.
- (vii) Indian Banks' Association has advised public sector banks to charge an interest rate of not more than 9% per annum on crop loans upto Rs.50,000.

#### Construction of Houses

1414. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct more Government residential accommodation for VIPs in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) There is no definition of the term VIP available as far as

residential accommodation is concerned. The concerned authorities are allotting houses as per entitlement of different categories under governing Rules. A proposal for redevelopment of the Netaji Nagar (Part) and Moti Bagh (East) for construction of 492 houses, comprising of 376 Type VI, 102 Type VII and 14 Type VIII bungalows, through the National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) has been approved by the Government. The project is to be completed within 31 months from the date of start.

Apart from this, proposals for construction of 52 Spl. Type bungalows for Lok Sabha MPs on B.D. Marg and redevelopment of bungalows in LBZ is also at planning stage.

#### Plan for Textile Sector

1415. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive plan for handloom, powerloom and handicraft sectors in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds provided during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the details of progress and achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (c) The Government is implementing various schemes for the development of handloom, powerloom and handicraft sectors in the country. These schemes are not State specific and the funds under these schemes are released to various implementing agencies on the basis of viability of the proposals received. Some of the important schemes are:

Sl.No.	Sector	Name of important Schemes
1	2	3
1.	Handlooms	Handloom Export Scheme (HES) Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana Marketing Promotion Programme Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme Weavers' Welfare Scheme

1	2	3
2.	Powerloom	Group Work Shed Scheme for Powerloom Weavers  Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS)
3.	Handicrafts	Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana  Export Promotion Scheme  Special Handicrafts Training Programme (SHTP)  Bima Yojana for Handicrafts Artisans

(d) The details of funds released under various schemes being implemented in handloom, powerloom and handicraft sectors during last three years are:

Sl. No.	Sector	Funds released (Rs. in lakh)		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Handloom	10375.90	9765.04	11360.29
2.	Powerloom	438.00	812.00	570.00
3.	Handicrafts	7165.00	6432.00	7707.00

#### Afforestation of Delhi

1416. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has transferred some of the markets in Delhi which were under the control of the Union Government to Delhi Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to make the city greener and environment friendly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Government has decided to transfer all the markets (except Rajiv Chowk/Indira Chowk and INA Market Complex), presently under the Land & Development Office, the Central Public Works Department and the Directorate of Estates to the Municipal corporation of Delhi (MCD) and

New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on as is where is basis.

(c) The Government of NCT of Delhi has reported that every year it formulates and implements a Green Delhi Action Plan. Various agencies undertake plantation on the areas under their jurisdiction in accordance with the Green Delhi Action Plan. To encourage plantation on private lands seedlings are distributed to public free of cost. Local public, citizen forums, Residence Welfare Associations and schools are involved in the tree plantation drives. Eco-clubs have been organized in schools to create awareness among school children.

#### Award of Contracts of CPWD

1417. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of CPWD is not upto the expectation to the established norms;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether CPWD has displayed notice boards in all the inquiry offices and RWAs;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether most of the work of CPWD is being done through contractors;

(f) if so, whether there is no monitoring System to monitor the work done by contractors; and

(g) if so, the steps taken or being taken by Government to ensure that the work being awarded to contractors is done as per specification of tender and to the satisfaction of the authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The work of CPWD is executed as per the established norms.

(c) and (d) Notice boards have been displayed by CPWD in all its Enquiry Offices. Boards at RWAs are maintained by RWAs themselves.

(e) All original works are being got done through contractors and the day to day maintenance complaints

are normally attended to by the CPWD staff where available.

(f) and (g) There is a well established System of monitoring and the payments to the contractors are released only quality and quantity are checked and certified by the supervising officers of CPWD.

#### Training Scheme for Handloom Weavers

1418. SHRI PRAHLAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched any specific training scheme for the small & artistic handicrafts & traditional handloom weavers;

(b) if so, whether the concerned States also share the funds under the said scheme;

(c) if so, the details of the Central funds released during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether all the States have utilized such Central funds for the purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and the names of those States which have not utilized the fund?

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

#### Handicrafts

(a) The office of the DC (Handicrafts) has launched Special Handicrafts Training Project during 2002-03 with the view to upgrade the skill of existing as well as new craftspersons/carpet weavers, to enhance employment opportunities, to transfer skill of Master craftspersons to new trainees, and to increase production base of crafts having high market demand.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The schemes of the Government for promotion of development handicrafts including SHTP are Central Plan Schemes and do not have provisions for sharing the expenditure between Central & State Governments. These schemes are being implemented throughout the country as grant-in-aid scheme through implementing agencies like State Handicrafts Development

Corporation/Apex Societies, NGO's etc. The funds released to various implementing agencies under the SHTP during the last three years have been compiled State-wise as per Statement-I enclosed.

(d) to (f) Does not arise.

#### Handlooms

(a) 'Integrated Handloom Training Project (IHTP) has been introduced in December 2003 for imparting training to handloom weavers/workers.

(b) No Sir, IHTP is a Central Sector Scheme. Under the Scheme, financial assistance has been released to Weavers' Service Centres functioning under Central Government.

(c) to (f) Statement-II is enclosed.

#### Statement-I

#### Amount spent during the last three years under SHTP

Sl No.	Name of State	(Rs. in lakh)		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
		Funds released	Funds released	Funds released
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	-	2.25	4.88
2	A&N Islands	-	-	1.67
3	Arunachal Pradesh	-	0.96	1.98
4	Assam	1.64	28.11	70.98
5	Bihar	-	1.57	3.40
6	Chhattisgarh	-	0.54	2.61
7	Chandigarh	-	-	-
8	Delhi	-	0.48	0.71
9	Goa	-	0.27	1.01
10	Gujarat	-	1.08	4.67
11.	Haryana	-	1.44	2.88

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
12.	Himachal Pradesh	-	1.18	7.90	22	Nagaland	0.55	1.56	14.64
13	Jammu & Kashmir	-	2.88	24.44	23	Orissa	-	1.08	6.27
14	Jharkhand	-	0.54	3.58	24	Punjab	-	1.44	3.83
15	Karnataka	-	1.98	6.75	25	Pondicherry	-	0.48	0.92
16	Kerala	-	2.52	5.42	26	Rajasthan	-	0.96	2.46
17	Madhya Pradesh	-	1.62	2.29	27	Sikkim	-	-	-
18	Maharashtra	-	0.54	1.35	28	Tamilnadu	-	1.71	7.73
19	Manipur	-	-	6.48	29	Tripura	-	1.44	2.38
20	Meghalaya	-	2.10	-	30	Uttar Pradesh	7.40	33.75	94.27
21	Mizoram	-	-	1.62	31	Uttaranchal	-	2.28	9.44
					32	West Bengal	-	5.24	10.88

**Statement-II**

*Details of the Central funds released during the last three year to Weavers' Service Centres under "Integrated Handloom Training Project (IHTP)"*

Sl. No.	Name of WSC	State covered	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		Reasons
			Released	Utilised	Released	Utilised	Released	utilised	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>South Zone</b>									
1.	Chennai	Tamilnadu	30,05,534	30,05,534	1,39,45,000	1,39,45,000	86,74,500	86,74,500	
		Pondicherry	3,73,250	3,73,250	-	-	-	-	
2.	Kancheepuram	Tamilnadu	6,01,000	6,01,000	27,97,500	27,97,500	31,69,000	31,69,000	
3.	Salem	Tamilnadu	12,84,250	12,84,250	72,01,500	72,01,500	42,22,000	42,22,000	
4.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	21,86,850	21,86,850	1,39,25,500	1,39,25,500	1,39,31,000	1,39,31,000	
5.	Vijaywada	Andhra Pradesh	16,32,139	16,32,139	64,39,500	64,39,500	69,77,000	69,77,000	
6.	Kannur	Kerala	14,93,000	14,93,000	94,98,750	94,98,750	87,73,750	87,73,750	
7.	Bangalore	Karnataka	18,82,024	18,82,024	1,17,63,000	*1,07,79,750	84,78,875	84,78,875	* balance submitted to Govt. Account as per the Audit Objection

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>East Zone</b>									
8.	Guwahati	Assam	17,09,750	17,09,750	42,19,250	42,19,250	60,00,000	60,00,000	
		Arunachal Pradesh	4,71,500	4,71,500	15,09,000	15,09,000	9,17,500	9,17,500	
		Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	19,07,400	19,07,400	
9.	Kolkata	West Bengal	19,32,750	19,32,750	57,23,450	57,23,450	-	-	
		Sikkim	-	-	-	-	12,08,750	12,08,750	
10.	Bhubneshwar	Orissa	8,39,250	8,39,250	96,77,500	*91,40,500	35,09,750	-**	* Prog. for 2004-05 are in progress ** Prog. for 2005-06 are in progress
11.	Bhagalpur	Bihar	2,55,882	2,55,882	-	-	27,30,375	27,30,375	
		Jharkhand	5,33,050	5,33,050	-	-	14,23,000	14,23,000	
12.	Agartala	Tripura	6,83,250	6,83,250	40,49,000	40,49,000	-	-	
		Mizoram					29,59,700	29,59,700	
13.	Imphal	Manipur	4,84,000	4,84,000	-	-	-	-	
		Nagaland	2,27,750	2,27,750	-	-	28,83,000	28,83,000	
<b>West Zone</b>									
14.	Mumbai	Maharashtra	6,02,779	6,02,779	31,45,000	31,45,000	28,72,000	13,26,280	Prog. for 2005-06 are in progress
		Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-	
15.	Nagpur	Maharashtra	5,76,625	5,76,625	36,74,500	36,74,500	41,38,250	17,49,250	Prog. for 2005-06 are in progress
16.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	18,18,953	18,18,953	59,04,000	59,04,000	40,56,875	27,00,231	Prog. for 2005-06 are in progress
17.	Indore	Madhya Pradesh	25,48,110	25,48,106	68,89,500	66,97,007	32,56,500	7,19,747	Prog. for 2005-06 are in progress
18.	Raigarh	Chhattisgarh	4,47,238	4,47,238	99,56,250	97,67,130	64,57,280	51,31,341	Prog. for 2005-06 are in progress
<b>North Zone</b>									
19.	Delhi	Delhi	10,01,814	*8,67,564	33,03,039	20,53,039*	9,46,000	-***	*Balance deposited as sufficient

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Himachal Pradesh	14,24,750	14,24,750	62,10,000	*62,10,000	-	-	space was not available with the society. **Prog. are under implementation *** Prog. for 2005-06 are in progress
20. Jaipur		Rajasthan	18,40,320	17,71,553*	50,63,050	44,43,800**	72,87,550	60,20,750***	*Target completed balance remitted. ** Target achieved balance yet to be settled. *** Prog. for 2005-06 are in progress
21. Panipat		Haryana	14,51,775	14,51,775	51,00,000	51,00,000	-	-	
22. Varanasi		Uttar Pradesh	8,53,048	8,53,048	51,92,426	51,92,426	75,31,994	*	Prog. for 2005-06 are in progress
23. Meerut		Uttar Pradesh	8,51,400	8,49,200*	41,42,016	41,19,716*	21,68,800	21,68,800	* Target completed balance remitted.
24. Chamoli		Uttaranchal	10,23,712	10,23,712	17,09,934	17,09,934	24,64,000	24,64,000	
25. Srinagar		J&K	10,53,771	10,53,771	56,27,750	56,27,750	-	-	

#### Crop Loan

1419. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial institutions and banks are providing crop loan and other credit facilities to those poor farmers who do not have Pattadar Pass Book and are agriculture tenants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the plans made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A model scheme for providing credit to tenant farmers

and oral lessees for raising crops by organizing them into Tenant Farmer Groups (TFGs) on the pattern of SHGs is being implemented. NABARD provides 100% refinance to co-operative banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) eligible for short term seasonal agricultural operations credit limits at a rate of interest of 5.50% per annum for financing such groups. During the year 2005-06, NABARD has stipulated a minimum coverage of at least 2% of crop loan financing by RRBs and Co-operative Banks to tenant farmers and oral lessees.

#### Proposals from the South

1420. SHRI G M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received several proposals from Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu,

Karnataka and Kerala to reduce their debt servicing burden;

(b) if so, the total debt position of these States as on date;

(c) the steps Union Government proposes to take to help the State Governments in the debt servicing; and

(d) by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Government of India has received proposals from Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala under the 'States Debt Consolidation and Relief Facility (2005-10)', formulated subsequent to acceptance of the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC).

(b) The outstanding balance due from these States to Government of India, Ministry of Finance (MoF), as on 31.01.2006 is given below:

State	Rs. in crore
1. Andhra Pradesh	15,290.68
2. Karnataka	8,380.65
3. Kerala	5,109.56
4. Tamil Nadu	6,059.11

(c) Government of India has accepted the recommendations of the TFC to consolidate the Central loans, disbursed by Ministry of Finance to States up to 31.3.2004 and outstanding as on 31.3.2005, resulting in reschedulement for a fresh term of 20 years (repayable in 20 equal installments) at lower interest rate of 7.5% p.a., subject to States enacting their Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act with the laid down conditions. Besides, States may also avail the facility of a debt write-off scheme linked to the reduction of revenue deficit.

(d) On recommendation of the Central Monitoring Committee, Central loans (MoF) outstanding to Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala have been consolidated. The State Governments have been informed accordingly.

### Expansion of IT Operation

1421. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has issued directions to IT Industry to spread its operation to tier II cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the IT industry thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) In order to expand the horizon of Software exports and to tap the manpower potential the private industry is trying to expand into tier II cities. Many of the state governments are also taking initiatives to promote IT in the major cities of their respective states, position them as the next destinations for the software industry and create more jobs. The Department of IT, Govt. of India has established Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) as an autonomous society, with the main objective of promotion of software exports from the country. So far 46 centres have been established in various States.

### Foreign Exchange Inflow & Inflation

1422. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated value of currency notes brought into circulation account of inflow of foreign exchange through FDI and FII; and

(b) the contribution of this expansion in currency circulation to the inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) There is no one-to-one relationship between Foreign Institutional Investment (FII) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows and currency in circulation in the economy. Currency in circulation depends on a host of factors, such as, the level of economic activity, rural activity and the spread of banking activity in the economy as well as seasonal factors such as festival season demand. Data on FDI and FII flows and currency notes in circulation for the recent years and the WPI inflation is given below:

Year	Currency notes in circulation End-March (Rs. billion)	FDI (US\$ billion)	FII	WPI Inflation End-March
2001-02	2446.08	6.130	1.505	1.6
2002-03	2754.02	5.035	0.377	6.5
2003-04	3197.32	4.322	10.918	4.6
2004-05 (P)	3612.13	5.653	8.684	5.1
2005-06 (P) # 4154.43##		4.377	4.042	4.0@

P: Provisional

##: As on Feb 10, 2006

#: Apr-Nov.

@: As on Feb. 11, 2006

Despite large FII and FDI inflows and the build-up of foreign exchange reserves, effective monetary management by the RBI ensures that appropriate liquidity is maintained in the system so that all legitimate requirements of credit are met, consistent with the objective of price stability.

#### Islamic Interest Free Scheme

1423. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- whether the Government has launched Interest Free Islamic Banking Scheme in the country;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether the Government has opened any center for Interest Free Banking in the overseas branches of Nationalised Banks; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) There is no proposal for introduction of Islamic banking in India. However, RBI is looking at the enabling requirements, if overseas branches / subsidiaries of Indian banks have to offer Islamic banking products to meet the emerging competition in this area.

#### Mill Gate Price Scheme

1424. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Handloom Development Corporation proposes to incorporate Coir Sector in the "Mill Gate Price Scheme" as requested by Government of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) A request was received from the Government of Kerala by National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) as well as in the Ministry of Textiles, in January 2005 for incorporating the Coir Sector in the "Mill Gate Price Scheme" (MGPS) for handloom weavers being operated by the Development Commissioner for Handlooms.

(c) The Government of Kerala has been informed on 13th May, 2005 that the coir sector is different from the handloom sector, and hence it is not possible to include supply of coir fibre under the Mill Gate Price Scheme.

#### Revision of pay scales of RRBs Employees

1425. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

SHRI PRASANTA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- whether the Government in its orders asked Regional Rural Banks to revise the pay and allowance & other benefits to employees, as per direction of Supreme Court of India;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether revision of other benefits have been left to the sponsor banks;
- if so, the sponsor banks which are so far revised/introduced such allowances and benefit; and
- the time to be required to revise all components of pay, allowances and benefit as per comparable posts in the sponsor banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) In exercise of the powers conferred under Second Proviso to Section 17(1) of Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 (RRBs

Act, 1976) and in accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court dated 31.01.1999 in Civil Appeal No. 2218 of 1999 in the matter of South Malabar Gramin Bank Employees Union and Others, the Government of India revised the pay scales of the employees/officers of RRBs equal to the corresponding categories of employees of the nationalized banks vide letter dated 6.10.2005 to the Chairmen of RRBs except Kshetriya Kisan Gramin Bank, Mainpuri. The details thereof are as under:

- (i) Pay scales and Dearness Allowances of each RRB employee as on 1.11.2002 would be equal to the corresponding categories of employees of the nationalized commercial banks.
- (ii) House Rent Allowance and City Compensatory Allowance would be payable at the same rate as applicable to corresponding categories of employees of the nationalized commercial banks w.e.f. 1.11.2002.
- (iii) As far as other allowances are concerned the individual sponsor banks shall negotiate the same with the RRBs sponsored by them.
- (iv) The current payment in the increase in the salary should be made effective in the salary for the month of October, 2005. The arrears shall be paid in two instalments, one half should be paid immediately and the second half as on 01 April 2006. It was also clarified vide letter dated 25.10.2005 that pay includes Special Pay also, if any.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) In order to arrive at a consensus for revision of other allowances and benefits, the sponsor banks held a meeting with NABARD on 27.01.2006. The sponsor banks have initiated the process for the revision of other allowances and are required to revise the same in consultation with RRBs.

#### Unclaimed Deposits

1426. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of deposits lying unclaimed in various nationalized banks in Andhra Pradesh due to the death of account holders or in the absence of any nominee declared by such account holders;

(b) the total amount involved in this respect as on December 31, 2005;

(c) the details of amount lying unclaimed for more than five years and ten years respectively; and

(d) the procedure laid down by the Government to dispose of such amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Data reporting system of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate the information state-wise, as asked for in the question. The date is collected only bank-wise.

"Section 26 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 provides, inter-alia, that every banking company shall, within 30 days after close of each calendar year submit a return in the prescribed form and manner to the reserve Bank of India as at the end of each calendar year (i.e. 31 December) of all accounts in India which have not been operated upon for 10 years". Accordingly, the latest available data of nationalized banks as on 31 December 2004 (latest available) of unclaimed bank accounts is rupees 651.29 crores.

(d) RBI have issued instructions to banks on the unclaimed deposits lying with them that deposit accounts which have not been operated upon over period, say two years, should be segregated and maintained in separate ledger/s.

Banks have been advised by RBI that they should ensure that their branches follow-up accounts which remained inoperative for a year or so by sending suitable advice to the customers and if the said letters are returned undelivered, they may immediately be put on enquiry to find out the whereabouts of customers or their legal heirs in case they are deceased.

#### National Highway

1427. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering a proposal to construct six to eight lane 46 Km road to connect the four national highways passing through Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals; and

(c) the time by which the work on the project is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The Public works Department (PWD) of Govt. of NCT of Delhi have informed that there is no proposal to construct a 46 Km. new road to connect the four National Highways passing through Delhi. However, Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways has informed that there is a proposal to construct a four lane Peripheral Expressway passing outside the territory of Delhi and connecting these National Highways. The total length of the Expressway is about 269 Kms. and project is to be executed on Built, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. The project is scheduled for commencement by July, 2006.

**Foreign Investment  
Under NURM**

1428. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to allow Governments to tap foreign investments under the National Renewal Mission NURM;

(b) if so, the important recommendations of GoM constituted for the purpose;

(c) whether the GoM has also recommended that State Governments can tap funds directly from abroad to capital intensive projects under NURM; and

(d) if so, the number of recommendations of the GoM accepted and being implemented under NURM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) JNNURM provides that in case of approved Externally Aided Projects (EAP), the EAP funds can be passed through as ACA to the State Government as funds contributed by States/Urban Local Bodies/Financial Institutions and NURM funds can be used as Government of India contribution. This is one of the recommendations of the GoM constituted for the purpose.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Bangalore Metro Rail Project**

1429. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA:

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fate of Bangalore Metro Rail Project has still not been decided by the Union Government of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government of India to expedite the approval to the Bangalore Metro Rail Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The Bangalore Metro Rail Project is at an advanced stage of consideration by Government of India. Further consideration is awaiting a decision of a Group of Ministers set up to decide upon an appropriate gauge for metro systems in the country and other related matters.

**Master Plan for Rain Water Management**

1430. SHRI EKNATH M. GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up Master Plan for rain water management in Mumbai;

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

(c) the salient features and estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

*[Translation]*

**Scams In DDA**

1431. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of many scams in DDA, particularly regarding allotment of alternative plots to Group Housing Societies and Educational Institutions;

(b) If so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) the number of DDA officials involved in the said scams and the details of the action taken by the Government against these officials; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such scams in DDA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Allotment of Flats by DDA

1432. MOHD. MUKEEM:

SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Development Authority have assessed the number of flats required for the entire population of Delhi at present and as per the census conducted in 1981, 1991 and 2001;

(b) if so, the actual demand and supply of DDA flats during the above period;

(c) the details of schemes launched by DDA to bridge the gap between demand and supply;

(d) the number of persons who are in the waiting list at present for allotment of DDA flats under various schemes, scheme-wise; and

(e) the time by which these persons are likely to be provided flats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) DDA has informed that there is a backlog of

waiting registrants in the three Housing Schemes launched in 1979, 1989 and 1996, as under:

Scheme	Total
New Pattern Registration Scheme, 1979	8327
Ambedkar Awas Yojna, 1989	2771
Janta Housing Registration Scheme, 1996	2488
<b>Total</b>	<b>13586</b>

(e) The DDA has a target to clear the backlog of waiting registrants by the end of 2006, through allotment of flats already constructed on provision of basic amenities, flats available due to surrender/cancellation and construction of additional flats.

#### Company Law Board

1433. SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of Company Law Board set up in the country along with their locations;

(b) the work assigned to these branches;

(c) the date on which Company Law Settlement Scheme has been implemented and the outcome thereof; and

(d) the achievements made by the Company Law Board during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) Company Law Board has six Benches with Principal Bench at New Delhi and the Additional Principal Bench at Chennai. The four Regional Benches with locations are as under:

(i) Northern Region Bench - New Delhi

(ii) Eastern Region Bench - Kolkata

(iii) Western Region Bench - Mumbai

(iv) Southern Region Bench - Chennai.

(b) Work assigned to the Benches are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) This Ministry had launched the Company Law

Settlement Scheme (CLSS), 2000 initially for a period of three months from 1.6.2000 to 31.8.2000 to enable companies, who had defaulted in filing documents with the Registrar of Companies in the past, to come forward and avail of a one time declaration and settlement. The Scheme was successful and in view of the demands from the Industries/Chambers of Commerce etc., the validity of the Scheme was further extended till 30.9.2000 with the condition that the defaulting companies were required to pay a surcharge of 10% over and above the fee prescribed under the Scheme. 1,27,083 companies availed of this scheme.

(d) The details of achievements of the Petitions/applications considered and disposed of by the Company Law Board during the last three years is given in the Statement-II.

#### **Statement-I**

##### **Principal Bench**

Matters falling under section 235, 237(b), 247, 248, 250, 388B, 408 & 409 and matters falling under Chapter VI of Part VI of the Companies Act, 1956 and under section 2A of the Monopolies Act.

##### **Additional Principal Bench**

Matters falling under section 235 and 237 of the Companies Act, 1956 and matters falling under Chapter VI of part VI of the Act in so far as they relate to Southern Region.

##### **Regional Benches**

Petitions/applications under sections 17, 18, 19, 58AA, 79/80A, 111/111A, 113/113(3), 1178, 117B, 117C, 118, 141, 144, 163, 167, 186, 196, 219, 269, 284, 304, 307, 614, 621A and 643A of the Companies Act, 1956 and Section 45Q Aof the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

#### **Statement-II**

Year	Opening Balance	Receipts	Total	Disposed of	Pending
2002-03	10617	13834	24448	17163	7285
2003-04	7285	8027	15312	13131	2181
2004-05	2181	9714	8895	8925	1970

In order to reduce the pendency, Single Member has been entrusted to hear all types of cases from September 2002 onwards.

#### **Credit Card Fraud**

1434. SHRI AJIT JOGI:

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the credit card fraud via India's well known internet service providers as reported in the Hindustan Times dated December 08, 2005;

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

(c) whether the Government has information about organisations that have reported phishing of their users by Indian servers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to check such frauds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India has received information from two banks about phishing attacks against them. The perpetrators send e-mails to customers purportedly from the bank stating that for verification purposes customers need to click the hyperlink provided. However, the hyperlink connects to a fake website created by the fraudsters which asks the customers for their log-in user-id, password, transaction password and such other confidential/personal information.

On investigation by the concerned banks, it has come to light that in the case of one of the banks, the website was hosted from a server at USA, while in case of the other bank, it has been hosted from a server in India. Further, while one bank has reported that fraudulent transfers to the tune of Rs. 24,830/- have been identified, the other bank has not received any information about unauthorized transactions due to the phishing attack.

Reserve Bank of India has issued Caution Advice on 16th February, 2006 to all commercial banks on phishing attacks. The advice provides detail of the modus operandi of such attacks and prescribes the minimum set of

measures that have to be implemented by banks as preventive / detective measures to tackle phishing attacks.

[English]

### Handloom Industry

1435. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the States where handloom industry occupies an important position;
- (b) the contribution of this industry to the GDP;
- (c) whether many handloom units have been closed down during the last decade;
- (d) if so, the number of workers who have been rendered jobless;
- (e) whether terminal benefits like PF, Gratuity etc. have been disbursed to these workers; and
- (f) if not, the initiative taken by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) The States where handloom industry occupies an important position are as under:-

1. Andhra Pradesh 2. Assam 3. Karnataka 4. Manipur 5. Nagaland 6. Orissa 7. Tamilnadu 8. Tripura 9. Uttar Pradesh 10. West Bengal

(b) The textile industry contributes about 4% to the GDP. The contribution of handloom industry in regard to production of fabrics in the textile sector, excluding khadi, wool and silk, is about 13%.

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

(f) The Government has been implementing a number of schemes for the development of the handloom sector and welfare of handloom weavers, such as, Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, Marketing Promotion Programme, Handloom Export Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Design Development and Training Programme, Workshop-cum-Housing Scheme, Integrated Handloom Training Project, Weavers Welfare Scheme comprising - Thrift Fund Scheme, New Insurance Scheme and

Implementation of Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985.

Several Schemes, including schemes for life insurance and health insurance were announced in the last Budget for the handloom sector. They are being implemented. The Cluster Development approach will continue. It is proposed to cover an additional 100 clusters at a cost of Rs.50 crore in 2006-07. Yarn depots will be established in different parts of the country to ensure uninterrupted supply of yarn to weavers. It is also proposed to launch a 'handloom' mark. A scheme similar to TUFSS will be introduced for the handloom sector to provide interest subsidy.

[Translation]

### Engineers in DDA

1436. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of engineers working in DDA on various posts at present;
- (b) the total number of residential projects in progress at present;
- (c) the names of places where the said projects are in progress;
- (d) whether current number of engineers are necessary for implementation of said projects;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the corrective steps taken by the Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that 2112 engineers are working in its various Zones/Units.

(b) and (c) DDA has reported that at present it is executing 20 residential projects in different areas such as Dwarka, Vasant Kunj, Motia Khan, Shalimar Bagh, Kalyan Vihar, Narela, Pitampura, Rohini, Dilshad Garden, Jasola and Vasundhara Enclave.

(d) to (f) DDA has reported that in addition to the execution of residential projects, the engineers are required for supervision of commercial projects, development works, fly-overs, infrastructure for Commonwealth Games etc. Engineers are also required for planning, designing, quality control, vigilance, maintenance of land & building and other administrative works.

#### F.D.I. In Construction Sector

1437. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has approved hundred per cent foreign investment in construction sector;
- (b) if so, whether it will adversely affect the Indian construction units and builders;
- (c) whether the houses will be costlier for common man as a result of foreign investment in construction sector;
- (d) if so, whether any condition is imposed on foreign investors of construction companies to common man for providing houses at cheap rates; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (e) The government has allowed FDI up to 100% under the automatic route in township, housing, built-up infrastructure and construction-development projects (which would include, but not be restricted to, housing, commercial premises, hotels, resorts, hospitals, educational institution, recreational facilities, city and regional level infrastructure) inter-alia providing that

- (i) Minimum area to be developed is 10 hectares for housing plots;
- (ii) Minimum built-up area of 50,000 sqmtrs. for construction-development projects;
- (iii) Minimum capitalisation of US \$10 million for wholly owned and US \$5 million for joint ventures with Indian partners;
- (iv) Minimum lock-in-period of investment 3 years;
- (v) At least 50% of the project must be developed within 5 years after obtaining all statutory clearances.

This is likely to increase investment in Housing/ Construction sector which would result in increase in Housing stock in the country.

*[English]*

#### Windows XP Starter Edition

1438. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:

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

- (a) whether Microsoft company has released a low price "Starter Edition" (OPERATING SYSTEM) in Hindi and Tamil which is known as the Windows XP starter;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the company has a proposal to release such low priced Starter Edition in other Indian languages particularly in Kannda; and
- (d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Microsoft is a private multinational company and Department of Information Technology (DIT) has no collaboration with Microsoft in the language technology. However, it is learnt from Microsoft that Windows XP Starter Edition has been released for Hindi and Tamil and they have plans to release Windows XP Starter Edition in seven more languages for which they have not specified any timeline.

*[Translation]*

#### Funds to Maharashtra for New Cities

1439. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount allocated to the State Government of Maharashtra for the development of new cities in the State during the current financial year;
- (b) the details and names of those cities for which the said amount has been allocated; and

(c) the cities which have been selected for the maintenance, development and beautified by the State Government or by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) No amount has been allocated to State Government of Maharashtra for the development of new cities in the State during the current financial year.

(c) The cities are maintained, developed and beautified by the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) who are supported by the State and the Central Governments. The Central Government has recently launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) under which support for reform linked, integrated and planned development of cities has been provided for.

#### Post Offices in Rural Areas

1440. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes participation of post offices in making rural schemes successful as reported in 'Dainik Jagaran' dated January 27, 2006;

(b) if so, whether the payment of wages to labourers under rural schemes will be made through post offices;

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

(d) the number of post offices against one lakh people in the country including Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The Department of Posts has discussed with Ministry of Rural Development a proposal for making payment of wages to labourers under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), 2005 through Post Offices. Details will be worked out only after Department of Posts is entrusted with the work of payment of wages under NREGA.

(d) Postal Circle wise number of Post Offices against one lakh people including Jharkhand is given in the Statement.

#### Statement

*Circle-wise Number of Post Offices against One Lakh Population as on 31.3.2005*

Sl. No.	Circles	Total No. of Post Offices	No. of Post Offices against one lakh population
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	16191	21
2	Assam	4006	15
3	Bihar	9054	11
4	Chhattisgarh	3125	15
5	Delhi	577	4
6	Gujarat	8928	18
	Daman, D.N. Haveli	57	15
7	Haryana	2649	13
8	Himachal Pradesh	2780	46
9	Jammu & Kashmir	1690	17
10	Jharkhand	3049	11
11	Karnataka	9877	19
12	Kerala	5068	16
	Lakshdweep	14	23
13	Madhya Pradesh	8345	14
14	Maharashtra	12703	13
	Goa	258	19
15	North East		
	Arunachal Pradesh	303	28
	Manipur	698	29
	Meghalaya	493	21
	Mizoram	405	46
	Nagaland	328	16

1	2	3	4
	Tripura	717	22
16	Orissa	8161	22
17	Punjab	3960	16
18	Rajasthan	10442	18
19	Tamil Nadu	12101	19
	Pondicherry	95	10
20	Uttaranchal	2721	32
21	Uttar Pradesh	17658	11
22	West Bengal	8752	11
	A & N Islands	101	28
	Sikkim	210	39
	<b>Total *</b>	<b>155516</b>	<b>15*</b>

\* All India Average based on 2001 census.

#### **Cellular Phone in Rural Areas**

1441. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

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

(a) whether the cost incurred in providing communication facility through cellular technology in rural areas is lesser than the fixed line telephone technology;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any decision to use cellular technology in rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to provide assistance from Universal Service Obligation Fund under this scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per information received from Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

(BSNL) the installation cost of wireline is around Rs. 26,000/- per line while that of wireless in Local Loop Phone is around Rs. 9000/- (excluding cost of Handset) and that of mobile phone is around Rs. 5500/-. The operational expenditure per line per month for basic services has been reported as Rs. 621.25 while for cellular services, the corresponding figure is Rs. 205/-.

(c) and (d) The policy of the Government is technology neutral irrespective of rural or urban areas. However most of the service providers are using wireless technology in rural areas.

(e) and (f) An amendment in the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 for providing assistance for Cellular Services from Universal Service Obligation Fund is under consideration.

[English]

#### **Mobile Telephone Connections**

1442. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Mobile Phone Service providers operating in India as on date;

(b) the total number of connections provided by each of them to the public till date;

(c) whether there is capacity ceiling prescribed for the cell services providers restricting them to a maximum limit;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any violation of overstepping the limit was noticed; and

(f) if so, its details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The total number of Mobile phone service providers operating in India is 26, as on 31.01.2006.

(b) As per reports of Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) and Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers of India (AUSPI), the number of Mobile connections provided by each service provider, as on 31.01.2006, is given in the Statement.

(c) No, Sir.

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

**Statement***Mobile Phone Service Providers Operating in India as on 31.01.2006*

<b>Service Provider</b>	<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Mobile Connections as on 31.01.2006</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
Aircel Cellular Ltd.	Chennai	677,815
Aircel Digilink India Ltd	Haryana	344,998
Aircel Digilink India Ltd	Rajasthan	527,136
Aircel Digilink India Ltd	Uttar Pradesh (East)	1,209,445
Aircel Ltd.	Tamil Nadu	1,602,380
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	Andhra Pradesh	1,053,728
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	Assam	308,346
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	Bihar	782,889
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	Chennai	509,118
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	Gujarat	827,750
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	Haryana	482,490
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	Himachal Pradesh	210,166
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	Jammu & Kashmir	426,384
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	Karnataka	1,112,005
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	Kerala	1,425,438
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	Kolkata	403,538
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	Madhya Pradesh	387,966
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	Maharashtra	1,056,053
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	North East	176,853
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	Orissa	476,399
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	Punjab	383,020
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	Rajasthan	953,830
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	Tamil Nadu	1,339,658
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	Uttar Pradesh (East)	1,581,512

1	2	3
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	Uttar Pradesh (West)	892,797
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar	583,060
Bharti Cellular Ltd	Andhra Pradesh	1,534,879
Bharti Cellular Ltd	Bihar	665,241
Bharti Cellular Ltd	Chennai	610,968
Bharti Cellular Ltd	Delhi	1,895,680
Bharti Cellular Ltd	Gujarat	791,524
Bharti Cellular Ltd	Haryana	384,948
Bharti Cellular Ltd	Himachal Pradesh	332,955
Bharti Cellular Ltd	Jammu & Kashmir	240,893
Bharti Cellular Ltd	Karnataka	2,001,370
Bharti Cellular Ltd	Kerala	529,444
Bharti Cellular Ltd	Kolkata	604,661
Bharti Cellular Ltd	Madhya Pradesh	403,769
Bharti Cellular Ltd	Maharashtra	1,211,226
Bharti Cellular Ltd	Mumbai	1,135,954
Bharti Cellular Ltd	Orissa	364,527
Bharti Cellular Ltd	Punjab	1,542,103
Bharti Cellular Ltd	Tamil Nadu	698,659
Bharti Cellular Ltd	Uttar Pradesh (East)	543,207
Bharti Cellular Ltd	Uttar Pradesh (West)	519,132
Bharti Cellular Ltd	West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar	291,642
Bharti Hexacom Ltd	North East	22,999
Bharti Hexacom Ltd	Rajasthan	918,233
Bharti Tele-Ventures Ltd	Assam	129,156
BPL Mobile Cellular Ltd	Kerala	431,102
BPL Mobile Cellular Ltd	Maharashtra	683,651

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1	2	3
BPL Mobile Cellular Ltd	Tamil Nadu	467,216
BPL Mobile Communications Ltd	Mumbai	1,334,272
BTA Cellcom Ltd	Madhya Pradesh	649,095
Dishnet Wireless Ltd	Assam	34,992
Dishnet Wireless Ltd	Jammu & Kashmir	2,445
Dishnet Wireless Ltd	North East	36,427
Dishnet Wireless Ltd	Orissa	19,469
Dishnet Wireless Ltd	West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar	7,522
Fascel Ltd	Gujarat	2,012,797
HFCL Infotel Ltd	Punjab	65,704
Hutchison Essar Mobile Services Ltd	Delhi	1,742,136
Hutchison Essar South Ltd	Andhra Pradesh	756,395
Hutchison Essar South Ltd	Chennai	375,328
Hutchison Essar South Ltd	Karnataka	964,612
Hutchison Essar South Ltd	Punjab	605,837
Hutchison Essar South Ltd	Uttar Pradesh (West)	501,369
Hutchison Essar South Ltd	West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar	417,158
Hutchison Max Telecom Limited	Mumbai	1,838,818
Hutchison Telecom East Ltd	Kolkata	869,113
Idea Cellular Ltd	Andhra Pradesh	850,858
Idea Cellular Ltd	Delhi	832,183
Idea Cellular Ltd	Gujarat	914,163
Idea Cellular Ltd	Maharashtra	1,631,574
Idea Mobile Communication Ltd	Haryana	273,456
Idea Mobile Communication Ltd	Kerala	768,101
Idea Mobile Communication Ltd	Uttar Pradesh (West)	813,111
Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited	Delhi	742,647

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1	2	3
Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited	Mumbai	888,027
Reliable Internet Services Ltd	Kolkata	19,191
Reliance Infocomm Ltd	Andhra Pradesh	1,336,578
Reliance Infocomm Ltd	Bihar	481,648
Reliance Infocomm Ltd	Chennai	492,658
Reliance Infocomm Ltd	Delhi	1,445,307
Reliance Infocomm Ltd	Gujarat	769,038
Reliance Infocomm Ltd	Haryana	239,235
Reliance Infocomm Ltd	Himachal Pradesh	13,648
Reliance Infocomm Ltd	Karnataka	900,328
Reliance Infocomm Ltd	Kerala	641,281
Reliance Infocomm Ltd	Kolkata	669,471
Reliance Infocomm Ltd	Madhya Pradesh	696,844
Reliance Infocomm Ltd	Maharashtra	1,027,303
Reliance Infocomm Ltd	Mumbai	1,258,925
Reliance Infocomm Ltd	Orissa	185,076
Reliance Infocomm Ltd	Punjab	537,975
Reliance Infocomm Ltd	Rajasthan	630,043
Reliance Infocomm Ltd	Tamil Nadu	710,554
Reliance Infocomm Ltd	Uttar Pradesh (East)	914,837
Reliance Infocomm Ltd	Uttar Pradesh (West)	596,035
Reliance Infocomm Ltd	West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar	272,390
Reliance Telecom Ltd	Assam	185,053
Reliance Telecom Ltd	Bihar	502,281
Reliance Telecom Ltd	Himachal Pradesh	62,030
Reliance Telecom Ltd	Madhya Pradesh	500,159
Reliance Telecom Ltd	North East	53,818

1	2	3
Reliance Telecom Ltd	Orissa	179,908
Reliance Telecom Ltd	West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar	227,410
Shyam Telelink Ltd	Rajasthan	27,193
Spice Communication Ltd	Karnataka	366,263
Spice Communication Ltd	Punjab	1,351,215
Tata Teleservices Ltd	Andhra Pradesh	461,078
Tata Teleservices Ltd	Bihar	83,135
Tata Teleservices Ltd	Chennai	86,556
Tata Teleservices Ltd	Delhi	606,280
Tata Teleservices Ltd	Gujarat	215,451
Tata Teleservices Ltd	Haryana	164,781
Tata Teleservices Ltd	Himachal	17,151
Tata Teleservices Ltd	Karnataka	306,005
Tata Teleservices Ltd	Kerala	127,541
Tata Teleservices Ltd	Kolkata	221,320
Tata Teleservices Ltd	Madhya Pradesh	124,060
Tata Teleservices Ltd	Maharashtra	338,241
Tata Teleservices Ltd	Mumbai	362,203
Tata Teleservices Ltd	Orissa	42,528
Tata Teleservices Ltd	Punjab	192,372
Tata Teleservices Ltd	Rajasthan	171,485
Tata Teleservices Ltd	Tamil Nadu	113,431
Tata Teleservices Ltd	Uttar Pradesh (East)	164,117
Tata Teleservices Ltd	Uttar Pradesh (West)	187,203
Tata Teleservices Ltd	West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar	76,266
<b>Total</b>		<b>79,992,419</b>

Note: These figures does not include Wireless In Local Loop (Limited Mobility) Connections provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited/ Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited.

*[Translation]*

**Revival of Cooperative Institutions  
in Madhya Pradesh**

1443. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal requiring a sum of two thousand and five hundred crores for revival of loss making cooperative institutions;

(b) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be sanctioned and the time by which first instalment is likely to be released; and

(c) if not, the further requirement, if any, to be fulfilled by the State Government to get the proposal cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) No such specific proposal has been received. However, a revival package has been approved for revitalisation of Short Term Cooperative Credit Structure in different parts of the country including Madhya Pradesh. The revival package includes financial restructuring estimated at Rs. 13,596 crore and envisages several legal and institutional reforms. State Governments desiring to implement the revival package for Short Term Credit Cooperatives need to agree, through a Memorandum of Understanding or Exchange of Letters with Government of India, to implement the recommended legal and institutional reforms and share the financial package.

**Private Courier Service Centres**

1444. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether the Government are considering to restrict the business of private courier companies;

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

(c) the time by which the aforesaid decision is likely to be taken;

(d) whether the ASSOCHAM has opposed the aforesaid proposal; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) No reference from ASSOCHAM opposing restricting the business of private courier companies has been received in this office.

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

*[English]*

**Unauthorised Construction**

1445. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Bill prepared by the Union Government to check the unauthorised construction works strictly by private building constructors, estate agents and property dealers of Delhi has been sent to the Government of NCT of Delhi and it is still pending with them;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that after the repeal of Urban Land Act, this Bill has become more necessitated; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) A proposal had been considered to bring in a legislation for regulating construction and sale of apartments, development of lands and its transactions, development of colonies and activities of promoters, builders and estate agents in the National Capital of Delhi. However, it was decided to consider such a legislation in respect of NCT of Delhi after a model legislation to regulate and control the activities of builders and developers is prepared.

**Disaster Warning System**

1446. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is bringing in a new Disaster Warning System in place of the existing one in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and how far the new Disaster Warning System would be effective to take care of all kinds of natural calamities?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Generation of disaster warning is a multi-institutional endeavour. Different institutions namely Geological Survey of India, Central Water Commission and Defence Research and Development Organisation are responsible for early warning for landslides, flood and avalanches respectively, while India Meteorological Department is mandated to monitor the tropical cyclones and earthquakes in the country and provide necessary information/warnings to Government officials and public for disaster mitigation.

The existing analogue Cyclone Warning Dissemination System of IMD, with 250 receivers installed along the Indian coast, are to be replaced with a state-of-art system. The new system will provide more lead time to the disaster management officials and better voice quality for easy comprehension.

As regard to the earthquake, at present there is no advance warning system available, the world over, that can forecast the occurrences of earthquake. However, the observational network of seismological observatories maintained and operated by IMD is capable of effective surveillance in the country.

The Department of Ocean Development in association with Department of Science & Technology (DST), Department of Space (DOS) and CSIR Laboratories, is setting up an Early Warning System for Tsunami and Storm Surges in the Indian Ocean.

*[Translation]*

**World Bank Assistance for  
Higher Education**

1447. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

DR. K. DHANARAJU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sought financial assistance from the World Bank for providing credit to banks which are providing loan to students for going abroad for higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of financial assistance sought and received so far from the World Bank during the last three years for the purpose; and

(d) the amount spent during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

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

*[English]*

**Cost of Road Construction  
under PMGSY**

1448. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the per kilometer average expenditure that is incurred on the construction of roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

(b) whether the expenditure on the construction of roads under this Yojana is more as compared to the per kilometer construction of roads undertaken by PWD; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL):

(a) The average cost per kilometer is not a fixed amount for roads being constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). The cost depends upon several factors such as the topographical features of the site, the soil strength on which the road is constructed and the expected traffic besides basic rates for labour, materials and machines as well as the lead distance for the construction materials used in road building. Because of this, Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) are being prepared for each of the roads under this programme, instead of depending on only line estimates. The cost is also affected by the nature and number of Cross Drainage Works and Protection Works of hill slopes, which are necessitated in

providing All-weather Connectivity. The average cost for all the States for the previous phase of the projects cleared under PMGSY is given in the Statement.

(b) and (c) The specifications and provisions for Rural Roads under PMGSY are different from those adopted in the roads by Public Works Department (PWD). It is normal practice in PWDs to adopt Stage Construction giving only partial provisions at different times for completing the road. However, in PMGSY all provisions are made at one time based on detailed investigations, design and the specifications developed for rural roads by Indian Roads Congress (IRC). As such, the cost cannot be compared on a common base for the roads under taken by Public Works Department and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

**Statement**

*The Average Cost for Various States for the Previous Phases of the Proposals Cleared under PMGSY*

Sl.No.	State	Ave. Cost
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh*	15.47
2	Arunachal Pradesh#	31.24
3	Assam	40.36
4	Bihar	37.34
5	Chhattisgarh	23.00
6	Goa	25.07
7	Gujarat	17.53
8	Haryana*	23.28
9	Himachal Pradesh#	23.03
10	Jammu & Kashmir#	30.95
11	Jharkhand	20.85
12	Karnataka*	16.77
13	Kerala	29.40
14	Madhya Pradesh	20.31

1	2	3
15	Maharashtra	16.88
16	Manipur	11.36
17	Meghalaya#	32.28
18	Mizoram#	32.63
19	Nagland	18.27
20	Orissa	28.42
21	Punjab	17.63
22	Rajasthan	20.25
23	Sikkim#	43.67
24	Tamil Nadu*	14.29
25	Tripura	48.91
26	Uttar Pradesh	23.82
27	Uttaranchal#	17.15
28	West Bengal	31.92

\* Pure Upgradation

# Stage-I construction i.e. for Formation Cutting, Protection works & C D Works

**Garuda Service of MTNL**

1449. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether network of Garuda Service of MTNL in Delhi is very poor and needs improvement;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether customers of the said service are very less as compared to other private mobile companies; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, the Garuda service

of MTNL in Delhi is a post-paid service with limited mobility. The service is limited to Delhi and not available in NCR region due to licence conditions, and therefore not as popular as GSM mobile service.

(c) and (d) Private mobile companies do not offer any service corresponding to Garuda service of MTNL.

However, for further improving the coverage and adding more features in Garuda service, MTNL has recently launched a new 400K CDMA network. The new Network has special features like Credit Control, Separate Billing and Commercial System, Pre-paid Service, Voice-Mail, etc.

*[Translation]*

#### **Slums Rehabilitation Schemes**

1450. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of slum-area rehabilitation schemes being implemented in Delhi, Mumbai and cities of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether any international co-operation and technical assistance has been taken in this regard for Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Mumbai during each of the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the funds received under Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Programme (ILCSP) by Delhi, Mumbai and State Government of U.P.;

(e) the agency monitoring this scheme;

(f) whether Non-Governmental Organisations are also involved in this scheme; and

(g) if so, the details of such Non-Governmental Organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### **Data on Tax Payers**

1451. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of tax payers in the country as on date;

(b) the break-up of number of IT assesseees working with the Central/State/Public/Private Enterprises; and

(c) the extent of tax compliance by each of the above categories of IT assesseees during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Sir, the number of income-tax assesseees as on 31st January, 2006 is 3.06 crores. The State-wise details are not centrally maintained.

(b) The data regarding number of assesseees working with the Central/State/Public/Private Enterprises is not maintained separately.

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

*[English]*

#### **New Guidelines for Allotment of Land**

1452. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a final decision that institutions would not be given any concession on prices for allotment of land;

(b) if so, whether the Government has finalized their new allotment guidelines; and

(c) if so, the detail of these guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that it allots land for seven broad Institutional purposes viz. Hospitals, Clubs, Community Halls, Schools, Higher and Technical Educational Institutions, Religious purposes and miscellaneous Social and Cultural activities. Of these, DDA has switched over to the auction mode of disposal of land for three categories viz. Hospitals, Clubs and Higher and

Technical Educational Institutes. For Community Halls, it has been decided that the sites identified for the purpose would primarily be offered to the Local Bodies and residuals sites, if any, would be auctioned. In respect of schools, the Authority vide its Resolution dated 19.1.2006 has proposed that all the primary school plots shall be offered to MCD and 50% of the senior secondary school sites in every neighbourhood would be offered to Government of Delhi and 50% disposed of by way of auction. For the other two categories i.e. Religious Organisations sites and miscellaneous Social & Cultural Institutions, there is no change, in the policy for allotment of land. No decision has been taken on this resolution dated 19.1.2006.

#### **Investment in Rural Sector**

1453. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the percentage of the total assets of ICICI, IDBI, IFCI, LIC that are invested in the rural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Information is being collected and will be laid on Table of the House to extent available.

*[Translation]*

#### **Life Insurance Corporation**

1454. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of employees working in Life Insurance Corporation;
- (b) whether burden on account of payment of salaries to the employees of Life Insurance Corporation of India has shot up to 1.5 billion rupees;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the increased profit earned by LIC has been given to policy holders, pension fund and employees; and
- (e) if not, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) LIC

has reported that there were 1,14,588 employees on its rolls as on 31.03.2005 and the wage bill of these employees for the year 2004-05 was of the order of Rs.4514.41 crores.

(d) LIC has reported that it carries out its annual statutory valuation according to section 13 of the Insurance Act, 1938 & Section 26 of the LIC Act 1956. The surplus emerging in a year is distributed in the manner stated in section 28 of the LIC Act 1956 and it has been strictly following the above statutory provisions without any violation.

(e) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **V.C. Cards**

1455. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Virtual Calling Cards issued by MTNL and BSNL work in their own respective areas only;
- (b) if so, whether it limits the users of VCCs;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to allow MTNL/BSNL VCC-users to use their cards in other areas of the country also; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Sir, the Virtual Calling Cards (VCC) of both MTNL and BSNL work throughout the country with the facility of interoperability between MTNL and BSNL.

#### **Building By-Laws**

1456. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the building by-laws in the Capital has become out-dated vis-a-vis the rapidly growing population;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is planning to change the by-laws keeping in view the present needs and future requirements; and
- (c) if so, the time by which the new laws will be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The Unified Building Bye-laws for Delhi were notified in 1983 and are implemented by the local bodies and Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in the areas under their respective jurisdiction in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Acts. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) had undertaken an exercise to re-write the Building Bye-laws and referred the matter to Ministry of Home Affairs which has sought comments of the concerned agencies in this regard.

[Translation]

**Installation of Telephone Tower in Aligarh**

1457. CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the services of BSNL are available in all the districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the present capacity of the towers of BSNL installed for providing communication facility in the rural areas of Aligarh district;

(c) whether there is any proposal pending with the Government to enhance the present capacity of such towers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Services of BSNL are available in all the districts of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Details of the capacity of Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) installed in Aligarh to provide Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) facilities are as follows:

	Urban	Rural	Total
i) No. of existing GSM BTSs	29	23	52
ii) No. of existing WLL BTSs	4	3	7
iii) Capacity of each GSM BTS is given in the Statement.			
iv) Capacity of each WLL BTS is 1000 lines.			
v) No. of existing Towers: 52 Nos.			

(c) and (d) Capacity of BTSs is enhanced depending upon requirements. 17 nos. of additional GSM BTSs having capacity of 15,995 have been planned during current year. Out of this, 12 BTSs with capacity of 12,631 are in rural areas of Aligarh. The work is likely to be completed during 2006.

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

*List of existing BTSs in Aligarh District*

S.No.	Site ID	Location	Urban/Rural	Radio Capacity
1	2	3	4	5
1	AGL001	IglasTel. Xge	Rural	1016
2	ALG012	Kashipur Tel. Xge	Rural	1016
3	ARN001	Ghabana Tel. Xge	Rural	1016
4	AUT001	Atraull Tel. Xge	Rural	2632
5	CRR001	Charra Tel. Xge	Rural	2632
6	HWU004	Akrabad Tel. Xge	Rural	352
7	HWU051	Andia Tel. Xge	Rural	0
8	HWU052	Jattari Tel. Xge	Rural	563

1	2	3	4	5
9	HWU053	Tappal Tel. Xge	Rural	563
10	KAH001	Tel Xge Khair	Rural	1016
11	AGR010	Amnisha Chauraha	Urban	1016
12	ALG001	Main Exch. Buldg.	Urban	1520
13	ALG002	Dhanipur Exch.	Urban	1016
14	ALG003	Delhi gate Exch.	Urban	1016
15	ALG004	Subhash Rd. Anand Hotel	Urban	2632
16	ALG005	Purana Hathras Adda	Urban	2632
17	ALG006	Tel. Exch AMU	Urban	1016
18	ALG007	Tel. Xge Krishanapuram	Urban	1252
19	ALG009	Abdul Karim Chauraha	Urban	1016
20	ALG011	Sasni Gate Tel Xge	Urban	1016
21	BAE013	Centre Point Aligarh	Urban	1016
22	P4_FER10	Rai Pur Daipatpur Tel Exch.	Rural	1156
23	P4_FAE01	Kwarsi	Rural	1156
24	P4_ATR01	Atrauli	Rural	1156
25	P4_ATR02	Jalali Tel Exch.	Rural	397
26	P4_CHH01	Bijoli Tel. Exch.	Rural	1156
27	P4_IGL01	Iglas	Rural	1156
28	P4_IGL02	Jarath Tel. Exch	Rural	397
29	P4_KHR01	Khair	Rural	1156
30	P4_CHS01	Chandaus Tel Exch.	Rural	1156
31	P4_HDJ01	Harduaganj Te. Exch.	Rural	1156
32	P4_GND01	Gonda Tel. Exch.	Rural	740
33	P4_KSP01	Vijay Garh Tel Exch.	Rural	1156
34	P4_GBH01	Gabhana	Rural	1156
35	P4_AGHW03	Helnj Indī P Ltd	Urban	265

1	2	3	4	5
36	P4_ALG01	New Vishnu	Urban	1156
37	P4_ALG02	Metrose Biscuit Comp.	Urban	1156
38	P4_ALG03	Badarbagh	Urban	1156
39	P4_ALG04	Sarai Vrindayang (Sansni Gate)	Urban	1156
40	P4_ALG06	Bank Colony	Urban	1156
41	P4_ALG07	Masudabad	Urban	1156
42	P4_ALG08	Naurangabad	Urban	1156
43	P4_ALG9	Gyansarover	Urban	1156
44	P4_ALG10	Vikram Colony (Swarn Jayanti na)	Urban	1156
45	P4_ALG11	Dodhpur	Urban	1156
46	P4_ALG12	ITI (Industrial Training Institute)	Urban	1156
47	P4_ALG13	Jayganj	Urban	1156
48	P4_ALG14	Ganganagar	Urban	1156
49	P4_ALG15	Habib Hall	Urban	1156
50	P4_ALG16	DS College	Urban	1156
51	P4_ALG17	New Friends colony	Urban	740
52	P4_ALG05	Centre Point	Urban	1156
Total Capacity				58549

[English]

**Manufacturing of Mobile  
Components**

1458. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is contemplating to frame policy to start the manufacturing of nascent semiconductor in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the future plan of the Government to become self reliant in manufacturing of mobile components?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) A number of steps (as per Statement) have been taken by the Government to promote manufacture of Electronics/IT hardware in the country including semi-conductor and components used in mobile phones.

**Statement**

**Steps taken by the Government for promotion of  
Electronics/IT Hardware Manufacturing**

1. Approvals for all foreign direct investment upto 100% in the Hardware manufacturing sector are under the automatic route.

2. National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government emphasises on energizing and sustaining the growth of manufacturing industry including IT Hardware.
3. Peak rate of customs duty is 15%. Customs duty on ITA-I items (217 items) has been abolished from 1.3.2005. All goods required in the manufacture of ITA-1 items have been exempted from customs duty subject to Actual user condition. Customs Duty on specified raw materials/inputs used for manufacture of electronic components or optical fibres/cables is @ 0%. Customs duty on specified capital goods used for manufacture of electronic goods is @ 0%.
4. Excise duty on computers is @ 0%. Microprocessors, Hard Disc Drives, Floppy Disc Drives and CD ROM Drives are exempted from excise duty. Parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular phones are exempted from excise duty.
5. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) allows import of capital goods on payment of 5% customs duty. The export obligation under EPCG Scheme can also be fulfilled by the supply of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items to the DTA provided the realization is in free foreign exchange.
6. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items and notified zero duty telecom/electronic items in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP)/Export Oriented Unit (EOU) units are counted for the purpose of fulfilment of positive Net Foreign Exchange Earnings (NFE).
7. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes. Sales from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) to SEZs are being treated as physical export. This entitles domestic suppliers to drawback/DEPB benefits, CST exemption and Service Tax exemption. 100% Income Tax exemption on export profits available to SEZ units for 5 years, 50% for next 5 years and 50% of ploughed back profits for 5 years thereafter.
8. Second hand capital goods are freely importable.
9. EOU/EHTP units are eligible for Income Tax

exemption on export profits, upto 2010, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.

10. To induce more investment for Research and Development activities, a weighted deduction of 150% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.

#### **Amendment in Indian Telegraph Act**

1459. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has amended the Indian Telegraph Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 was last amended in January, 2004 for establishment of Universal Service Obligation Fund with retrospective effect from 01.04.2002.

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

#### **Rebate for Senior Citizens**

1460. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether BSNL/MTNL is giving rebate on the installation of a new telephone and on monthly rentals to various categories of persons;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether rebate for senior citizens is given only to those of 65 years and above unlike 60 years of age in Railways;
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to reduce age limit for senior citizen's rebate from 65 to 60;

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

categories of persons, are given Statement-I and II respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) Presently, there is no proposal to reduce age limit from 65 to 60 years for grant of rebate to Senior Citizen. BSNL and MTNL are commercial public sector entities working under stiff competitive environment. Offering tariff concession/rebate to any group of subscribers is their commercial decision.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of rebate/concession allowed by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) on a new telephone connection to various

**Statement-I**

*Details of rebate being given by BSNL on a New Telephone connection for various categories*

Sl.No.	Category of persons	Rebate/Concession
1	2	3
1.	Senior citizens of the age of 65 years and above	i) Registration of one telephone under 'Non-Own Your Telephone (OYT)-special Category, which is a priority category. ii) No registration charges.
2.	Visually blind person	i) Registration of one telephone under Non-OYT- Special category. ii) 50% rebate in normal rental charges. iii) 50% rebate in annual advance rentals.
3.	Freedom fighters/widows of freedom fighters getting pension under freedom fighter pension scheme.	i) Registration of one telephone under Non-OYT-SWS category. ii) No registration charges. iii) No installation charges. iv) 50% rebate in normal rental charges.
4.	Gallantry Award Winners (Defence services) under following categories:  i) Param Vir Chakra; ii) Ashok Chakra; iii) Kirti Chakra; iv) Vir Chakra; v) Shaurya Chakra.	i) Registration of one telephone under Non-OYT - Special category. ii) No registration charges. iii) No installation charges. iv) No rental charges.
5.	War widows/Disabled soldiers.	i) Registration of one telephone under Non-OYT- Special category. ii) No registration charges.

1	2	3
		iii) 50% rebate in normal rental charges. iv) No installation charges.
6.	Awardees of President's Police Medal for Gallantry and widows of awardees conferred such award posthumously.	i) Registration under Non-OYT -Special category. ii) No registration charges. iii) No installation charges. iv) No rental charges.
7.	Schools, Universities and Colleges affiliated thereto, Polytechnics, Non-commercial research organizations and other like institutions or organizations recognized by Government.	25% rebate in rentals for one non-residential telephone connection.
8.	Homes for the aged, infirm, spastics, handicapped, deaf-dumb-mute persons, orphanages and voluntary organizations working for tribal welfare and other like institutions or organizations recognized by Government.	25% rebate in rentals for not exceeding two telephone connections.

**Statement-II***Details of rebate being given by MTNL on a New Telephone connection for various categories*

S.No.	Category of persons	Rebate/Concession
1	2	3
1.	Senior citizens of the age of 65 years and above.	i) 25% rebate in installation charges ii) 25% rebate in rentals.
2.	Freedom fighters	i) 100% rebate in installation charges. ii) 50% rebate in rentals.
3.	War widows & Disabled soldiers.	i) 100% rebate in installation charges. ii) 50% rebate in rentals.
4.	Gallantry Award Winners	i) 100% rebate in installation charges. ii) 100% rebate in rentals.
5.	Blind persons	50% rebate in rentals.
6.	Schools, Universities and Colleges affiliated thereto, Polytechnics, Non-commercial research organizations and other like institutions or organizations recognized by Government.	25% rebate in rentals for not exceeding two telephone connections.

1	2	3
7.	Homes for the aged, infirm, spastics, handicapped, deaf-dumb-mute persons, orphanages and voluntary organizations working for tribal welfare and other like institutions or organizations recognized by Government.	25% rebate in rentals for not exceeding two telephone connections (Non-residential).

[Translation]

**Generation of Employment Opportunities**

1461. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from certain State Governments particularly from Chhattisgarh to generate employment opportunities in urban areas under 'Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana';

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

(c) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No such proposal under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana has been received from any State Government including the State of Chhattisgarh in the Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation during the current year (2005-06). Under SJSRY, Central funds are tentatively allocated to the States/UTs in proportion to the incidence of urban poverty in the States/UTs and funds are released on the basis of receipt of Utilisation Certificates for the earlier releases and release of matching States shares by the States.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

[English]

**Funds to West Bengal for Development of Cities**

1462. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total financial grants allocated to the State

of West Bengal for Urban Development in various cities during the Tenth Plan;

(b) the details of amount, out of the total grants utilised, so far, by the State Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Total financial grants allocated to State of West Bengal for Urban Development in various cities during the 10th Plan up to 2005-06 and expenditure reported are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Scheme	Grant allocated	Expenditure
Infrastructure Development in Mega Cities	162.57	146.88
Infrastructure Development of Small & Medium Towns	33.00	21.19
Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme	7.06	4.56
<b>Total</b>	<b>202.63</b>	<b>172.63</b>

(c) State Government has been advised to utilise the grants alongwith matching State share expeditiously and to draw the remaining balance of Central assistance due for the ongoing project towns, as the above mentioned schemes have been subsumed in the new schemes of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small & Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) launched by the Government on 3.12.2005.

[Translation]

**Women Scientists**

1463. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to bring about changes in scholarship provided to the women scientists each year under the fellowship scheme;

(b) whether any provision to equally encourage the women scientists working in rural and urban areas is likely to be made;

(c) whether basic facilities are not made available to the rural women scientists in comparison to urban women scientists;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the women scientists undergoing research work or research study are being given separate scholarships;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details of the condition as well as performance of women scientists in the country at present?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The fellowship scheme for women scientists was formulated in the year 2002-03 with an aim to provide opportunities for women scientists to reenter the main stream of science after a break in career. Regular appraisal of the scheme is carried out to improve the scheme and make it even more gender sensitive. Recently the fellowship for PhD candidates with requisite qualifications in the scheme has been enhanced to Rs.20,000/- p.m.

(b) Equal opportunities are given to women scientists from rural and urban areas.

(c) Basic facilities are made available to both women scientists from rural and urban areas.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Under the Scholarship scheme support is provided to women scientists to undertake R&D in basic and applied science and also for technology development/adaptation for societal application. Under the scheme a project will be considered from scientists in areas of science, engineering or medicine.

(g) Performance of the Women Scientists is assessed from time to time and has been found to be satisfactory. The Government has recently set up a Task

Force for Women in Science to formulate guidelines so that the interests of women scientists are protected, to recommend appropriate measures to promote women to take up the scientific profession and to assess and review the impact of gender initiatives pertaining to women scientists taken by the government.

[English]

#### Shortage of Coaches

1464. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coaches presently put into operation in Delhi Metro;

(b) whether the Delhi Metro is facing shortage of coaches;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure adequate availability of coaches in Delhi Metro?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Presently 220 coaches are under operation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

#### Road Map for NREG Act

1465. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in an effort to blend automation technology with rural development issues Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has thrown up a road map for implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee (NREG) Act in the country particularly Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government has accorded approval to TCS for taking up monitoring of NREG Act;

(c) if so, the detailed plan chalked out by TCS for implementation of the Act; and

(d) the number of districts identified for the purpose by TCS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has come forward to collaborate with Government of Andhra Pradesh to develop computer software to enable the Government of AP in the implementation of APREGS.

(b) The government of Andhra Pradesh has Memorandum of Understanding with TCS; wherein TCS will supply software at free of cost and Government of Andhra Pradesh will pay the cost towards installation of software and training. The Andhra Pradesh TCS is organizing training programme to the Computer Operators at the Mandal in using the software.

(c) Government of Andhra Pradesh is implementing the NREGA. Tata Consultancy Services takes up training the Computer Operators in March and April, for using the software only.

(d) The Tata Consultancy Services is supporting the Government to use the software in all 13 NREGA Districts.

#### **Recommendations of Irani Committee**

1466. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recommendations of the J.J. Irani Committee report have been examined by the Government;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the number of recommendations accepted by the Government; and

(d) the reasons for not accepting the remaining recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (d) The report submitted by the Expert Committee on Company Law headed by Dr. J.J. Irani covered a wide range of issues concerning companies including registration and incorporation, management and board governance, investor protection, access to capital, accounts and audit, mergers and acquisitions, investigation, offences & penalties and restructuring & liquidation etc. The recommendations of

the Committee as also other inputs received by the Government are under consideration for preparation of a new Companies Bill for comprehensive revision of the Companies Act, 1956.

#### **Auction of DDA Plots**

1467. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision regarding auction of DDA plots as freehold plots;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits that would accrue to the buyer and DDA with the implementation of this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) A proposal has been formulated to consider allotment of land disposed of by way of auction by Delhi Development Authority on freehold basis. No decision has been taken.

#### **Family Courts**

1468. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up family courts for Karnataka and other Southern regions of the country for speedy trial of the family disputes;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. All State Governments/UT Administrations were requested in June, 2005 to fix a target for establishing at least one Family Court in each district. Family Courts have already been set up in the southern States as per details given below:

Andhra Pradesh	-	8
Karnataka	-	12
Kerala	-	16
Tamil Nadu	-	6

**Central Scheme in Orissa**

1469. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the Central Schemes under his Ministry launched in Orissa during the last three years;
- (b) the allocation of fund made under these schemes, year-wise and scheme-wise; and
- (c) the progress made under each scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Japanese Aid for Drinking Water Projects**

1470. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from certain States regarding implementation of drinking water projects with the assistance of Japan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the time by which these projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) During the current financial year (2005-06), a proposal was received from Government of Tamil Nadu for Hogenakkal Water Supply and Sanitation project for Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts at a cost of Rs.1056.65 crores. The project has been kept in Rolling Plan 2006-08 Official Development Assistance (ODA) package for posing the same to Government of Japan for Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) Loan assistance.

**Import of Textile Machinery**

1471. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to simplify the procedure of import of textile machinery;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Group of Ministers set up for promotion of textile export has submitted its report;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The Government has already liberalized the import of textile machinery as all machinery (new and second hand) is allowed to be imported under OGL.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No time frame is fixed for the GOM to make its recommendations.

*[Translation]*

**Violation of Companies Act, 1956**

1472. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several cases of violation of Companies Act, 1956 are pending for disposal;
- (b) if so, the number of such cases pending as on date;
- (c) the average time taken in the disposal of each case in this regard;
- (d) the section of the Companies Act, 1956 under which most violations take place;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for disposal of such cases; and

(f) the success achieved by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREMCHAND GUPTA): (a) to (c) A total number of 45562 cases were pending in various courts for prosecution for offences under the Companies Act, 1956 as on March 31, 2004. Time taken for disposal of an individual case depends upon the judicial proceedings in the concerned court adjudicating on the offence.

(d) Majority of cases relate to Prosecution for the violations of the provisions of sections 159,162 and 220 of the Companies Act, which pertain to filing of annual returns and balance sheets by the companies registered under the Companies Act, 1956.

(e) After a study of the issues concerning streamlining of the mechanism of prosecution under the Companies Act, 1956 in the light of a report submitted on 19th October, 2005 by an Expert Group set by the Ministry, under the Chairmanship of Shri O.P. Vaish, the Ministry is taking the following measures in this regard:-

- (i) Updating of the list of pending prosecution cases, identifying the specific companies involved with a view to seek orders from the respective Courts for substituted service of summons for the same.
- (ii) Initiating proceedings u/s 560 against the companies involved in these cases and strike out all such companies as are identified as defunct.
- (iii) Filing petitions in the Courts, for withdrawing prosecution in respect of such companies where it is established that ends of justice would not be advanced or furthered by continuing with the prosecution.
- (iv) To pursue prosecution vigorously in case of companies not found to be defunct.

(f) It is expected that the above measures would

reduce the pendency of the cases before various Courts substantially over a period of time. It would require about one year for the above measures to be fully implemented. At this stage it would be premature to comment on the success or otherwise of these initiatives.

*[English]*

### **Smuggling of Indian Currency**

1473. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state:

- (a) whether the Indian currency is being freely traded in Hong Kong these days;
- (b) if so, whether Indian are not allowed to take with them Indian currency abroad;
- (c) if so, whether Government have examined the circumstances under which the Indian currency was being smuggled abroad;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to stop smuggling of Indian currency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) In this connection it is stated that some local newspapers in Hong Kong are quoting rates of exchange for Indian Currency vis-a-vis HK\$. However these rates are not indicated by Hong Kong Banks Association or the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA). It may be mentioned that HKMA has not authorized Banks for purchasing Indian Rupees and even Indian Banks in Hong Kong are not to entertain deposits in Indian Rupees.

(c) and (d) The details of seizures wherein Indian Currency was being smuggled out of India during the last three years is as under:-

Period	Details of seizure	Value of seizure (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
2003-04	Indian currency seized alongwith Foreign currency at Dabolim Airport, Goa from passenger who was destined for Sharjah	IC-0.40 F.C.-8.37
2004-05	NII	NII

1	2	3
2005-06 (till date)	1. Indian currency seized from a baggage at CSI Airport, Sahar on 18-11-05 from a flight destined for Dubai. No passenger was apprehended but a Gulf Airlines employee was arrested for her complicity in dispatching the baggage.  2. Indian currency seized from a baggage at CSI Airport, Sahar on 6.12.05 destined for Muscat. The passenger did not board the flight and could not be apprehended.	69.95  106.00

(e) Field formations have been sensitized to remain vigilant.

#### Visit of Textile Giants

1474. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether textile giants from European Union countries visited India to identify partners for outsourcing production;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in addition, industries in England, Germany, France and Hungary have started talks with Indian manufacturers in New Delhi and Mumbai for collaboration in every stage of production in textile industry from yarns to garments;

(d) If so, the details, thereof;

(e) whether European players are also looking at outsourcing manufacturing in technical textiles such as bullet-proof vests, etc.; and

(f) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (f) India is one of the leading exporters of textiles and apparels to the European Union, and the representatives of European companies undertake visits to India in connection with sourcing of their requirements of textiles and apparel products. Besides, the Industry Associations, Chambers of Commerce and the Textile Export Promotion Councils also invite overseas buyers, including those from the Member States of European Union, for participation in the various Fairs/Exhibitions/Seminar. In addition, some of the

prominent buyers/retailers of the brands like H&M, Tesco, Carrefour, Elcorte, Mango, Zara, Cotefield, OTTO, Tom Tailor, Karstadt, C&A, Kappahl, French Connection, Esprit, GroupoCoin, etc. have already their presence in India for sourcing apparels. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), which has a cooperation agreement with four European Federations of the Textile and Apparel Industry (Confederation of the German Textile and Fashion Industry; British Apparel & Textile Confederation; Union des Industries Textiles, France; and Hungarian Apparel Manufacturers Association to promote Indo-European cooperation in textiles and apparels) is organizing special event in March, 2006 to promote Indo-European cooperation in textiles and apparels, including those for technical textiles.

#### Urbanization of Rural Areas

1475. SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated any schemes for the urbanization of rural areas;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of cities selected for the purpose, State-wise; and

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose, city-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Ministry of Urban Development has not formulated any schemes for the urbanization of rural areas.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### Encroachment on DDA Land

1476. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 14,000 acres of DDA's land is under encroachment;

(b) if so, the details thereof and measures taken by DDA to get free its land from encroachments;

(c) the reasons for discontinuing demolition of unauthorised structures situated on National Highway No.8 i.e. Delhi-Jaipur National Highway; and

(d) the action taken to demolish unauthorised structures from NH-8?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) DDA has reported that about 1400 acres of land is under encroachment/unauthorized occupation by jhuggi clusters/unauthorized colonies etc. DDA undertakes demolition programmes on regular basis to free its land from encroachments. During the last two years, DDA has carried out 1176 demolition programmes and about 239.10 acres of land have been reclaimed.

(c) and (d) DDA has further reported that on assessment of ground situation, it had decided to discontinue the demolition programme against unauthorized structures on National Highway No.8 and to refix the same at a later date.

#### **Supply of Foodgrains under NFFWP**

1477. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is facing problems due to lack of coordination amongst different organizations involved in the National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP);

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that there is wide time-gap between the receipt of requests for foodgrains from the District Administrations and actual release by the Centre;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for effective implementation of NFFWP and supply of Foodgrains thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) There is no lack of coordination amongst different organizations involved in the implementation of National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP).

(c) and (d) Since, NFFWP is a allocation based scheme, resources (funds & foodgrains) are released in two equal instalments. As per the programme Guidelines, the first instalment during the current year was to be released on submission of proposal by the District alongwith Utilization Certificate after utilization of 60% of resources released last year. The 2nd Instalment was to be released on submission of proposal with Utilization Certificate and Audit Report of the previous year after utilizing 60% of the available resources during the current year. If the proposals are found to be in order, resources are immediately released.

Once the authorization/release order of foodgrains is issued by the Ministry, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has to make available the authorized quantity of foodgrains to the implementing authorities at the District level. The delay in making available the authorized quantity by the FCI has been noticed especially in case of Jharkhand, Bihar and the North-Eastern States.

(e) The NFFWP was an interim programme and has subsumed with the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) that has come into force w.e.f 2nd February 2006 in 200 notified Districts. No foodgrains will be provided under the NREGA.

#### **Textile Upgradation Fund Scheme**

1478. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks have refused to reimburse subsidy promised under Textile Upgradation Fund Scheme to investors;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps the Government has taken to ensure the interest reimbursement for 2005-2006 is made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir,

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### Merger of Private Banks

1479. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN:

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Private Banks merged with Private/Public Sector Banks during last three years and as on date;

(b) whether the Government has assessed causes of failure of Private Banks in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the efforts taken to monitor and regulate the activities of operation of Private Banks; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to protect the interest of depositors and employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Four Private Banks viz. Nedungadi Bank Ltd., Global Trust Bank Ltd., IDBI Bank Ltd. and Bank of Punjab Ltd. have been merged with Public/Private Banks during the period between 01.01.2003 to 31.12.2005. The merger of The Ganesh Bank of Kurundwad Ltd. sanctioned on 25.01.2006 is presently sub-judice.

(b) and (c) Deviations from instructions/guidelines issued by RBI from time to time, high level of NPAs, net losses leading to erosion of net worth and lack of proper corporate governance are, generally, the main causes of failure of private banks in the country.

(d) and (e) The private sector banks are regulated and supervised by Reserve Bank of India through the Board for Financial Supervision (BFS) and appropriate action is taken to protect the interests of its depositors and the banking system. RBI has, inter-alia, taken the following steps to strengthen the banking system:-

- Enhancing transparency and disclosure requirements for published accounts
- Introduction of capital adequacy standards on the lines of the Basel Committee norms;
- Prudential norms on asset classification, income recognition and provisioning.

- Introduction of off-site monitoring system and strengthening of the supervisory framework/introduction of Risk based Supervision for banks.
- Introduction of a framework for Prompt Corrective Action (PCA).

### Utilisation of Funds for Rural Telecommunications

1480. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds provided by the Government for telecommunication service in rural areas have not been utilized and the work undertaken in this regard is also not satisfactory;

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

(c) the details of rural areas in the country particularly in Maharashtra which have not been provided with telecom facilities;

(d) whether the Government has undertaken any review of the work done in this regard; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Universal Service Support Policy came into effect from 1-4-2002. Provisions relating to Universal Service Obligation (USO) were incorporated in Indian Telegraph Act in January, 2004. As per the provisions in Indian Telegraph Act, USO Levy Collections are credited in to Consolidated Fund of India. Allocations to USO Fund are made through Budgetary process. Allocations made to USO fund have been further utilised in all the years since its inception. The year-wise amount allocated and disbursed is as under:

Year	Amount (Rs. in Crore)	
	Allocated	Utilised
1	2	3
2002-03	300	300
2003-04	200	200

1	2	3
2004-05	1,314.58	1314.58
2005-06	1,750	1401.2
		(unto 15.02.06)

(c) to (e) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November, 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones in 66,822 unconnected villages, having more than 100 population and not lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas. Out of these villages, 17,182 villages have already been provided with VPTs as on 31-12-2005 and the balance 49,640 villages will be provided with VPTs progressively by November, 2007. 4,252 villages in Maharashtra remain to be provided with telecom facilities.

A statement indicating state-wise number of eligible villages which remain to be provided with telephone facilities is attached.

#### **Statement**

#### **State-wise Number of Eligible Villages to be provided with Telephone Facilities as on 31.12.2005**

Sl.No.	Name of the Service Area	No. of Villages to be provided with VPT
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	837
2	Assam	6,565
3	Jharkhand	1,664
4	Gujarat	2,179
5	Himachal Pradesh	768
6	Jammu & Kashmir	1,533
7	Madhya Pradesh	7,492
8	Chhattisgarh	4,151
9	Maharashtra	4,252
10	North East-I	2,051
11	North East-II	1,520

1	2	3
12	Orissa	4,899
13	Rajasthan	8,054
14	Uttaranchal	3,675
	<b>Total</b>	<b>49,640</b>

*[Translation]*

#### **Land Allotment Cancelled by D.D.A.**

1481. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has cancelled land allotments of some educational institutions because the said lands were being used for commercial purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the rules in regard to allotment of land to educational institutions; and

(d) the manner in which the Government look after the compliance of the said rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that in the recent past, it has cancelled allotments of Greenfield Public School and Ryan International for construction of structures/classrooms in the playfield. Commercial exploitation of land was not noticed in these two institutions.

(c) Land for setting up institutes of higher/technical education is disposed off through auction by DDA. In respect of schools, DDA has proposed for revision of the present policy of allotment of land at zonal variant rates. No decision has however been taken in the matter.

(d) DDA has further stated that whenever any type of violations of allotments/lease terms whether in the form of unauthorized construction, construction on the playfield, encroachments, misuse etc. are noticed by the

DDA, action is taken under lease terms for removal of the violations. Regarding compliance with freeship condition for poor students, Education Department of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) monitors compliance and refers cases of violations of the freeship norms to DDA. Recently DDA has cancelled the leases of 4 schools for non-compliance with the freeship condition.

[English]

#### **Plot Allotment Facilities**

1482. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the housing department of the DDA looks after the allotment of flats and the post allotment activities;

(b) if so, the details of the post allotment activities that are looked after by DDA in Dwarka;

(c) whether the roads between two lines of flats in Dwarka are narrow and there is no car parking facilities; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken to enforce post allotment activities including outer white washing/colour washing, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has intimated that its Housing Department looks after allotment of flats only and the post allotment activities are looked after by its Engineering Department.

(b) After the allotment of flats, DDA looks after construction related defects/deficiencies for a maintenance period of six months and maintenance of external services such as roads and drains, scavenging of roads and deslitting of drains, water supply and sewerage, parks and street lighting till services of these areas are handed over to local bodies.

(c) DDA has reported that the internal roads between housing blocks and car parking facilities are provided as per norms.

(d) DDA has informed that the onus of routine maintenance like white-washing/colour washing lies with the individual allottees and Residents Welfare Association.

[Translation]

#### **Rural Telephone Exchanges**

1483. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether with a view to improve the rural telephone system the Government has decided to change the old telephone technology;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes prepared by the Government to replace the rural telephone technology;

(c) the number of such telephone exchanges in Uttar Pradesh and other States wherein the (C-DoT) technology will be made available; and

(d) the number of exchanges wherein new technology has been installed by December, 2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Following steps are being taken to improve the rural telephone system:

(i) Replacement of Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) technology based Village Public Telephones (VPTs) with both landline and Fixed Wireless Terminals (FWT).

(ii) Upgradation of C-DOT 256 exchanges to Access Node Rural Automatic Exchange (ANRAX) exchanges on C-DOT technology. This enables the exchanges to have access to facilities available in main exchanges.

(iii) Upgradation of Single Based Modules (SBMs) to Remote Switching Units (RSUs).

(c) 1,658 C-DOT Rural Automatic Exchanges (RAXs) have been upgraded as C-DOT AN RAX in U.P. and 19,674 have been upgraded as C-DOT AN RAXs in all other states. Balance 174 RAXs in U.P. and 4,540 in all other states will be converted to AN RAXs by March, 2006.

636 SBMs have been upgraded as RSUs in U.P. and 6,518 have been upgraded as RSUs in all other states. Balance 4 SBMs in U.P. and 257 SBMs in all other states will be converted to RSUs by March, 2006.

(d) The new technology has been provided in 28,486 exchanges till December, 2005.

[English]

**Loan/Assistance to Government  
Funded Schemes**

1484. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan/assistance extended by both the Private and Nationalized Banks for Government priority sectors/Government funded schemes for the year 2004-05, State-wise;

(b) the names of the Banks that have not fulfilled this social obligation;

(c) whether any target has been fixed for providing financial assistance/loan under various schemes;

(d) if so, the number of banks fulfilled the target;

(e) whether the Government has any mechanism to supervise effectively and exclusively such lending of financial assistance and its recovery in all the banks; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[Translation]

**Expansion of Urban Network**

1485. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALÉ: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any steps for constructing houses and expansion of urban network in metropolitan cities particularly in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) A new scheme called Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) has been launched on 03.12.2005 for reforms driven, fast track, planned development of identified cities with focus on efficiency in urban infrastructure/services, delivery mechanism, community participation and accountability on Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)/Parastatals towards citizens in 63 cities including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.

JNNURM has two sub-missions namely sub-mission for Urban Infrastructure and Governance and sub-mission for Basic Services to the Urban Poor. The main thrust of the sub-mission on Urban Infrastructure and governance will be on major infrastructure projects relating to water supply including sanitation, sewerage, solid waste management road network, urban transport and redevelopment of inner (old) city areas with a view to upgrading infrastructure therein, shifting industrial/commercial establishments to conforming areas etc. The main thrust of the sub-mission on Basic Services to the Urban Poor will be integrated development of slums through projects for providing shelter, basic services and other related civic amenities with a view to provide utilities to the urban poor.

[English]

**Funds to Poverty Ridden States**

1486. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank proposes to focus on poverty ridden States in India and to collaborate with Government of India to achieve the poverty alleviation targets under the millennium development goals;

(b) if so, whether the World Bank would aim to accomplishing the Tenth Plan objectives by giving financial support to reform oriented States that would simultaneously change ways to engage with the largest and poorest State too;

(c) if so, whether the World Bank has also identified poverty ridden States in India; and

(d) if so, the details of States and the time by

which World Bank is likely to provide help and assistance to these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Country Strategy (2005-08) mutually agreed between the Government of India and the World Bank, while addressing issues of poverty alleviation under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in all the States, identifies the need to work proactively in the states of Bihar, Jharkand, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh, where poverty is increasingly concentrated. The Operations Program includes projects pertaining to the development of infrastructure, human development and rural livelihoods in these states for possible funding by the World Bank during this period.

*[Translation]*

**Communication Services Under a Single Network**

1487. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

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

(a) whether the Government is considering a scheme to start all telecommunication services under one network as reported in the Rashtriya Sahara dated January 13, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to start Integrated Licence System;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the objectives of the scheme; and

(e) the time by which the said service of one network is likely to be accorded approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is in the process of consultation

with various stakeholders on the issues related to Next Generation Network (NGN).

(c) to (e) On 13.01.2005, TRAI has submitted its recommendation on Unified Licencing Regime to enable a licensee to provide any or all telecom services by acquiring a single license. The recommendations are under consideration.

*[English]*

**Assistance by NABARD to Rural Women**

1488. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the poor women living in rural areas of the country are being provided assistance by NABARD through its programmes;

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

(c) the number of districts covered under these programmes during the last two years alongwith number of women provided assistance, State-wise and programme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In order to address gender issues in credit and related support services so as to bring in equitable rural prosperity, NABARD refinance is available to Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Co-operative Banks for financing to women. However, present data generating system does not capture refinance flow to women separately. Some of the women oriented programmes supported by NABARD are:-

(i) SHG Bank-Linkage Programme – As many as 18.80 lakh SHGs have been financed by the banks to the tune of Rs. 8767 crore till January, 2006 cumulatively enabling about 2.79 crore poor households in the country to gain access to micro-finance. About 90% of the group members are women. 572 districts across the States are covered under the programme. State-wise details are at Statement-I.

(ii) Support for Women Development Cell (WDCs) – NABARD has supported in establishment of 122 WDCs in the RRBs and Co-operative Banks to

facilitate increased flow of credit to women in rural areas. So far NABARD has released a grant assistance of Rs. 2.56 crore which has facilitated credit flow to women by these banks estimated at Rs. 3595.79 crores covering 27.94 lakh women. State-wise details of WDC sanctioned are given in Statement-II.

trainees constituting 22% of total trainees. The State-wise details for the last two years and cumulative position as on 31st March, 2005 are given in Statement-III.

- (iii) Rural Entrepreneurship Development Programme (REDP) – NABARD assists NGOs and Developmental agencies to conduct REDPs for developing the entrepreneurial and activity oriented skills among unemployed rural youth including women. Out of 172278 persons trained so far, 37961 were women

NABARD also implements exclusive programmes for women in association with NGOs, Banks, etc. like Assistance to Rural Women in Non Farm Development (ARWIND); Assistance for Marking of Non-Farm Products of Rural Women (MAHIMA); Development of Women through Area Programme (DEWTA). These programmes are focused on skill development, capacity building, promotion of entrepreneurship etc.

*Statement-I*

*SHG Bank Linkage Programme*

(Rs. Lakh)

Region/State	2003-04		2004-05		Cumulative - Jan 2006	
	Number of SHGs financed	Bank Loan	Number of SHGs financed	Bank Loan	Number of SHGs financed	Bank Loan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>A Northern Region</b>						
1 Himachal Pradesh	4,353	1,443.15	4,570	2,499.81	19,905	6510.58
2 Rajasthan	11,104	2,711.82	26,160	6,803.03	69,551	16439.90
3 Haryana	820	769.86	1,007	541.97	3,356	2008.93
4 Punjab	806	429.65	1,443	628.04	3,861	1677.68
5 Jammu & Kashmir	352	116.17	407	204.24	1,796	642.42
6 New Delhi	38	52.25	35	38.93	152	147.61
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>17,473</b>	<b>5,522.90</b>	<b>33,622</b>	<b>10,716.02</b>	<b>98,621</b>	<b>27427.12</b>
<b>B North Eastern Region</b>						
7 Assam	7,229	1,230.95	20,528	7,732.24	40,666	11705.58
8 Meghalaya	15	4.90	55	14.98	351	99.34
9 Tripura	746	42.32	665	138.64	1,515	190.72
10 Sikkim	8	2.67	10	4.15	42	13.14
11 Manipur	63	11.20	571	241.65	796	300.91
12 Nagaland	9	23.06	70	18.13	94	46.99

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
13	Arunachal Pradesh	117	78.29	55	21.39	280	119.64
14	Mizoram	22	24.85	6	3.49	46	56.73
Sub Total		8,209	1,418.24	21,960	8,174.67	43,790	12533.95
<b>C Eastern Region</b>							
15	Orissa	35,316	7,644.34	45,668	12,431.14	162,551	37065.34
16	Bihar	8,085	1,867.28	11,769	3,742.26	33,064	7842.26
17	Jharkhand	4,882	1,481.04	8,884	2,998.00	26,636	8802.05
18	West Bengal	19,038	2,999.53	41,013	6,581.99	114,266	18760.78
19	UT of A & N Islands	23	15.16	57	26.40	154	76.32
Sub Total		67,344	14,007.45	107,391	25,779.79	336,671	72546.75
<b>D Central Region</b>							
20	Madhya Pradesh	11,824	2,928.73	18,010	5,104.49	51,632	13394.28
21	Chhattisgarh	3,033	251.73	8,773	929.65	28,815	2936.27
22	Uttar Pradesh	25,514	8,417.87	40,438	14,393.64	127,883	33902.59
23	Uttaranchal	5,055	1,559.60	3,135	2,085.37	15,959	7203.11
Sub Total		45,426	13,157.93	70,356	22,513.15	224,289	57436.25
<b>E Western Region</b>							
24	Gujarat	2,099	937.79	8,738	4,319.44	27,337	8113.48
25	Maharashtra	10,470	4,390.78	32,611	10,980.12	95,319	29275.25
26	Goa	66	68.34	102	120.08	561	496.67
Sub Total		12,635	5,396.91	41,451	15,419.64	123,217	37885.40
<b>F Southern Region</b>							
27	Andhra Pradesh	104,238	75,299.23	107,351	101,771.37	528,144	342449.20
28	Karnataka	41,688	13,960.37	59,332	26,653.53	198,433	78526.44
29	Kerala	12,716	5,841.85	27,081	12,664.73	69,991	34,236.52
30	Tamil Nadu	51,851	50,590.96	70,437	74,647.46	256,178	211902.47
31	UT of Pondicherry	151	357.29	384	1,084.98	1,309	1844.32
Sub Total		210,644	146,049.70	264,585	216,822.07	1,054,055	668958.96
Grand Total		361,731	185,553.13	539,365	299,425.34	1,880,643	876,787.82

**Statement-II****Women Development Cells Supported-Position  
as on 31.01.2006**

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Total No. of WDC	RRBs	CCBS/ SCBs/ SCARDBs
1	2	3	4	5
1	Maharashtra	19	8	11
2	Karnataka	12	8	4
3	Uttar Pradesh	17	17	
4	Orissa	9	4	5
5	Andhra Pradesh	15	10	5
6	Chhattisgarh	5	3	2
7	Madhya Pradesh	8	5	3
8	Tamil Nadu	4	3	1
9	Tripura		1	

1	2	3	4	5
10	Assam	4	3	
11	Jharkhand	2	2	
12	Gujarat	1	1	
13	Haryana	2	2	
14	Himachal Pradesh	4	2	2
15	Jammu & Kashmir	4	1	3
16	Kerala	4	2	2
17	Punjab	2	2	
18	Rajasthan	2	1	1
19	West Bengal	6	6	
20	Andman & Nicobar	1		1
21	Bihar	1		1
<b>Total</b>		<b>122</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>41</b>

**Statement-III****Performance of Rural, Entrepreneurship Development Programme (REDP)**

(Rs. Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of State	2003-04				2004-2005				Cumulative as on 31st March 2005			
		REDPs Sanct- ioned	Amt. Sanct- ioned	Persons trained	Women Trainees	REDPs Sanct- ioned	Amt. Sanct- ioned	Persons trained	Women Trainees	REDPs Sanct- ioned	Amt. Sanct- ioned	Persons trained	Women Trainees
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andaman & Nicobar (Port Blair)	1	0.55	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	5	3.29	78	24
2.	Andhra Pradesh (Hyderabad)	82	41.87	1871	1388	84	41.79	1320	840	337	181.70	5947	3414
3.	Arunachal Pradesh (Itanagar)	2	1.08	55	0	2	0.97	50		6	3.03	185	30
4.	Assam (Guwahati)	25	18.58	708	0	25	18.26	695	490	108	76.43	3024	963
5.	Bihar (Patna)	6	5.57	177	60	26	27.59	595	480	86	71.28	2273	1040
6.	Chhattisgarh (Raipur)	26	21.14	652	192	17	16.35	415	134	89	65.09	2334	538

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7.	Delhi (New Delhi)	1	1.25	25	25	3	3.00	85	85	11	9.42	289	192
8.	Goa (Panaji)	0	0.00	24		1	0.70	18	2	3	2.10	92	2
9.	Gujarat (Ahmedabad)	60	40.40	1626	0	30	19.20	598	139	292	250.00	8859	920
10.	Himachal Pradesh (Shimla)	2	0.83	70	70	3	2.16	55	25	56	34.22	1505	618
11.	Jammu & Kashmir (Jammu)	3	3.75	0	0	2	2.47	60	9	27	23.96	617	131
12.	Jharkhand (Ranohi)	12	12.30	335	69	17	17.05	505	295	46	45.52	1443	652
13.	Karnataka (Bangalore)	100	49.85	1761	845	81	37.29	1327	232	373	194.91	7240	2658
14.	Kerala (Thiruvananthapuram)	31	16.89	840	710	16	7.18	405	125	149	82.76	3685	2212
15.	Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal)	75	40.90	1736	210	50	62.48	1000	51	321	225.58	8180	621
16.	Maharashtra (Pune)	86	46.26	1854	632	59	28.19	1261	502	349	207.42	8351	2368
17.	Manipur (Imphal)	0	0.00	0		0	0.00	0		3	1.71	90	0
18.	Meghalaya (Shillong)	2	1.37	50	30	6	6.30	175	0	13	10.87	373	74
19.	Mizoram (Aizwal)	2	1.95	47	35	4	2.68	106	100	6	4.61	153	135
20.	Nagaland (Dimapur)	0	0.00	0		0	0.00	0	0	2	1.50	20	0
21.	Orissa (Bhubaneshwar)	56	36.63	1335	1020	54	25.83	1261	636	168	109.77	4279	2793
22.	Punjab & Haryana (Chandigarh)	39	45.40	968	596	51	45.84	794	294	180	166.41	3622	1196
23.	Rajasthan (Jaipur)	25	11.76	475	265	20	9.39	400		112	60.07	2010	677
24.	Sikkim (Gangtok)	3	1.75	75		6	2.49	171	89	26	21.63	865	89
25.	Tamil Nadu (Chennai)	50	12.29	1415	990	27	12.58	676	675	324	130.64	8064	4634
26.	Tripura (Agartala)	6	4.50	155		2	1.50	79	9	19	13.91	507	9
27.	Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow)	44	20.67	1085	444	40	19.49	810	340	237	126.71	5342	2406
28.	Uttaranchal (Dehradun)	20	12.79	560	435	3	2.12	70	12	41	24.94	1062	941

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
29. West Bengal (Kolkata)		52	30.27	565	259	38	23.31	751	500	162	102.53	2781	759
Total		811	480.53	18464	8345	667	463.19	13679	6264	3561	2256.20	81470	30295
RUDSETI		410	28.22	14147	0	0	0.00		0	2512	285.28	85648	7666
EDII		0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00		0	175	160.63	5160	0
Grand Total		1221	508.74	32611	8345	667	436.19	13679	6264	6248	2702.11	172278	37961

#### Diversion of funds under PMGSY

1489. SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the proposal to create a corporation for the construction of rural roads in the country;

(b) whether the Government is aware that the funds allocated to States for the development of rural roads are either misused/diverted for other purposes or not utilised at all;

(c) if so, the details in this regard for the last three years and current year, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for proper utilisation of the funds and for banning the diversion/misutilisation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) There is no proposal to create a corporation for the construction of rural roads under consideration of the Ministry of Rural Development.

(b) to (d) The flow of funds under the programme is governed by the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Guidelines which ensure proper utilisation of funds and prevent diversion/misutilisation. The detailed Guidelines are also available on the programme website [www.pmgsonline.nic.in](http://www.pmgsonline.nic.in).

#### Mediclaim Policies

1490. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to assess the popularity and utility of mediclaim policies being offered by the insurance companies;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the reimbursement of life saving equipment like continuous positive airway pressure machines, pace makers etc. are covered under the scheme;

(d) if so, the details of similar other life saving, equipments covered under the scheme; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) As per the Mediclaim Policy of the public sector general insurance companies, the insured person shall be paid such expenses as are reasonable and necessary but not exceeding the sum assured in aggregate for room, boarding, nursing, surgeon/anaesthetist/medical practitioner/consultants/specialists fees, anaesthesia, blood, oxygen, operation theatre charges, surgical appliances, medicines and drugs, diagnostic materials and X-ray, dialysis, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, cost of pacemaker, artificial limbs and cost of organs and other similar expenses.

#### KINFRA - Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation

1491. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to spare an additional 16 acres of land at the premises of the

Government of India Press, Koratty for expansion activities of KINFRA; and

(b) If so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Request of State Government of Kerala in this regard is still under consideration.

[Translation]

**Loan by Regional Rural Banks**

1492. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loans advanced by the Regional Rural Banks, during the last three years State-wise;

(b) whether such banks have not achieved even 50% of the target fixed for rural areas;

(c) If so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether some branches of the banks have not advanced loan during the said period;

(e) If so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The State-wise details of total loans advanced by RRBs during the last three years 2002-03, 2003-04, & 2004-05 are given in the Statement.

(b) and (c) Government of India announced an agriculture credit package on the 18th June 2004, envisaging doling of credit over a period of three years. The target for RRBs for the year 2004-05 was fixed at Rs.8,500 crore at a growth rate of 40%. As against this, RRBs have disbursed Rs.12,404 crore and have thus achieved 145.93% of the target.

(d) to (f) The existing Management Information System does not capture the data relating to branch-wise disbursement of RRBs.

**Statement**

*State-wise total loan issued by RRBs for the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05*

State	Rs. in lakhs		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	225998	279180	375277.97
Arunachal Pradesh	202	500	1137.24
Assam	18780	24958	33634.86
Bihar	42398	52540	74095.61
Chhattisgarh	16256	21209	28350.22
Gujarat	35508	39177	52036.08
Haryana	41167	56055	76406.33
Himachal Pradesh	8881	9757	12580.10
Jammu & Kashmir	7598	9738	10768.41
Jharkhand	12204	14663	24203.46
Karnataka	157807	171248.87	238741.13
Kerala	98998	124427	173638.43
Madhya Pradesh	66588	84169	109782.33
Maharashtra	28827	35992	49187.87
Manipur	546	547	1066.61
Meghalaya	1716	1901	2485.94
Mizoram	1499	2820	4841.77
Nagaland	217	166	266.07
Orissa	66048	96612	100268.44
Punjab	31151	35342	50328.80
Rajasthan	67207	76602	113998.75

1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu	60784	77063	101950.58
Tripura	7043	8049	9783.77
Uttar Pradesh	189747	251031	359358.23
Uttaranchal	9349	9207	13014.40
West Bengal	67582	74949	91033.91
Grand Total	1264100	1557905	2108247

[English]

**Telephone Adalats in U.P.**

1493. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are large number of telephone disputes related cases pending in Uttar Pradesh for settlement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the telephone Adalats organised in the State during the last three years; and

(d) the number of cases disposed of in the State during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) There are 35 cases of Telephone disputes pending for settlement in various Telephone Adalats of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in Uttar Pradesh.

(c) and (d) The details are given in the Statement.

**Statement**

*Details of Telephone Adalats organised in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years*

Name Telecom Circle	Year	Number of of Telephone Adalats held	Number of cases received	Number of cases disposed off	Number of cases pending for settlement
Uttar Pradesh (East)	2003-04	169	4076	4076	Nil
Telecom Circle, BSNL	2004-05	183	5106	5106	Nil
	2005-06 (up to 31st January, 06)	170	3620	3620	Nil
Uttar Pradesh (West)	2003-04	69	1704	1691	13
Telecom Circle, BSNL	2004-05	86	1438	1425	13
	2005-06 (upto 31st January, 06)	71	945	936	09
Total		748	16889	16854	35

[Translation]

**Outsourcing Processing Work by IT Department**

1494. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of any Income Tax related operation outsourced/being outsourced to any private party;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any safeguard has been/is being put in place with a view to ensure that the national interest is not compromised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Certain non-core functions of the Income tax Department have been outsourced so that the manpower in the Department can devote itself to core functions. These include: (i) activities relating to receipt and data entry of PAN and TAN applications and printing of PAN Cards; (ii) activities relating to hosting of Tax Information Network (TIN); and (iii) data entry of returns of income where it is not possible to complete processing of returns within four months by departmental manpower.

(c) and (d) The credentials of the outsourcing vendors are evaluated and procedures for security of data, non-disclosure of information and system audit of the outsourcing vendors have been put in place. The custody, control and authority to process the data is with the Department.

[English]

#### Software Export

1495. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's software exports touched an all time high during the year 2005-2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the estimated projection for the next two years;

(c) the status of the Medical Transcription during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government has extended any special package to the software sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to boost the software exports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The total value of exports in IT Software & Services and IT Enabled Services (ITES) during the last three years is as follows:

Year	US\$ billion	Rs. in Crore
1	2	3
2002-03	9.6	46,100
2003-04	12.8	58,240

1	2	3
2004-05	17.2	80,180
2005-06*	23.4	103,200
2006-07*	30.0	134,700

\*Estimated

(c) As per NASSCOM, out of the total ITES-BPO exports from India the sector wise estimates during 2004-05 were Customer Interaction Services 46%; Finance and Accounting 40%; Human Resource Administration 3% and others 11%. The categories of services under others include econometrics, data analytics and modelling, legal services, animation and game development services, medical transcription etc.

(d) to (f) The steps taken by the government to boost software exports is given in the Statement.

#### Statement

##### Steps taken by the Department to Promote Export of Software

1. Department of IT set up Software Technology Parks of India with an objective to implement the STP/EHTP scheme, set up and manage infrastructure facilities and provide other services like technology assessment, providing high speed data communication facilities for 100% Software Export Oriented Units. There are 46 STPI centers have been established at various locations. STPI acts as 'single-window' in providing services to the software exporters and incubation infrastructure to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).
2. Information Security is assuming vital importance with the wide spread of IT applications in commercial, strategic and other sectors in the country. Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) was made operational with regular issuance of Advisories, Alerts, and Vulnerability Notes.
3. Information Technology Act 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through Internet.
4. The following are policy measures taken for the export of Software:-

- i. Approvals for all foreign direct investment proposals relating to the Information Technology Sector, with the exception of Business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce are under the automatic route.
- ii. Peak rate of customs duty is 15%. Customs duty on Computers and Peripherals is zero %. Excise duty on computers is zero %. Microprocessors, Hard Disc Drives, Floppy Disc Drives and CD ROM Drives are exempted from excise duty.
- iii. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) allows capital goods on payment of 5% customs duty. The Export Obligation under the scheme is linked to the duty saved and is 8 times the duty saved on capital goods imported, to be fulfilled over a period of 8 years.
- iv. 100% depreciation is available to computers and computer peripherals over a period of 5 years for units under Export Oriented units (EOU)/Software Technology Park (STP)/Special Economic Zone (SEZ) schemes.
- v. Information Technology Software is exempted from Customs and Excise Duty.
- vi. EOU/STP units are eligible for Income Tax exemption on export profits, upto 2010, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act. 100% Income Tax exemption on export profits available to SEZ units for 5 years, 50% for next 5 years and 50% of ploughed back profits for 5 years thereafter.
- vii. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund (VCF) or Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in a Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to include the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income. To give thrust to Venture Capital finance, SEBI has been made the single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.

### Insurance Coverage to Savings Bank Deposit Holders

1496. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some of the nationalised banks have started insurance cover to savings bank deposit holders;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the same;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to issue directions to all the nationalised banks to start this scheme to facilitate the account holders;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Some banks have been offering deposit products to their customers with personal accident cover in respect of which the insurance premium is being recovered from the customers in accordance with RBI guidelines.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The banks are free to offer value added products including insurance cover to the deposit holders as per their marketing strategies and in accordance with the RBI guidelines.

### Opening of TDM Office

1497. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to open a new Telecom District Manager Office at Dakshin Dinajpur (Balurghat), West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the time by which the construction of new TDM Office is likely to commence; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.
- (c) Raiganj, Secondary Switching Area (SSA) has

54192 Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) and is headed by a General Manager under West Bengal Telecom Circle. Balurghat in Dakshin Dinajpur has 14034 Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) under Raiganj Secondary Switching Area (SSA). The Secondary Switching Area (SSA) constitutes the basic management and operative unit of the Circle and the unit is called Telecom District. The existing Telecom District covering a Secondary Switching Area is not to be bifurcated to create another Telecom District (SSA) on account of increase in workload due to technical operational and administrative reasons. As such, it is not contemplated to open a TDM office at Dakshin Dinajpur (Balurghat), West Bengal.

[Translation]

#### Statutory Auditor in Banks

1498. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a Board and a Central Statutory Auditor (CSA) in all the banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to keep banks out of the purview of central vigilance keeping in view the risk involved in the day-to-day working of the banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The general superintendence, direction and management of the affairs and business of a Nationalised Bank vests in a Board of Directors in terms of Section 7 (2) of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/80. The Board of Directors is constituted by the Central Govt. under Section 9(3) of the

Act read with Clause 3 of the Nationalised Banks (Management & Miscellaneous Provisions) Scheme 1970/80. Statutory Central Auditors in the Nationalised Banks are appointed with the prior approval of RBI in terms of Section 10(1) of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/80.

(c) and (d) With a view to provide a conducive environment to the officers of Public Sector Banks to take quick and efficient credit decisions, Govt. requested the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to consider reviewing its jurisdiction over Scale V officers of Public Sector Banks. CVC has not agreed to the proposal.

[English]

#### Textile Park in Tamil Nadu

1499. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the long pending demand for setting up of integrated textile parks in various parts of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the locations identified and the extent of financial assistance provided by the Union Government thereto; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (d) So far three (03) projects from Tamil Nadu have been approved by the Project Approval Committee (PAC) of the Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP). Details of these projects, inter alia, including location, project cost, completion period are as under:-

(In Crore Rupees)

Sl. No.	Name/Location	Completion target	Estimated project cost	Estimated GOI Assistance
1	2	3	4	5
1	SIMA Textile Processing Centre, Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu	May, 2007	120.00	40.00

1	2	3	4	5
2	The Great Indian Linen & Textile Infrastructure Company, Perundurai, Tamil Nadu.	July, 2007	149.45	40.00
3	Palladam HiTech Weaving Park, Palladam, Tarnil Nadu	June, 2006	43.35	17.34

#### **Scheme for Infrastructure Development**

1500. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to bring the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of infrastructure development in mega cities and Integrated Development of Small and Medium Town Scheme under one umbrella;

(b) if so, whether the unified schemes would push forward reforms agenda and the State Governments desirous of accessing funds under scheme have to enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Centre; and

(c) if so, the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Government of India has launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3.12.2005 which subsumed, among other schemes, Centrally sponsored scheme for Infrastructure Development in Mega cities and Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Final decision on the above has already been taken with the launch of JNNURM on 3.12.2005.

#### **Loan by NABARD to Orissa**

1501. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan given by NABARD to Orissa during 2005-06.

(b) whether NABARD proposed to enhance loan to that State during 2006-07;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the projects for which the loan is being granted to Orissa by NABARD?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) NABARD provides loan assistance to States under Rural Infrastructural Development Fund (RIDF). A Loan amount of Rs.396.95 crore has been sanctioned to Orissa during 2005-06 for 7059 projects relating to rural roads, rural bridges and medium/minor irrigation. An amount of Rs.116.89 crore has been disbursed to Orissa under various tranches of RIDF during the period 1st April, 2005 to 21st February 2006. The total allocation under RIDF has been enhanced for the year 2006-07 by Rs.2000 crore over the allocation of RIDF-XI for the year 2005-06.

#### **Central Assistance to Urban Local Bodies**

1502. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is providing Central assistance to States for training programmes to elected women representatives in the Urban local bodies;

(b) if so, the total financial assistance provided by Government to the States, State-wise;

(c) whether some State Governments have not received Central assistance for this purpose;

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

(e) the number of States which have submitted utilization certificate of Central assistance for this purpose; and

(f) the steps taken or being taken by Union Government by persuading States to come forward with requisite proposals for providing training to elected representatives of local bodies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Government has so far provided financial assistance of Rs.181.19 lakh to 19 States for conducting training programme of women councillors of urban local bodies (ULBs). State-wise details of the grants released so far is given in column '3' of the Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No Central assistance has been released to 14 States/UTs due to reasons given in column '4' of the Statement.

(e) Out of 19 States, complete utilisation certificate (U.C.) have been received from 4 States and partial U.C. from 6 States/UTs, as per details given in column '5' of the Statement.

(f) The remaining States are being reminded regularly to submit their proposals for availing Central assistance. Last reminder was issued on 13.2.2006.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Name of State	Details of financial assistance provided by Govt. (in lakhs)	State which have not received grant with reason	States which have submitted Utilisation Certificate (UCs)
		Ref. part 'b' of question	Ref. part 'c' & 'd' of question	Ref. part 'e' of question
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	-	No proposal received from State Government	Not applicable
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-	No ULB in the State	Not applicable
3	Assam	2.44	-	U.C. not received
4	Bihar	-	Assistance of Rs. 13.375 lakh approved. Before release some information is solicited from State Government which is awaited.	Not applicable
5	Chhattisgarh	9.47	-	Grant released in two instalment of Rs.4.73 lakh & 4.74 lakh. Utilization certificate for 1st instalment of Rs. 4.73 lakh received.
6	Goa	1.33	-	U.C. submitted
7	Gujarat	11.715	-	U.C. Not received
8	Haryana	4.30	-	State Government submitted partial U.C. for 2.15 lakh

1	2	3	4	5
9	Himachal Pradesh	3.075		U.C. received for 1st instalment of Rs. 1,53,750 & 2nd Instalment released during the current financial year. So U.C. is not due.
10	Jammu & Kashmir #	7.00		Grant released during current financial year. So U.C. is not due.
11	Jharkhand	-	Election to ULB not held	Not Applicable
12	Karnataka	28.84	-	Grant released in two instalment of Rs. 14.42 lakh each. Utilization certificate for 1st instalment of Rs. 14.42 lakh received.
13	Kerala	1.50	-	U.C. received from State Government
14	Madhya Pradesh	26.320	-	U.C. received alongwith refund of Rs. 4.80 lakh as unspent balance
15	Maharashtra	18.00	-	Training institute has intimated the Ministry on 3.2.2006 that U.C. is being sent through the Government of Maharashtra.
16	Manipur	-	No proposal received from State Government	Not Applicable
17	Meghalaya	-	No proposal received from State Government	Not Applicable
18	Mizoram	-	No ULB in the State	Not Applicable
19	Nagaland	-	No proposal received from State Government	Not Applicable
20	Orissa	5.00	-	Grant released during current financial year. So U.C. is not due.

1	2	3	4	5
21	Punjab*	6.925	-	U.C. not received
22	Rajasthan	9.635		U.C. not received
23	Sikkim	-	No ULB in the State	Not Applicable
24	Tamil Nadu	24.62	-	U.C. not received
25	Tripura	1.62	-	U.C. received for 0.50 lakh and State Government requested to furnish U.C. for balance amount
26	Uttaranchal	4.77	-	State Government submitted partial U.C. for Rs. 3.00 lakh
27	Uttar Pradesh	-	At present, ULBs of the State are dissolved, Grant for training of women councillors will be released after election. The High Court has stayed the election process and asked the State Government to complete Delimitation process first.	
28	West Bengal	13.41	-	U.C. not received
29	A&N Islands		Only 6 women councillors. UT Admn. is exploring possibilities to conduct training programme for them in some other State/UT	
30	Chandigarh*		-	
31	D&N Haveli	-	ULB is being constituted	Not Applicable
32	Daman & Diu		Only 10 women councillors in the U.T. Since there is no training institute in the U.T., the U.T. Administration is exploring possibilities to conduct training in a neighbouring State. So far no proposal had been received for release of grant.	

1	2	3	4	5
33	NCT of Delhi	1.22	-	U.C. not received
34	Pondicherry	-	Election of ULB not held	Not Applicable
35	Lakshadweep	-	No ULB in the UT	Not Applicable
<b>Total</b>		<b>181.19</b>		

\* - Training for women councillor of Chandigarh is to be conducted by SUDA, Punjab.

# - For training of 929 councillors including 309 women councillors.

**Rural Communication Network**

1503. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI AJIT JOGI:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS:

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen, upgrade and expand communication networks in the remote rural and tribal areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several areas in the country through technically feasible have not been provided with telecommunication facility till date;

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

(e) whether TRAI has suggested creation communication infrastructure in rural areas;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the services of private telecom providers are proposed to be utilized for this purpose; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Following steps are being undertaken to strengthen, upgrade and expand communication networks in the remote rural and tribal areas of country:-

(i) Provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in all the remaining uncovered eligible villages, excluding villages having less than 100 population, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc.

(ii) Provision of Rural Community Phones (RCPs) with population more than 2000 and where there are no Public Call Offices (PCOs).

(iii) Replacement of Multi-Access Radio Relay (MARR) VPTs by landline/Fixed Wireless Terminal phones.

(iv) Provision of Rural individual phone connections (RDELs) in 1685 commercially unviable Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs).

(v) Upgradation of C-DOT telephone exchanges to Access Node Rural Automatic Exchange (ANRAX) and Single Base Module (SBM) exchanges to Remote Switching Units (RSUs) in rural areas.

(vi) Relaxation of the outdoor cable norms to 5 kms as against the earlier norm of 2.5 kms for landline exchanges.

(c) and (d) There are 49,640 villages without telecommunication facility having more than 100 population and not lying in naxalite infested areas/thick forest areas, as on 31.12.2005. USOF has entered into agreement with BSNL for provision of Village Public Telephones in these 49,640 remaining unconnected villages by November 2007.

This includes provision of satellite connectivity for 14,183 villages lying in remote and inaccessible areas. A state wise list of these villages is given in the Statement.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The salient features of recommendations inter-alia include following:-

- Shared infrastructure for mobile services to receive support from USOF
- Supporting backbone infrastructure through USO fund.
- Shift from subsidy for individual DELs, VPTs etc.
- Discount in Annual License Fee and Spectrum Charges linked with Rural Coverage.
- Development of suitable applications.
- Reduction of rural VSAT license fees and spectrum charges and provision of transponders at affordable rates.
- No right of way charges for networks in rural areas.
- Niche Operators to be supported from USOF and exemption from spectrum charges.
- No spectrum fees for usage of CorDECT and similar technologies in rural areas as well as for usage of 450 MHz.
- No prior SACFA clearance for deployment of towers upto 40 m. in rural areas.
- Funds collected as Universal Access Levy should be made available to USOF.

The full text of recommendation is available at TRAI's website at [www.trai.gov.in](http://www.trai.gov.in).

(g) and (h) The services of all telecom service

providers will be utilized and wide ranging consultations have been held with Access Service Providers, Infrastructure Providers, Association of Telecom Service Providers and Manufacturers to work out modalities for sharing of certain elements of infrastructure and to provide support from Universal Service Obligation Fund for the same. Elements of infrastructure which can be shared include land, tower, shelter etc.

#### **Statement**

*State-wise number of eligible villages to be provided with telephone facilities as on 31.12.2005*

Sl. No.	Name of the Service Area	No. of villages to be provided with VPT
1	Andhra Pradesh	837
2	Assam	6565
3	Jharkhand	1664
4	Gujarat	2179
5	Himachal Pradesh	768
6	Jammu & Kashmir	1533
7	Madhya Pradesh	7492
8	Chhattisgarh	4151
9	Maharashtra	4252
10	North East-I	2051
11	North East-II	1520
12	Orissa	4899
13	Rajasthan	8054
14	Uttaranchal	3675
<b>Total</b>		<b>49640</b>

#### **Demand Deposits**

1504. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a visible trend of demand deposits rising faster than time deposits during the fiscal year;

(b) if so, the percentage thereof as compared to the last fiscal year and the reasons for the same;

(c) whether according to Reserve Bank of India, the rapidly expanding credit coupled with demand pressure on the economy is also a cause of concern; and

(d) if so, the manner by which the Government propose to annual its impact on financial and price stability in the country and keep a vigil on credit quality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) During the current financial year so far (up to February 3, 2006), demand deposits of Scheduled Commercial Banks increased by 29.1 per cent as compared with 7.5 per cent during the corresponding period of the previous year while time deposits recorded a growth of 13.8 per cent as compared with 12.2 per cent.

(c) and (d) Credit growth across various Industries, particularly to infrastructure and retail sectors is a reflection of greater credit penetration and increased investment activity in the economy. However, concerns about credit quality has led the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to urge banks to undertake a comprehensive review of credit quality, including a segment-wise analysis of activities with special reference to those sectors where credit is expanding rapidly.

#### **Credit to Oral Tenants**

1505. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made by the Government in providing credit for agricultural activities to oral tenants:

(b) the quantum of credit given to oral tenants during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the policy of the Government in providing credit for agricultural activities to oral tenants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A model scheme for providing credit to tenant farmers and oral lessees for raising crops by organizing them into Tenant Farmer Groups (TFGs) on the pattern of SHGs is being implemented. NABARD provides 100% refinance to

co-operative banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) eligible for short term seasonal agricultural operations credit limits at a rate of interest of 5.50% per annum for financing such groups. During the year 2005-06, NABARD has stipulated a minimum coverage of at least 2% of crop loan financing by RRBs and Co-operative Banks to tenant farmers and oral lessees. State-wise details of quantum of credit given to tenant farmers and oral lessees for the last three years is not available. However, new tenant farmers were disbursed an amount of Rs.524 crore during the period April 2004 to December 2005.

#### **New Accounting System**

1506. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to notify a new accounting system;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (c) No new Accounting System is proposed to be notified by the Government. However, in order to enable the Central Government to prescribe Accounting Standards under section 211(3C) of the Companies Act, 1956 (Act), the National Advisory Committee on Accounting Standards (NACAS) constituted under section 210A of the Act, after obtaining recommendations of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, has submitted its recommendations on Accounting Standards to the Government on 07.02.2006. This Ministry is examining the recommendations of NACAS for the purpose of prescribing the Accounting Standards under section 211(3C) of the Act. In the meantime, pursuant to section 211(3C) of the Act, the standards of accounting already specified by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India are deemed to be the Accounting Standards for the purposes of the Act.

#### **Priority Sector Lending**

1507. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN:

SHRI B. MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is move to put Food Processing industry under priority lending sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether NABARD is reluctant to lend to this sector;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether there is any proposal to create Agricultural Bank for the purpose;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the percentage of the contribution of private banks in priority sector lending during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Food and agro-based processing units of small and medium size with investment in plant and machinery up to Rs 5 crore is included under priority sector lending.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. NABARD has identified Agro Processing, including Food Processing as a thrust area. It extends refinance support to Banks for their lending to Food Processing Industries.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

(g) The percentage of contribution in priority sector lending was 44.14, 47.27 & 43.63 per cent during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, respectively by the private banks.

#### IT Hardware Industry

1508. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the IT Hardware industry in the country is facing stiff competition from other Asian countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to promote this industry in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) The IT Hardware industry in the country is facing stiff competition from other Asian Countries. The industry has been constrained by low capacities, lack of local availability of input materials/parts/components, longer and variable transit times, high interest rates, customs duties on capital goods, lack of world-class infrastructure and exposure to international markets. Steps taken by the Government to promote IT Hardware industry in the country are given in enclosed Statement.

#### *Statement*

#### *Steps taken by the Government for promotion of Electronics/IT Hardware Industry*

1. Approval for all foreign direct investment upto 100% in the Hardware manufacturing sector are under the automatic route.
2. National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government emphasis on energizing and sustaining the growth of manufacturing industry including IT Hardware.
3. Peak rate of customs duty has been reduced to 12.5%. Customs duty on ITA-1 Items (217 Items) has been abolished from 1.3.2005. All goods required in the manufacture of ITA-1 items have been exempted from customs duty subject to Actual user condition. Customs Duty on specified raw materials/inputs used for manufacture of electronic components or optical fibres/cables is 0%. Customs duty on specified capital goods used for manufacture of electronic goods is 0%.
4. Excise duty on computers is 12%. Microprocessors, Hard Disc Drives, Floppy Disc Drives, CD ROM Drives, DVD Drives, USB Flash Memory and Combo-Drives have been exempted from excise duty. Parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular phones are exempted from excise duty.
5. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) allows import of capital goods on payment of 5% customs duty. The export obligation under EPCG Scheme can also be fulfilled by the supply of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) Items to the DTA provided the realization is in free foreign exchange.

6. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items and notified zero duty telecom/electronic items in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP)/Export Oriented Unit (EOU) units are counted for the purpose of fulfilment of positive Net Foreign Exchange Earnings (NFE).
7. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes. Sales from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) to SEZs are being treated as physical export. This entitles domestic suppliers to Drawback/DEPB benefits, CST exemption and Service Tax exemption. 100% Income Tax exemption on export profits available to SEZ units for 5 years, 50% for next 5 years and 50% of ploughed back profits for 5 years thereafter.
8. Second hand capital goods are freely importable.
9. EOU/EHTP units are eligible for Income Tax exemption on export profits, upto 2009-10, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.
10. To induce more investment for Research and Development activities, a weighted deduction of 150% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.

#### **ATM Facilities by Post Office**

1509. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether ATM facilities are likely to be provided to the customers of Post Office Saving Bank holders at least in every Head Post Office;
- (b) if so, the total amount of deposit made by the public in Post Office Savings Banks during the year 2005;
- (c) whether there is proposal for strengthening the Postal Savings Bank;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Providing ATM facilities to the customers of Post Office Savings Bank is in a conceptual stage only and no details have yet been worked out.

(b) During the year 2004-2005, the deposits made by public in Post Office Savings Bank are Rs. 1,24,064 crores.

(c) Efforts for strengthening and improving the Post Office Savings Banks is a continuous process being undertaken by the Government.

(d) At present POSB operations are being computerized in post offices, which is a part of the ongoing process of computerization of post offices.

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

#### **Rural Internet Connectivity**

1510. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some States have submitted proposals for setting up rural internet connectivity infrastructure;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the decision taken by the Union Government on the request forwarded by Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Department of Information Technology (DIT) is facilitating establishment of Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas across the country with Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) using 2 Mbps connectivity being provided through State Wide Area Networks (SWANs) under its National e-Governance Plan. Proposals from 20 States were received and approved so far.

(c) The proposal from Kerala for SWAN has been approved in March, 2005 for DIT share of Rs.78.70 crores.

#### **Allotment of DDA Land to Trusts**

1511. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority has received applications for registration and allotment of land to trusts at cheaper rates in NCT of Delhi during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the trusts and their promoters; and

(c) the trusts which have been given land at subsidized rates during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) As per Nazul Rules and the policy decided from time to time, Delhi Development Authority (DDA) allots land subject to fulfilment of terms and conditions, to public institutions of non-profit making character that are registered as societies under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and sponsored either by Department of Central Government or Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, at zonal variant rates which are less than the market rates. Trusts are, however, not considered for allotment or land on concessional rates/zonal variant rates.

#### **Award for Scientists**

1512. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to institute a special award for scientists who develop technologies that would benefit rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to collect feedback from the villagers to ensure that the exercise was not a one time affair to use the technologies?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Government has been awarding scientists / institutions to recognize their contributions at the grassroot level for addressing rural needs. Under its scheme on "National Award for Women's Development through Application of Science and Technology" started in 2000, scientists/institutions engaged in women development through application of science and technology are awarded annually. This award is given every year and carries a cash prize of Rs.1,00,000/-, a memento and a

citation. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has recently evolved a scheme titled "CSIR Award for S&T Innovations for Rural Development (CAIRD)". The scheme seeks to recognize and honor S&T innovation that has helped to transform the lives of rural people. The scheme includes an annual award consisting of a cash prize of Rs.10 lakhs, a citation and a plaque. The first award will be given in the year 2006-07.

(c) These awards are conferred on such scientists/institutions who have made outstanding contributions in research, design and development leading to sustainable interventions at the grassroot level.

#### **Silk Bank**

1513. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long pending demand for setting up of a Silk Bank to check the frequent rise in the prices of silk and to facilitate its availability to the weavers at reasonable prices;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon and the time by which the Silk Bank would be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) Representations have been received about setting up of Silk Bank to check rise in the prices of silk and to facilitate its availability to the handloom weavers at reasonable prices.

(b) and (c) The Government of India is implementing a scheme called Mill Gate Price Scheme (MGPS) under which the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC), a Government of India Undertaking, is arranging supply of all types of yarn, which includes silk yarn, required for the handloom weavers at Mill Gate Price.

Silk yarn prices are market determined and depend upon availability and demand. Manufacturers engaged in manufacturing of silk handloom products, who make available silk yarn to weavers, have been making arrangements of silk yarn by tie up directly from silk twistors/manufacturers and usually do not place their requirement on NHDC for arranging supplies on firm indent basis.

NHDC on receipt of demand from weaver's organizations arranges supply of yarn by tie up directly from silk twisters/manufacturers. NHDC can arrange supplies of silk yarn on Mill Gate Price on receipt of firm indents from silk weaver's organizations.

**Private Bank Branches in  
Rural Areas**

1514. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI:

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines, new private sector banks were required to open up 25 per cent of branches in rural/semi-urban areas but these banks have only 9.52 per cent of branches in rural areas;

(b) if so, the steps taken to meet the prescribed target by opening more branches in rural areas and to step up credit disbursement in rural areas; and

(c) the details of total number of branches of private banks in urban, semi-urban and rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The banking licence issued to New Private Sector Banks, which are set up after 1993, includes a stipulation that 25% of the branches should be opened in semi-urban and rural areas. The total number of branches of New Private Sector Banks in rural and semi urban areas constitutes 26.88% of their total branches.

(c) The details of total number of branches of Private Sector Banks in urban, semi-urban and rural areas are as under:

Areas	No. of branches
Rural	1103
Semi-urban	1849
Urban	1755
Metropolitan	1508
Total	6215

**Garment Technology Expo-2006**

1515. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Garment Technology Expo-2006 was held in New Delhi in the recent past;

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

(c) the names of the countries who participated in the said expo; and

(d) the extent to which Indian garment industry benefited by the said expo?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) Garment Technology Expo-2006 International was held in New Delhi during January 20-23, 2006. The expo showcased frontline brands from both India and international leaders & provided an interactive platform for buyers and sellers.

(c) Companies from India, UAE, Turkey, Italy, China, Taiwan, Germany, UK, Japan, Israel, USA participated in the Expo. Besides, trade delegation from China, Korea, Turkey, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal attended the Expo.

(d) 336 participating companies showcased more than 1000 brands related to apparel manufacture. Reportedly 26,500 business visitors from all segments of the industry visited the Expo and thus provided an opportunity to the Indian textile investors to source latest garment technology.

**Setting up of New Towns**

1516. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to ease population pressure on Delhi Government is considering a proposal to set up new towns near Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the time for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB)

has informed that the Regional Plan-2021, notified on 17th September, 2005 proposes development of new Integrated Townships in the National Capital Region. Government of Rajasthan has identified Neemrana-Behror-Shahjahanpur for setting up of new township and feasibility study has already been initiated for this. Government of Haryana has identified three possible locations for development of new townships at Samalkha, Sampla and Jhangirpur-Badli. Government of Uttar Pradesh has also identified possible site for this purpose. However, these proposals are only at initial stages and question of setting time for completion does not arise.

#### **Appeals Before CIT**

1517. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of appeals pending with Commissioners of Income-tax (Appeals) as on date and since when those appeals are pending and the reasons for the delay in their disposal;

(b) the number of appeals required to be disposed of per month and the number of actual disposal; and

(c) action the Government proposes/has taken against the CITs for tardy disposal of appeals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Sir, as per the latest statistics available total pendency of appeals with CIT(A) as on 31.12.2005 was 67,624 cases out of which only 16,289 cases were pending for more than one year. More than one year old pendency has steadily been brought down with close monitoring. Thus, the average period of pendency for appeal is substantially less than one year.

(b) As per norms fixed the CIT(A) are ordinarily required to give disposal of 75 units per month. Depending on the nature of the case e.g., search or company etc. different weightage is given. Thus, the number of units disposed of is always more than the actual number of cases disposed of. During the current year the average disposal per CIT(A) in actual number of cases has been about 25.

(c) Close monitoring by the Chief Commissioners of Income Tax ensures satisfactory disposal levels. In spite of that large pendencies do get built up due to various

circumstances like posts remaining vacant, certain group cases being blocked due to court decisions etc. To relieve such large build-up cross-country mobilization is done so as to reduce the pendencies.

#### **Guidelines for Raising Capital Funds**

1518. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has issued guidelines to banks for raising capital funds;

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

(c) the extent to which additional revenues are likely to be generated by banks by such guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines on 'Enhancement of bank's capital raising options for capital adequacy purposes' on 25th January, 2006 for raising capital by issue of Innovative Perpetual Debt Instruments (IPDI) eligible for inclusion as Tier 1 capital and Debt capital instruments eligible for inclusion as Upper Tier 2 capital. The guidelines are available on the RBI web site [www.rbi.org.in](http://www.rbi.org.in). No bank has reported raising of capital through issue of these instruments so far.

#### **Poverty Alleviation**

1519. SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the mid-term appraisal of Tenth Five Year Plan, the Government is lagging for behind in the achievement of targets set by it for poverty alleviation;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to take any positive measures towards poverty alleviation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) In the Tenth Plan (2002-07), the Planning Commission has set a monitorable target for reduction of poverty by 5 percentage points by 2007 in consistency with the overall growth target of 8% per annum. In the mid-term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan, it has been mentioned that while there is a consensus that there has been a decline in the incidence of poverty during 1990s, it is difficult to assess the extent of this decline as there has been considerable debate regarding comparability of data due to changes in the methodology adopted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) between 1993-94 and 1999-2000.

(c) and (d) With a view to ameliorate the conditions of urban poverty in the country, Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation is already implementing an employment oriented Centrally Sponsored urban poverty alleviation programme namely, Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) on all India basis, w.e.f. 1.12.1997. The programme seeks to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed poor through setting up of micro enterprises and also through provision of Wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of useful public assets. The scheme is funded in the ratio of 75:25 between the Centre and the States.

#### **Reduction Under TUFS**

1520. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textile upgradation fund is proposed to be reduced;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to develop the textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps taken by the Government in the recent past to develop the textile industry are furnished in enclosed Statement.

#### **Statement**

#### *Important Measures taken by the Government in the recent past to help the textile sector*

- (i) To improve productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The Mission has achieved success in increasing the productivity and reducing the contamination through upgradation of cotton market yards and modernisation of Ginning & Pressing factories.
- (ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) was launched to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the textile industry both in the organised and unorganized sector. The Scheme has been further fine tuned to increase the rapid investments in the targeted sub-sectors of the textile industry. The cost of machinery has been further brought down by reducing the customs duty on imports.
- (iii) For speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced w.e.f. 20.04.05, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.
- (iv) For small scale textile and jute industrial units, Government has enhanced, the rate of Credit Linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS) from 12% to 15% w.e.f. 13.01.05.
- (v) In order to facilitate modernisation of the Powerloom Sector, Schemes such as High-tech Weaving Parks, Modernisation and Strengthening of Powerloom Service Centers, Group Workshed Scheme and Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme @ 20% have been introduced. Also, the Government has enhanced, w.e.f. 13.01.05, the capital ceiling for machinery from Rs. 60.00 lakh to Rs. 100.00 lakh under 20% capital subsidy scheme-TUFS.
- (vi) To provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units meeting international environmental and social standards, a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) based Scheme known as the "Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)" has been introduced in August 2005.

- (vii) In 2004-05 Budget, the entire textile sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn was provided optional exemption from excise duty. In 2005-06 Budget, Central Value-added Tax (CENVAT) on Polyester Filament Yarn has been reduced from 24% to 16%. These modifications in fiscal levies aim at attracting more investments for modernization of textile sector.
- (viii) To facilitate import of state of the art machinery to make our products internationally competitive in post quota regime, in 2005-06 Budget, the customs duty on textile machinery has been brought down to 10% except 23 machinery appearing in List 49 which attracts Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 15%. The concessional duty of 5% continues to be at 5% on most of the machinery items.
- (ix) In 2005-06 Budget, 30 items of knitting and knitwear have been de-reserved. This would facilitate setting up of large sized modernized units for meeting the international competition.
- (x) In the Budget 2006-07 the following announcements for the textile sector has been made:-
- Reduction in the excise duty on all man-made fibre yarn and filament yarn from 16 per cent to 8 per cent.
  - Reduction in the import duty on all man-made fibres and yarns from 15 per cent to 10 per cent.
  - Reduction in the import duty on raw materials such as DMT, PTA and MEG be from 15 per cent to 10 per cent.
  - Enhancing the allocation from Rs.435 crore to Rs.535 crore for the year 2006-07.
  - Enhancement in the provision for the handloom sector from Rs. 195 crore to Rs.241 crore for the year 2006-07.
  - Provision of Rs. 189 crore during 2006-07 for the Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks (SITP)
  - Launching of the Jute Technology Mission in 2006-07 to harness the potential of the golden fibre along with establishment of a National Jute Board.
- (xi) Government has launched the Debt Restructuring Scheme w.e.f. Sept., 2003 with the principal objective to permit banks to lend to the textile sector at 8-9% rate of interest.
- (xii) In order to cater to the growing skilled manpower requirements at shop floor level, Government is providing assistance for strengthening existing and opening new Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDCs).
- (xiii) Government has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment in the textile sector under automatic route.
- (xiv) Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from SSI sector so that large scale investments may be encouraged in these sectors.
- (xv) National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has been set up to provide the leadership role in sensitizing the industry to the concept of value addition by inducting trained professionals to manage the industry. This has resulted in an increased demand for trained professionals in various sectors servicing the industry.
- (xvi) To take a serious look at Fashion Education in the changing business context of the opening up of World Economies, Government is taking steps for:-
- Establishing an institution of National Excellence for imparting Fashion Business Education with International Benchmarking.
  - Appointing a nodal agency for standardizing and benchmarking Fashion Business Education in the country.
  - Setting up an Apex Body to train the teachers/trainers imparting Fashion Business Education in the country.
- Shortage of Software and Hardware Engineers**
1521. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:  
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:  
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:
- Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated growth of Software and Hardware industries during each of the last three years;

(b) the foreign exchange earned on exports of Software and Hardware during the above period;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the actual requirement of Software and Hardware engineers at present in the country;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the actual number of engineers required and number of engineers coming out of professional colleges in each State as on date; and

(f) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to ensure all of them are absorbed within the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The total value of Production and Exports in Electronics including IT Software and Hardware for the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Production	Exports
2002-03	97000	51700
2003-04	118290	65940
2004-05	152420	88180

(c) and (d) The assessment of human resource requirement for the IT sector is a continuous process. NASSCOM and the Department of Information Technology (DIT) have been continuously looking at this sector's requirement from time to time. This has resulted in DIT initiating measures to generate manpower in key verticals like bio-informatics, VLSI Design and Information Security; NASSCOM launching a pilot phase of NAC programme - NASSCOM's Assessment of Competence to help the ITeS-BPO industry and ITeS-BPO course implemented by DOEACC Society in North East and Jammu & Kashmir to enhance the skills of youth for employment in ITeS-BPO sector.

(e) The available manpower resources based on intake capacity in the Engineering Degree as approved by All India Council for Technical Education in 2005-06 is

499697 (includes Computer Science & Engineering/IT-214488). The State wise breakup is given in the Statement.

(f) IT-ITes is a globally competitive segment of the industry that has grown at a CAGR of over 28% since financial year 1999-2000, which generates employment based on merit.

#### *Statement*

#### *Number of Institutions (NOI) and Intake approved in engineering till Academic Year 2005-2006*

Region	State/UT	Engineering	
		NOI	Intake
1	2	3	4
Central	Madhya Pradesh	71	24630
	Chhattisgarh	15	5120
	Gujarat	39	14336
Eastern	Mizoram	1	120
	Sikkim	1	420
	Orissa	43	11517
	West Bengal	57	13305
	Tripura	1	190
	Meghalaya	1	240
	Arunachal Pradesh	1	198
North	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0
	Assam	3	901
	Manipur	1	120
	Nagaland	0	0
	Jharkhand	10	2483
	Bihar	12	2673
	Uttar Pradesh	106	37110
Uttaranchal	11	3011	

1	2	3	4
North-West	Chandigarh	8	1423
	Haryana	43	14132
	Jammu & Kashmir	6	1461
	New Delhi	20	5727
	Punjab	49	15345
	Rajasthan	51	16198
	Himachal Pradesh	5	1242
South	Andhra Pradesh	274	97942
	Pondicherry	7	2466
	Tamil Nadu	265	102322
South-West	Karnataka	120	48515
	Kerala	89	25543
Western	Maharashtra	162	50267
	Goa	3	740
	Daman & Diu	0	0
	Dadra, N.H.		
Grand Total		1475	499697

#### LIC in Health Insurance

1522. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation to venture into health sector in view of the stiff competition from the private operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the salient features of the new scheme;

(c) whether LIC has received approval from Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the business and profits of LIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

#### Decline of Profit of PSBs

1523. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether either comparative profits have declined or losses incurred in the Public Sector Banks of the country during the third quarter of the financial year 2005-06;

(b) if so, the names of those banks and estimated amount of their respective losses; and

(c) the reasons for decline and incurring losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Public Sector Banks have posted total post-tax profit of Rs.4,344 crore during the 3rd quarter of financial year 2005-06 as compared to Rs.3,139 crore during the corresponding period in the previous year. However, due to increase in operating expenses including staff costs and decline in profits earned in securities trading, five public sector banks i.e. Central Bank of India, Corporation Bank, United Bank of India, State Bank of India and State Bank of Patiala have posted lower post-tax profit in the period Oct-Dec, 2005 as compared to the corresponding period in the previous year.

#### NTC Mills

1524. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Textile Mills (NTC) functioning in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) The profit earned/losses incurred by each of the NTC mills during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the present workforce of NTC mill as on date, State-wise and mill-wise;

(d) whether the Government has implemented VRS for NTC employees;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for improving the functioning of NTC Mills in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) Out of 52 viable mills under NTC, 40 mills under different subsidiary corporations are in operation as on date. State-wise list is at Statement-I.

(b) The cash loss incurred by these 40 NTC Mills during the last 3 years is at Statement-II.

(c) As on 1.2.2006, the total workforce employed in the NTC is 21,677. Out of these 19,977 employees are in 52 viable mills. Details are at Statement-III.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme has been implemented in NTC w.e.f. 1st Jan., 2002. The benefits under the Scheme are as follows:-

- i) Ex-gratia payment equivalent to 35 days for every completed year of service and 25 days for the remaining service left until superannuation.
- ii) Additional ex-gratia compensation of 100% of the eligible ex-gratia as above provided there was

no wage revision after 1.1.1987 or 50% of the eligible ex-gratia amount as additional compensation in case there was no wage revision after 1.1.1992. Salary for the purpose will consist of Basic Pay + DA + HRA.

The above benefits are in addition to the normal eligible EPF benefits, cash equivalent to the accumulated eligible earned leave, gratuity.

(f) BIFR had approved a revival plan for NTC envisaging revival of 52 viable mills. Out of these, 22 mills are to be modernized by the NTC, and remaining 30 mills to be modernized under Joint Ventures. In the 1st phase, modernization of 15 mills has been contemplated. The resources for modernization are to be largely generated through sale of surplus assets. Steps have been taken to modernize 22 mills at a cost of Rs 530 crores. For modernization of remaining 30 mills under the Joint Venture, expression of interest from reputed textiles industries who could participate in the process of modernization of these mills under joint ventures have been invited. The surplus employees in all these mills have been given MVRS at an attractive compensation package.

**Statement-I**

*List of 40 N.T.C. Mills in Operation as on 1.2.2006*

S.No.	Name of the Mills	Location
1	2	3
<b>NTC (APKKM) Ltd.</b>		
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>		
1	Tirupati Cotton Mills	Renigunta
<b>Karnataka</b>		
2	Minerva Mills	Bangalore
<b>Kerala</b>		
3	Algappa Textile Mills	Alagappanagar
4	Cannanore Spg. &Wvg. Mills	Cannanore
5	Kerala Laxmi Mills	Trichur
6	Vijayamohini Mills	Trivandrum
7	Parvathi Mills	Quilon

1	2	3
<b>Mahe</b>		
8	Cannanore Spg.& Wvg. Mills	Mahe
<b>NTC (DPR) Ltd.</b>		
9	Mahalaxmi Mills	Beawar
<b>NTC (MN) Ltd.</b>		
<b>Maharashtra</b>		
10	India United Mills No.1	Mumbai
11	Tata Mills	Mumbai
12	Podar Mills	Mumbai
13	RBBA Mills	Hinganghat
14	India United Mill No.5	Mumbai
15	Savatram Ramprasad Mills	Akola
<b>NTC (MP) Ltd.</b>		
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>		
16	Burhanpur Tapti Mills	Burhanpur
17	New Bhopal Textile Mills	Bhopal
<b>NTC (SM) Ltd.</b>		
<b>Maharashtra</b>		
18	Apollo Textile Mills	Mumbai
19	Barshi Textile Mills	Barshi
20	Chalisingaon Textile Mills	Chalisingaon
21	Finlay Mills	Mumbai
22	Dhule Textile Mills	Dhule
23	Goldmohur Mills	Mumbai
24	Nanded Textile Mills	Nanded
25	New City of Bombay Mfg. Mills	Mumbai
26	Aurangabad Textile Mills	Aurangabad
<b>NTC (UP) Ltd.</b>		
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>		
27	Swadeshi Cotton Mills	Maunathbhanjan

1	2	3
<b>NTC (WBABO) Ltd.</b>		
<b>West Bengal</b>		
28	Laxminarayan Cotton Mills	Rishra
29	Sodepur Cotton Mills	Sodepur
30	Arati Cotton Mills	Dass Nagar
<b>Orissa</b>		
31	Orissa Cotton Mills	Bhagatpur
<b>Assam</b>		
32	Associated Industriels	Chandrapur
<b>N.T.C. (TN &amp; P) Ltd.</b>		
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>		
33	Cambodia Mills	Coimbatore
34	Coimbatore Murugan Mills	Coimbatore
35	Pankaja Mills	Coimbatore
36	Pioneer Spinners Mills	Kamudakudi
37	Sri Rangavilas & W. Mills	Coimbatore
38	Kaleeswarar Mills 'B' Unit	Kalayarkoil
39	Sri Sarda Mills	Coimbatore
40	Coimbatore Spg. & Wvg. Mills	Coimbatore

**Statement-II***National Textile Corporation Limited**Statement Showing Millwise Cash Profit(+) / Loss (-) for the Period from 2002-03 To 2004-05 (Rs Lacs)*

S.No.	Name of the Mills/ Subsidiary	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
<b>NTC (DPR) Ltd.</b>				
<b>Rajaasthan</b>				
1	Mahalakshmi Mills	-248.98	-100.95	-349.69
<b>NTC (Madhya Pradesh) Ltd.</b>				
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>				
2	Burhanpur Tapti Mills	-671.37	-648.86	-2099.12

1	2	3	4	5
3	New Bhopal Textile Mills	-503.35	-460.52	-1099.92
<b>NTC (Uttar Pradesh) Ltd.</b>				
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>				
4	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Mau	-256.71	-556.30	304.26
<b>NTC (South Maharashtra) Ltd.</b>				
<b>Maharashtra South</b>				
5	Apollo Textile Mills	-556.10	-615.76	-457.71
6	Aurangabad Textile Mills	-119.27	-136.34	-165.69
7	Barshi Textile Mills	-77.59	-125.54	-158.83
8	Chalisgaon Textile Mills	-374.27	-469.63	-305.75
9	Dhule Textile Mills	-339.43	-435.04	-361.94
10	Finlay Mills	-701.07	-780.32	-631.33
11	Gold Mohur Mills	-655.49	-815.06	-569.27
12	Nanded Textile Mills	-338.78	-393.58	-489.12
13	New City of Bombay Mfg. Mills	-721.22	-861.98	-648.30
<b>NTC (Maharashtra North) Ltd.</b>				
<b>Maharashtra North</b>				
14	India United Mills No.1	-1178.91	-1270.83	-1076.70
15	India United Mills No. 5	-646.54	-677.79	-556.31
16	Podar Mills	-714.85	-808.64	-987.24
17	R.B.B.A. Mills	-493.61	-458.58	-510.02
18	Savatram Ramprasad Mills	-279.82	-302.39	-279.67
19	Tata Mills	-1069.42	-1271.84	-1262.73
<b>N.T.C. (APKK &amp; M) Ltd.</b>				
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>				
20	Tirupati Cotton Mills	-259.19	-276.16	-347.73
<b>Karnataka</b>				
21	Minerva Mills	-2394.66	-2067.78	-3269.78

1	2	3	4	5
<b>Kerala</b>				
22	Alagappa Textile Mills	-590.65	-584.22	-808.61
23	Cannanore Spg.& Wvg. Mills	-62.19	-123.55	-168.49
24	Kerala Lakshmi Mills	-282.47	-278.07	-216.25
25	Parvathi Mills	-1097.53	-1428.87	-1595.89
26	Vijaymohini Mills	-230.98	-337.06	-408.51
<b>Pondicherry</b>				
27	Cannamore Spg.& Wvg. Mills, Mahe	-210.07	-309.51	-315.67
<b>N.T.C. (TN &amp; P) Ltd.</b>				
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>				
28	Cambodia Mills	-418.84	-592.83	-432.64
29	Coimbatore Murugan Mills	169.68	-104.19	-138.60
30	Pankaja Mills	-334.48	-424.74	-372.22
31	Pioneer Spinners Mills	-203.07	-273.90	-244.01
32	Sri Rangavilas S.& W. Mills	-326.96	-538.40	-351.87
33	Kaleeswarar Mills 'B' Unit	-276.01	-433.58	-300.64
34	Sri Sarda Mills	-642.84	-677.00	-622.99
35	Coimbatore Spg.& Wvg.Mills	-1648.42	-1248.66	-999.28
<b>N.T.C. (WBAB&amp;O) Ltd.</b>				
<b>Assam</b>				
36	Associated Industries	-170.02	-167.59	-183.89
<b>Orissa</b>				
37	Orissa Cotton Mills	-256.11	-208.74	-263.99
<b>West Bengal</b>				
38	Arati Cotton Mills	-188.66	-315.41	-332.00
39	Laxminarayan Cotton Mills	-242.77	-389.39	-483.45
40	Sodepur Cotton Mills	-253.92	-314.30	-314.40

**Statement-III**

*Showing Mill-Wise & State-wise number of employees on Roll as on 01.02.2006.*

S.No.	Name of the Mills	Total No. of Employees On Roll as on 01.02.2006
State-Wise		
1	2	3

**NTC (APKKM) Ltd.****Andhra Pradesh**

1	Tirupathi Cotton Mills, Renigunta	88
2	Ananthapur Cotton Mills, Tadapatri Karnataka	8
3	Minerva Mills, Bangalore	397
4	Sree Yallama Cotton Mills, Davangere	2

**Kerala**

5	Alagappa Text. Mills, Alagappa	717
6	Cannanore Spg.Wvg. Mills, Cannanore	383
7	Kerala Laxmi Mills, Trichur	503
8	Vijaymohini Mills, Trivandrum	320
9	Paravathi Mills, Quilon	653

**Pondicherry**

10	Cannanore Spg.Wvg. Mills, Mahe	337
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**NTC (DPR) Ltd****Punjab**

11	Kharar Text. Mills, Kharar	122
12	Suraj Text. Mills, Malot	68

**Rajaasthan**

13	Udaipur Cotton Mills, Udaipur	63
14	Mahalaxmi Mills, Beawar	194
15	Shree Bijay Cotton Mills, Bijaynagar	118

1	2	3
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**NTC (Gujarat) Ltd.**

16	Ahmd. New Text. Mills, Ahmedabad	95
17	Rajnagar Text. Mills, Ahmedabad	94

**NTC (MN) Ltd. Maharashtra**

18	INDU No.-6 Mumbai	321
19	INDU No.-1 Mumbai	888
20	Kohinoor Mills-1 Mumbai	0
21	Tata Mills Mumbai	831
22	Podar Mills Mumbai	910
23	RBBA Mills Hinganghat	516
24	Indu No.-5 Mumbai	410
25	Savatram Ramprasad Mills Akola	353

**NTC (MP) Ltd.****Madhya Pradesh**

26	Burhanpur Taptii Mills Burhanpur	350
27	New Bhopal Text. Mills Bhopal	589

**NTC (SM) Ltd.****Maharashtra**

28	Apollo Text. Mills Mumbai	574
29	Barshi Text. Mills Barshi	284
30	Chalisgaon Text. Mills Chalisgaon	483
31	Finlay Mills Mumbai	747
32	Dhule Text. Mills Dhule	626
33	Gold Mohur Mills Mumbai	488
34	Nanded Text. Mills Nanded	591
35	New City Mills Mumbai	647
36	Aurangabad Text. Mills Aurangabad	188

1	2	3
<b>NTC (UP) Ltd.</b>		
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>		
37	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Mau	93
38	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Naini	184
<b>NTC (WBABO) Ltd.</b>		
<b>West Bengal</b>		
39	Laxminarayan Cotton Mills Rishra	416
40	Sodepur Cotton Mills, Sodepur	338
41	Aratti Cotton Mills, Dassnagar	322
<b>Bihar</b>		
42	Bihar Co-Operative, Mokameh	194
<b>Orissa</b>		
43	Orissa Cotton Mills, Bhagatpur	336
<b>Assam</b>		
44	Associated Industries, Chandrapura	185
<b>NTC (TN&amp;P) Ltd.</b>		
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>		
45	Cambodia Mills, Coimbatore	596
46	Coimbatore Murugan Mills, Coimbatore	682
47	Pankaja Mills, Coimbatore	485
48	Sri Rangavilas Mills, Coimbatore	567
49	Sri Sarda Mills, Coimbatore	364
50	Coimbatore Spg.Wvg. Mills, Coimbatore	590
51	Pioneer Mills, Kamudakudi	266
52	Kaleswarar-B, Kalayarkoil	401
<b>Sub. Total</b>		<b>19977</b>
<b>RMD &amp; Head Office</b>		<b>1700</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>21677</b>

State-Wise

**Grants for Research**

1525. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientists from eminent institutions take grants for their research projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the scientists have failed in their research and have not refunded the grants taken from the Government;

(d) if so, whether CAG has objected to this as reported in The Times of India dated February 6, 2006 under caption 'CAG wants scientists to pay back';

(e) if so, whether the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) has pursued the matter with the institutions where these scientists are working; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi, provides Research opportunities to established, recognized, eminent scientists and young scientist medal awardees. Research support is in the form of honorarium and contingency for three years to enable them to continue their research and similarly for young scientist medal awardees to pursue their research career uninterrupted and to enable them to place themselves at appropriate scientific positions.

(c) to (f) No Sir, the concerned scientists are eminent researchers and fellows of the science academy and have greatly contributed to Indian science in their respective field of research. Grants are released to the scientific institutions for their research work and the institutions send their Utilization Certificates from time to time. Any unspent balance indicated in the Utilization Certificate is processed as per the existing procedure. CAG has observed non-submission of utilization certificate/refund of unspent balance from only a few institutions. INSA has already pursued the matter of utilization certificates/unspent balance with the concerned institutions and the same are now being gradually received.

**Penalty of Land Misuse**

1526. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a proposal from DDA for increase in the land misuse penalty levied on persons undertaking commercial activities in residential areas; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has submitted a proposal to amend Sections 29 (1) (b) and 29 (2) of IDD Act, 1957 to enhance the penalties, in respect of development of any land in contravention of the Master Plan or Zonal Development Plan or sanctioned building plan.

**Reduction in term deposits**

1527. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a reduction in term deposits in various banks;

(b) if so, the details of term deposit receipts of various banks during 2005-06 till date as compared to the previous year;

(c) the reasons for such trend; and

(d) the steps taken to increase such deposits of Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) No, Sir. During the current financial year (upto 20th January, 2006), time deposits of scheduled commercial banks increased by 13.8 per cent as compared with 11.8 per cent in the corresponding period of the previous year.

**Shortage of Drinking Water**

1528. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is acute shortage of drinking water in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to overcome the problem immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has informed that against a total demand of 850 MGD of potable water for present population of Delhi. DJB is producing 670 MGD of potable water by optimizing its production against an installed capacity of 650 MGD. There is a shortage of 180 MGD of potable water.

(b) DJB has further informed that to overcome the problem, the following steps have been taken:

(i) A 140 MGD Water Treatment Plant (WTP) has been set up at Sonia Vihar for commissioning on availability of raw water from Tehri Dam.

(ii) DJB has also set up a 40 MGD Water Treatment Plant at Nangloi which is functioning at about half of its capacity at present owing to raw water constraints.

(iii) DJB has further planned construction of following additional Water Treatment Plants from the saving of seepage losses after construction of parallel lines channel from Munak to Haiderpur Water Treatment Plant:

(a) 20 MGD WTP at Bawana.

(b) 20 MGD WTP at Okhla.

(c) 40 MGD WTP at Dwarka.

Ministry of Water Resources has informed that the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is promoting adoption of rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water by organizing mass awareness programmes, training programmes and by providing technical guidance on the design of rain water harvesting structures.

**Slum Rehabilitation Programme**

1529. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra had sought Central approval for a Slum Rehabilitation programme for Slum dwellers of Mumbai; and

(b) If so, the details of the Slum Rehabilitation Scheme submitted by the State Government indicating the Central Government land involved in this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Government of Maharashtra had forwarded a project proposal in December, 2003 for construction of approximately 71,000 houses, along with infrastructure, for rehabilitation of slum dwellers in Dharavi, with an approximate cost of Rs.5,000 crore. As per procedure for such projects, the proposal was examined in the Ministry and accordingly a Concept Note and a Detailed Project Report (DPR) were sent to Planning Commission for their 'in principle' clearance. Budget provision of Rs.75.00 Crore was also made by the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation during the financial year 2004-05. Planning Commission sought some more details and clarifications regarding the project proposal, which were to be given by the State Government. In the meantime, Planning Commission undertook an exercise for rationalization/review of the plan schemes, wherein, the scheme of "Resettlement of slums in Dharavi" was discontinued and no provision for the scheme was kept for the year 2005-06. Accordingly, no funds could be released for the said scheme.

#### **Handloom and Powerloom Sector**

1530. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to launch any special security schemes for the workers in handloom and powerloom sectors;

(b) if so, by when these schemes are likely to come into force; and

(c) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) In so far as Handloom Sector is concerned, in pursuance of the Budget Announcement 2005-06 made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister, the Government of India has introduced a modified Bunkar Bima Yojana called Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana with the objective of providing enhanced insurance cover to the handloom weavers in the case of natural as well as accidental death. The scheme was launched on 2nd October 2005. The Mahatma Gandhi

Bunkar Bima Yojana is implemented through the Life Insurance Corporation of India.

In so far as Powerloom Sector is concerned, there is no proposal to launch any special security schemes for workers in the Powerloom Sector, as there is already a scheme for powerloom workers namely Group Insurance Scheme for Powerloom Weavers.

*[Translation]*

#### **Corruption in BSNL and MTNL**

1531. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:

SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN:

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

(a) whether the central vigilance commission and C.B.I. are investigating into the cases of alleged irregularities committed by officers/staff and contractors of B.S.N.L. and M.T.N.L. in Mumbai and Delhi;

(b) if so, the present status of investigation and the reasons for delay, if any; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Five cases have been registered by CBI against the officers/staff of MTNL, Delhi and Mumbai and private contractors for alleged irregularities. In addition 53 cases of corruption/alleged irregularities against the officers/staff of other BSNL Circles are also under investigation. There is no fixed time frame for completing the investigation of cases by CBI.

#### **Sale of Revenue Tickets**

1532. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has stopped selling revenue stamps in the Badrha region of Haryana;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check black marketing of the postage stamps available to the consumers on the prescribers price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) State Government of Haryana has not agreed to allow commission on prescribed rate agreed and circulated to all the State Governments by Ministry of Finance, Government of India for sale of revenue stamps through post offices. Therefore, the sale of revenue stamps through post offices has been discontinued in Haryana including Badrha region.

(c) The postage stamps are freely available at the prescribed price at all the post offices. Neither any instance of black marketing of postage stamps has come to the notice of this Department nor any complaint on this score has been received.

*[English]*

#### Unauthorised Construction In States

1533. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has asked the State Governments to form a sub Committee of Experts to examine the issue of unauthorised constructions in the States;

(b) If so, whether the State Governments have complied with the directions of the Union Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the unauthorised constructions in various places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) Since Urban Development is a State subject, it is the responsibility of the State Governments & Urban

Local Bodies to take necessary steps to prevent unauthorised constructions in various places.

#### Investment In France

1534. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether France has agreed to give incentives to attract Indian investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the last few years have already seen a significant increase in Indian Companies foraying into France through acquisition or opening of overseas offices;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) to what extent Indian investors have shown keen interest in investing in France;

(f) whether Government is also considering to provide facilities to France to Invest in India;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) to (e) Indian Investments in France during the last three years, as per information furnished by RBI is as follows:

(In US \$ Million)		
2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.59	81.65	7.83

(f) to (h) No Sir, Government of India provide only sector specific facilities for FDI and not country specific facilities.

#### Foreign Exchange Reserves

1535. SHRI D.P. SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NRIs deposits are the major factor for increasing country's Foreign Exchange Reserve;

(b) if so, whether all the deposits of NRIs in the country are repatriable;

(c) whether all the investments of NRIs in Insurance and Bonds are repatriable; and

(d) the measures Government has adopted to correct the imbalances in the external debt payment systems in view of huge Foreign Exchange Reserve?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) According to the latest information available, India's foreign exchange reserves rose by US\$137.3 billion from US\$5.8 billion at end-March 1991 to US\$143.1 billion as at the end of September 2005. NRI deposits accounted for US\$22.6 billion or 16.5 percent of the rise in foreign exchange reserves during this period.

(b) NRI deposits can be held under (i) Foreign Currency Non-Resident Account (Banks) Scheme (FCNR(B)), (ii) Non-Resident (External) Rupee Account (NR(E)RA), and (iii) Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO) Rupee Account Scheme. While FCNR(B) is designated in select foreign currencies, NR(E)RA and NRO are denominated in Indian Rupees. Interest on deposits held under all the three schemes is fully repatriable. Principal amounts under FCNR(B) and NR(E)RA are freely repatriable, while remittances are allowed up to US\$ 1 million per calendar year for bonafide purposes from balances in NRO accounts subject to payment of applicable taxes.

(c) NRI investments in the insurance sector, which is allowed under Foreign Direct Investment on the automatic route up to 26%, are repatriable. Foreign currency denominated Indian Life Insurance policies held by NRIs are repatriable provided premia are paid in foreign currency. NRI investments in Government dated securities/Treasury bills, units of domestic mutual funds, bonds issued by a public sector undertaking, convertible debentures of Indian companies under FDI scheme as well as those through stock exchange under portfolio investment scheme, are repatriable.

(d) Taking advantage of relatively higher level of foreign exchange reserves, Government of India had pre-paid certain high-cost external loans in order to reduce the interest burden on its external debt. Besides, Government is focusing on concessional loans, longer maturity profiles, close monitoring of short-term debt and laying emphasis on non-debt creating capital flows in order to maintain external debt within manageable limits.

[Translation]

#### Pending Projects of Uttar Pradesh

1536. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects of various State Governments particularly relating to Uttar Pradesh pending with Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) for financial aid, State-wise;

(b) the estimated cost of these projects, project-wise;

(c) the details of town/townships to be developed through these projects; and

(d) the time by which these pending projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) A proposal for financial/loan assistance to the tune of Rs.100 crore has been received by HUDCO from State Government of Uttar Pradesh. The details of projects received by HUDCO for financial assistance/loan from various States, estimated cost of these projects and the details of towns/townships to be developed through these projects, project-wise are at Statement.

(d) The projects/schemes received from various States for financial assistance are at various stages of appraisal/evaluation in HUDCO as per HUDCO guidelines.

#### Statement

##### *Proposals from State Govts./ Govts. Agencies under active consideration with HUDCO (As on 31-01-06)*

State	No. of Scheme	Agency	Name of Project	Project Cost (Rs. in Cr.)	Loan Amt. (Rs. in Cr.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Assam	1	Assam State Coop. Marketing & Consumers fedn., Ltd.	Const. of Commercial Complex at Kumarpara, Guwahati.	4.00	2.00
Total				4.00	2.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
Gujarat	1	Sabarmati River-front Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	Sabarmati Riverfront Development Ph.III.	1490.40	350.00
			Total	1490.40	350.00
Madhya Pradesh	1	Municipal Corpn. Gwalior	Widenning, Strengthening & improvement of Roads in Gwalior City.	5.16	4.50
			2	Municipal Corpn. Indore	Night Shelter Scheme under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan at Indore.
	Total	9.76	6.41		
Andhra Pradesh	1	Hyderabad Urban Dev. Auth.	Outer Ring Road at Hyderabad, Ph-I Hyderabad	536.16	500.00
			Total	536.16	500.00
Nagaland	1.	Dept. of Forest, Govt. of Nagaland	staff Quarters & Office Building, Dimapur.	11.00	10.00
			2.	Taxation Deptt.	Upgradation of Office Building & Staff Quarters.
	Total	12.50	11.00		
Uttar Pradesh	1.	Uttar Pradesh Finance Corp.	Take out finance for Debt Swapping of Bonds issued by UPFC.	113.00	100.00
			Total	113.00	100.00
Maharashtra	1.	Municipal Council Chiplun.	Augmentation to Chiplun Water Supply Scheme.	3.54	3.54
			2.	MG Ghandrapur	Improvement of Chandrapur Water Supply Scheme
	Total	18.54	18.07		
Jammu & Kashmir	1	Patnitop Dev. Auth.	Land Acquisition Scheme At Kariah/Kud. Distt. Udampur, J & K	20.00	12.10
			Total	20.00	12.10
Grand Total				2204.36	999.58

*[English]***Checking Inflation**

1537. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the RBI's monetary policy review, higher international crude oil prices could lead to inflation pressure on the economy;

(b) whether rising gold imports pose a serious concern even on the balance of payments front;

(c) if so, the trade deficit during this financial year as compared to the last three years; and

(d) the measures to be devised to combat this consumer inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Reserve Bank of India in the third quarter review of Annual Monetary Policy for the year 2005-06 (January 24, 2006) has observed that international crude oil prices continue to remain the major risk to growth and inflation.

(b) The share of gold and silver imports in total imports was 8.8 and 10.0 per cent during 2003-04 and 2004-05, respectively. While gold and silver imports grew by 59.9 per cent and 59.6 per cent in 2003-04 and 2004-05, respectively, the overall balance of payments position remained comfortable.

(c) As per the information from Director General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), trade deficit in the current financial year during April-January 2006 is US\$ 33.8 billion. The trade deficit was US\$ 8.7 billion, US\$14.3 billion and US\$ 28.6 billion during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, respectively.

(d) The anti-inflationary policies of the Government in the recent past included strict fiscal and monetary discipline; rationalization of excise and import duties of essential commodities, including petroleum products to lighten the burden on the consumer; effective supply-demand management of sensitive items through appropriate tariff and trade policies; and strengthening the public distribution system.

**Indian Share of Cotton in World Trade**

1538. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total trade volume of the World textiles is \$ 150 billion;

(b) whether out of this India produces 17 per cent of World's cotton;

(c) whether Indian Government feels that it would be possible for India to capture a sizable portion of world market in textiles when China, the biggest player, will be constrained by quota system for next three years;

(d) if so, the details in this regard and India's likely share in percentage in the World market indicating also the potential to generate new jobs with increasing textiles export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) As per the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the world market in textile is US\$ 195 billion and clothing is US\$ 258 billion for the year 2004.

(b) As per the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) Bulletin - September, 2005, India produced 15.73% of world's cotton during the year 2004-05 (Cotton Year: October-September).

(c) and (d) As per Industry's Textile Vision, the Indian textile industry is likely to achieve 6% share of world market by 2010 and would generate an additional employment of 12 million (i.e. 5 million through direct employment and 7 million jobs in allied sector).

**Metro Railway Project**

1539. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Kerala regarding setting up of Metro Railway System for Cochin, with a detailed project-report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of Kerala has proposed construction of a 25.3 km long elevated rail-based Light metro for Kochi from Alwaye to Petta (Tripunithura) at an estimated cost of Rs.1966 crore (May' 05 prices) without taxes and duties. The State Government has proposed implementation of the project through a public private partnership, for which they have to identify a private partner. As such, question of a decision by the Government of India would arise only after the bidding process is complete and a firm estimate of the financial requirements become available.

**General Pool Residential  
Accommodation**

1540. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply to USQ 4109 given on December 21, 2005 regarding General Pool Residential Accommodation and state:

(a) whether the accommodation allotted to journalists and others is proposed to be reviewed with a time factor change;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for the same;

(d) whether it is proposed to cancel this accommodation occupied by the authorities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 23.12.1996 in CWP No. 585/94-Shiv Sagar Tiwari versus Union of India had directed inter-alia, that Government accommodation will be given from the Press Pool only to the accredited journalists and news camera-men. Accordingly, guidelines dated 15.6.2001 and 19.11.2001 have been framed to regulate the allotment of Government accommodation to the journalists and press camera-men. The allotments have been made pursuant to these guidelines for a period of 5 years to the journalists drawing emoluments upto 10,000/- p.m. and for a period of 3 years to the journalists drawing emoluments between 10,001 to 20,000/-.

(d) and (e) Allotment of Government accommodation to journalists and press camera-men is made for a specific period. Allotments are cancelled when the allotment period expires.

12.02 hrs.

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): Sir, on behalf of Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, 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 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, 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. 3727/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Information Technology for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3728/2006]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, on behalf of Shri S.S. Palanimanickam, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:-

(i) G.S.R. 61 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th February, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 73/2003-Cus., dated the 1st May, 2003.

(ii) G.S.R. 62 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th February, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provisionally exempt imports of compact fluorescent lamps exported by M/s Osram China Lighting Limited, People's Republic of China, from anti-dumping duty imposed thereon.

(iii) G.S.R. 67 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th February, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend levy of anti-dumping duty on imports of pencil cells and primary batteries, originating in, or exported from, the People's Republic of China.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3729/2006]

(2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R.63 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th February, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 214/86-CE dated the 25th March, 1986, under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3730/2006]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of section 17A of the General Insurance Business (Nationalization) Act, 1972:-

(i) The General Insurance (Rationalisation of Pay Scales and other Conditions of Service of Officers) Second Amendment Scheme, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 1792 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 2005.

(ii) The General Insurance (Rationalisation and Revision of Pay Scales and other Conditions of Service of Supervisory, Clerical and Subordinate Staff) Second

Amendment Scheme, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 1793 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3731/2006]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 114 of the Insurance Act, 1968:-

(i) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Obligation of Insurers to Rural or Social Sectors) (Amendment) Regulations, 2005, published in Notification No. F.No. IRDA/Reg./4/2005/37 in Gazette of India dated the 28th December, 2005.

(ii) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Micro-insurance) Regulations, 2005, published in Notification No. F.No. IRDA/MI/3/2005 in Gazette of India dated the 10th November, 2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3732/2006]

(5) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts, under sub-section (3) of section 20 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3733/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): I beg to lay on the Table –

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Handloom Export Promotion Council, Chennai, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Handloom Export Promotion Council, Chennai, for the year 2004-2005.

(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. 3734/2006]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3735/2006]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Jute Diversification, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Jute Diversification, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.
- (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. 3736/2006]

12.02½ hrs.

### COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

#### Statements

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing Final Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in Chapter I of the Twenty-seventh Report (13th Lok Sabha) on the subject "Reservation for and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Central Medical Institutes and Colleges including reservation for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in admissions therein".

12.02¼ hrs.

### COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCE

#### Ninth Report

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): I beg to present a copy of the Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances regarding Amendment of Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976, Amendment of Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 and Activities of Pakistani and Bangladeshi Nationals.

12.03 hrs

### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

#### Launch of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the historical and famous employment Guarantee Scheme in the country...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, if you would like to lay your statement, then you can lay it.

\*DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, with your permission I lay the statement on the Table of the House. Along with it I would like to request the hon'ble Members to go through it and oversee and monitor its implementation in Gram Sabhas in all the areas where Rural Employment Guarantee Act is in force.

This will enable the government obtain correct information and also ensure the effective implementation of this scheme. The poor will get employment and poverty can be eradicated from the country.

#### 1. \*Notification of NREGA:

In the Monsoon Session of the House in 2005, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005

\* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3737/2006

(NREGA) was passed with unanimous consent to herald a path-breaking Law for securing the livelihood of the people in rural areas by guaranteeing 100 days of employment in a financial year to a rural household. The Act was notified on 7th September, 2005.

## 2. **Launching NREGA**

Honourable Prime Minister formally launched the NREGA on 2nd February 2006 from the state of Andhra Pradesh, District Anantpur, Gram Panchayat Bandla Palli. The effect of the launch and the legal notification means that the rural households in the notified districts will have the right to register themselves with the local Gram Panchayat as persons interested in getting employment under the Act. The gram Panchayat after proper verification will register the household and issue a Job Card to the registered household. The Job Card is the legal document that entitles a person to ask for work under the Act and to get work within 15 days of the demand for work.

## 3. **Initial Phase Districts Identified for launching NREGA**

200 districts have been identified for implementation of the NREG Act in the first phase (Annexure-I). Notification for implementation of the Act with effect from 2nd February 2006 has been issued in respect of 183 districts. The remaining 17 districts include 3 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, 2 districts of Meghalaya and 12 districts from Maharashtra. The Act does not apply to Jammu & Kashmir in terms of Section 1(2) and the State Government has initiated action for extending the Act to the State of Jammu & Kashmir. In Meghalaya, due to the applicability of Model code of conduct in view of the bye-election to Tura Parliamentary Constituency held on 16th February, the State Government has suggested that the Act be made applicable to Meghalaya from 1.4.2006. Maharashtra State has its own Employment Guarantee Act for the entire State since 1972. The State Government has decided to amend its own Act so that the entitlements of the workers under the Central Act are ensured in the State Scheme. The central Govt. will share the expenditure in 12 identified districts of Maharashtra as per NREG Act. The Act would cover the entire country within a period of five years.

## 4. **Guidelines**

Final Operational Guidelines have been formulated after considerable participatory discussion with state governments and representatives of multiple stakeholders and issued to all States.

## 5. **Action for Implementing NREGA:**

Detailed instructions have been issued to State Governments by the Ministry Rural Development indicating the activities that need to be addressed on priority.

- The process of registration has started in the districts. Job Cards after verification are being issued.
- Wide communication of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in local language to the likely beneficiaries in all areas is being undertaken. For this purpose, at the Centre and the State Government levels, information dissemination campaigns through multi-media including print and electronic media, cultural resources specially at the village level, social mobilization processes through Gram Sabhas have been initiated.
- Sensitisation of PRIs, and officials about the provisions of the Act and their roles and responsibilities under the Act has been undertaken both by State Governments as well as through the NIRD
- State Governments have been advised to prepare State works manuals with feasible Prototype Works with designs, technologies, technical and financial estimates and the benefits in terms of employment generated and assets created.
- Keeping in view the fact that the Public Works Department schedules of rural rates are not updated and sometimes do not take into consideration the fact that the use of machinery is not allowed under the Act, States have been advised to undertake Work Time and Motion Studies for proper identification and assessment of labour and time expended on tasks involved

and the corresponding wage rates. Revised district schedule of rates are to be prepared according to the Study done.

- States have initiated strengthening administrative capacities on the instruction of the Ministry. An assistant to each gram panchayat, a technical assistant for about ten gram panchayats, a full time programme officer at the block level with three assistants for accounts, works, IT have been allowed to be provided for with full central assistance. These have to be on contract or deputation or deployment of departmental personnel. Emphasis has been placed on attention to professional qualification, merit and experience, and transparent selection process.
- States have been asked to orient the Perspective Plans required to be prepared under the NFFWP towards the requirements of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act with the approval of the Gram Sabha, Gram, Intermediate and District Panchayats.
- The Act allows State Governments six months time to make their Employment Guarantee Scheme from the date of commencement of the Act. State Governments are making their schemes now on the basis of the provisions of the Act and the Guidelines
- A computerized web enabled MIS has been developed to facilitate data collection right from the household level and allow citizen access to data at all levels thus bringing in transparency right from the beginning.
- All Members of Parliament have been requested to participate in the Gram Sabha meetings on NREGA at their convenience. As Chairpersons and members of the District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees constituted by the Ministry, MPs have an important role to review the progress of implementation of NREGA and to ensure that the entitlements of the beneficiaries are being made available to them.
- Field level visits by Area Officers and external national level and district level monitors have started to appraise field level implementation.

- Funds have been released to the districts adequately to support schemes to be implemented. Rs.3,548.27 crores have been released this financial year to the districts for NFFWP/NREGA. Therefore, the States have sufficient funds for implementing NREGA this Financial Year. State wise position of funds released is at Annexure-II.

#### 6. Merging parallel wage employment programmes under NREGA

The ongoing programmes of SGRY and NFFWP will be subsumed with the NREGA in the 200 identified Districts in the initial stage. Detailed instructions have been issued to State Governments for stock-taking of the ongoing SGRY and NFFWP works and fund utilization to ensure timely completion of works under these programmes and a smooth transition to the Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) since these schemes would be merged with EGS.

#### 7. Reports on Implementation Status

States have been asked to report the implementation status. The reports have been received from some States, which indicate that 1,47,91,092 applications for registration have been received and 52,45,938 job cards have been issued.

12.05 hrs.

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): With your permission Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 6th March, 2006 will consist of:-

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. General Discussion on General Budget for 2006-07.
3. Discussion and Voting on the following Demands

and introduction, consideration and passing of the related Appropriation Bills:-

- (a) Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2006-07.
- (b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2005-06.
- (c) Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 2003-04.

4. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking Disapproval of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006 and consideration and passing of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2006 as passed by Rajya Sabha.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chall): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. There is need of 'railway Flyover Bridge' at Khaga Tehsil of district Fatehpur, U.P. Lakhs of people pass through the way daily. Lakhs of our people are affected due to the closure of railway crossing.
2. Need to provide halt of all-important trains at Tehsil Khaga of district Fatehpur, U.P. and to upgrade the station by giving it the status of 'A' class.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. The power crisis in the State of Rajasthan is increasing day by day and the Central Government is not taking any step to provide power from other states to Rajasthan as has been agreed upon, and these cases have been lying pending for long.
2. Union Government has declared Jaipur airport as an international airport but it has not named it as Maharaja Maan Singh International Airport. So, therefore, it may be named as Maharaja Maan Singh International Airport at the earliest.

*[English]*

DR. K.S. Manoj (Alleppy): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Need to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Alappuzha District of Kerala.
2. Need to construct a foot overbridge across the two platforms at Thuravoor Railway Station.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO (Jaimshedpur): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. There is no flight in the morning from Ranchi to Delhi. Therefore, a flight from Ranchi to Delhi and Delhi to Ranchi may be started in morning and evening respectively.
2. The mobile service may be started in Dumuriya and Patbhada of East Singhbhoom district, Jharkhand at the earliest.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Arpa Bhaishajhal Irrigation Project of Chhattisgarh State is pending with Government of India for its approval. The cost of the said project is Rs. 58671.30 crore. This project will benefit 2 lakh farmers and 51 thousand acres of land will be irrigated. Approval for the said project may be given.
2. There are numerous 'hamlets' in the State of Chhattisgarh. Around 30,00 km of road is to be constructed in order to connect 9837 hamlets with metallic roads to villages. Said allocation may be increased upto Rs. 500 crores every year instead of Rs. 235 crores. 75% of the establishment expenditure may be given as grant. The permission may be granted for doubling of roads in Naxalite-affected area as 40% of the population resides in forest side villages (Van gram). In order to improve the living standard of these people permission for special relaxation in respect of Forest and Environment Act to may be given so that the roads may be constructed in those areas.

*[English]*

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

- (1) The employees of Burnpur and Howrah units of Burn Standard are not getting their salaries for the last six months. Even the revival package has not been considered whereas bureaucrats are recruiting the new employees who are very much related to the Board. If the interviewed candidates' certificates are verified by any expert committee, it will prove the merits and demerits of the certificates.

The expert committee should be declared for the PSUs which are closed down and the employees of the closed public sector units should be given their salaries and other benefits of Fifth Pay Commission.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): Sir, the following item may be included in the next week's agenda.

The Arabian Sea is the fruitful fishing zone for the fishermen of the Western India. Most of the fishermen from West and North use to come to this area of the country and especially on the coast of Gujarat for their fishing business. The Pakistan Marine Security Agency (PMSA), so far, has captured 361 fishermen. Out of which, 238 fishermen belong to Gujarat. Moreover, last week one fisherman had been killed by PMSA. The Fishermen Associations have decided to agitate on this issue. As per my information, the agitation has started.

I, therefore, request the Government to repatriate these fishermen along with their boats as soon as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's Agenda:-

1. Matter regarding expansion of the transmission capacity of AIR Solapur, Maharashtra.
2. Matter regarding implementation of action plan in order to develop Vitthal Rakumai temple situated on the bank of river Chandrabhaga at Pandharpur in Solapur district of Maharashtra into a pilgrimage Center and to provide adequate facilities for the pilgrims coming across the country.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Disrespect was

shown to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat, it is an important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know it is an important matter, therefore I will try to give you time one by one. But, it is my request to you that we should finish it by 1 O' clock. I will give you opportunity one by one.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will accommodate you.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the point raised by Ramkripalji. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. If you have given notice, the chance will also be given to you.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your statement will not be recorded. Listen to me. I will give time. If the notice is given, I will give you time.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

12.13 hrs.

## SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

### (I) Re: Recent Indo-US Nuclear Agreement

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, lakhs of people throughout the country are demonstrating against the visit of Mr. George Bush to our country. The agreement in regard to nuclear issues and other important issues concerning the interest of thousands and thousands of

\*Not recorded.

people of our country was finalised keeping the Parliament as well as the country in dark.

Sir, from the statement of Mr. George W. Bush, it is very much clear that this deal is in their interest. After it was finalised and signed by both the Governments, Mr. George W. Bush has said: "The Agreement is in our interest." It means, it is in the interest of America. He also said: "I am confident that we can sell this to our Congress." It is the American Congress and not the Congress Party of our country.

Sir, it is very much clear about the intention behind this. He has forced us to come to an Agreement.

Sir, he has also stated the reasons behind this Agreement. I quote what he had stated:

"If India and China continue to grow at current rates and consume hydrocarbons the way they are, the way they are, they will drive up oil prices, hurting the American consumer.

If India and China burn up fossil fuel at current rates, they will be the dirty chimneys of the world, spewing green house gases and hurting the environment. It will cost the US and the whole Western countries a lot more to staunch the damage from Katrina-like disasters."

This Agreement is good for the US and the Western business which will have plenty to sell in India and China which is already a big buyer. These are the three reasons Mr. George W. Bush has stated to the Press after the Agreement. Not only there is an agreement in regard to nuclear issues, but also the most important agreement is in regard to agriculture. There are two agreements. One agreement has a vital bearing on more than 60 per cent of our population, that is, the 'Indo-US Knowledge Initiative on Agricultural Research and Education' and the other one is the 'Biotechnology Agreement'.

Who was present when the agreement was signed? Wal Mart and Monsanto were present. What is their interest? With these agreements, our agricultural market will be opened to the multinational corporations. What will happen to our farmers? We want to know about this. So, I demand that there should be a discussion in this House and this House should be informed, and by informing this House, the entire nation should be informed.

What is there in the agreement? Sir, a doubt has

been expressed. The scientists of our country have expressed their doubts and apprehensions. This deal will, we think, definitely hurt the interests of lakhs of people of our country. This is in the interest of the United States of America as well as in the interests of the Western countries. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Śrikakulam): Sir, the country should know this. ...*(Interruptions)* I am associating with Shri Basu Deb Acharia. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First give me notice then only I will give you a chance to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We demand that this House should be informed immediately today itself and thereby the entire country should be informed about all the details, how and why it is being called as if an historic agreement. How this is an historic agreement? How this is historic to the people of our country when the interests of our country are being hurt? So, I demand that everything should be placed before the House, and this House should not be kept in dark. The nation should not be kept in dark. ...*(Interruptions)* The Parliament of our country has a right to know. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: After the submission of notice by you, decision will be taken about holding discussions on this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, this morning it was decided that we should invite the three Members who gave notice to speak on this issue and then we shall go ahead. This has been decided this morning in the meeting. ...*(Interruptions)* I just communicate to the Deputy Speaker and not to you at the moment.

Sir, it was decided that you would call those leaders who gave notice. After that, it is up to you to decide. But let this be exhausted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not to be recorded.

(Interruptions)\*...

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Salim, please take your seat. Nothing is being recorded from your speech.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Tripathy, will you please listen to me?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): When will the Government respond? The Government should respond. ...(Interruptions) The hon. Prime Minister should come and inform the House. They should say about it. It may not be today, but when? ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Three hon. Members had given notice in this regard. It was decided in the leader's meeting held in the morning that those three hon. Members from whom notices have been received will be permitted to speak for two minutes each and if some other hon. Member would like to speak, would be allowed to associate themselves. I cannot give time to the hon. Members of each and every party. It is impossible. Whatever decision we take in leader's meeting, should be implemented in letter and spirit.

Decision has been taken regarding the other issue also and those hon. Members would be allowed to speak whose notices would be received first, rest of the hon. Members would be got associated.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: When will the Government respond? That is my only point. When will the

\* Not recorded.

Government answer this House? This is a serious matter. The entire country is waiting to know as to what are the agreements. We should know about it. The House is in Session. ...(Interruptions) When will they inform the House? What are the subject matters of the agreement? ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please give your notice first.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): The hon. Members are fully aware of the practice that when important agreements are signed or important visits take place, whether the guests come from outside or the hon. Prime Minister goes abroad, a statement is made on the floor of the House. It will be done. ...(Interruptions) The visit is not yet complete. So, as per the decision taken in the morning in your Chamber, three hon. Members can make their observations and surely the hon. Prime Minister will make the statement sometime next week and the Members will have the opportunity to know all the details which they wanted to know. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, only yesterday, our country had signed the nuclear treaty with America and it had been signed at the time when most of the people of our country were opposing the visit of Mr. Bush in our country. Mr. Bush is an attacker and an imperialist. The strength with which the people of our country have opposed this visit during the last two-three days has never taken place before in this country. ...(Interruptions) The people of this country and this House wants to know about the detail of the treaty. Whatever is being published in newspapers or being shown on television is contradictory. We can understand the difficulty of Mr. Bush that he has to get that treaty passed from the Congress there, but we do not have that type of problem here. Though it is known to everybody that on what condition this agreement has been signed and what are the restrictions, but the most important thing is that our scientists, who have been working for the last five decades, are also having doubt. We will also have to give information

to America regarding our activities in our civil reactor as it is also meant for generation of Atomic Power.

I would like to say this much only that the extent to which America is our well-wisher, can any be judged by it that with regard to our claim of permanent membership America is totally silent. The manner in which this agreement has been signed by keeping the country in dark, has given the message to the whole country that this agreement is not in favour of India and it has been signed under the pressure of America without taking care of our interest. We definitely want that the Prime Minister should give statement and the House should hold discussions in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): The hon. Minister of Defence has assured this House that the hon. Prime Minister will make a statement as soon as the visit is over. Since the visit is not yet over; the hon. Prime Minister will make a statement later on about the civilian and nuclear deal as also other parts of the agreement. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, because of the limitations in our Constitution, the Executive has the prerogative to enter into an international treaty and we know about the outcome later on only. That is a different matter. But the whole nation is worried and concerned as to what has actually happened in the name of civilian nuclear deal. Only the Chief of the Atomic Energy Commission has publicly stated that we can live with it. What does it mean? We do not know. Does it mean that no damage has been caused somehow? We know about the views of our nuclear scientists. Still to day we do not know about the views of other nuclear scientists who have come out publicly.

The unprecedented thing is that some high official who generally does not come to the media has come to say about the agreement on the nuclear deal by saying that the Chief of the Atomic Energy Commission must be very happy, otherwise the deal would not have been completed. It is a very unacceptable thing. Usually it is never done when the House is in Session. The hon. Prime Minister as the Chief Political Executive will come before the House. Tomorrow is Saturday and the day after tomorrow is Sunday and the earliest we can have it is on Monday. But the people are asking us as to what has happened because the media is giving different interpretation about different things.

How far have you done? Out of 22 plants, whether 14 plants are put under safeguard? Whether our fast breeder reactor has been kept out? There is a dangerous statement made by some important quarters that actually India has been brought under NPT for all practical purposes. India has been brought under NPT which, in this House we considered to be a fraud and to be discriminatory. It is a very broad indication. It is very unequal. Ignoring the mass protests of our countrymen and defying the unanimous resolution of this House, demanding the unconditional withdrawal of the occupying U.S. and allied forces from Iraq – whether the sentiments of this House have been communicated to the U.S. President? We do not know whether this Government has communicated the unanimous sentiment of this House that unconditional withdrawal from Iraq is the first important thing. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ilyas Azmi, Shri Santosh Gangwar, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy and Shri Devendra Prasad ji are also associating themselves with this matter.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak something in this regard. The visit of Mr. George Bush has not been finished as yet, however, many things are being published in the newspaper about this visit. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will have to give time to speak to every one, if I give you time to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SANTOSH GANGWAR: Our viewpoint should also be taken on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You yourself had decided that any three Members would speak on this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the press people are saying different things. ...*(Interruptions)* Shall we have half an hour discussions on this issue? We urge upon you that the hon. Prime Minister should give statement on this issue as soon as possible;

otherwise there will be daily news in newspapers on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Leader of the House has replied to your query.. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the agreement has been signed which are 70 per cent related to agriculture. ...*(Interruptions)* The country cannot be kept in dark. When sitting of the House is going on. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whether the leader of your party is present.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am agreed with the hon. Member of the opposition that his tour programme is still going on. ...*(Interruptions)* Reply on this issue can be given later on. But till then whether the House will be kept in dark. It is not a policy decision; rather it is an international agreement. ...*(Interruptions)* Statement should be given on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Ganesh ji is continuing his speech so please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The country should not be kept in dark. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to as to on what conditions this agreement has been signed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Devendraji nothing is going in record from your speech.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has replied to your query.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker,

Sir, I want to say one thing more that on the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take up this issue later on.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government should give some reply regarding the way, the security check of the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi has been conducted. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already told you that I will take up this issue later on.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak after my giving notices for the last three days continuously.

The farmers of Madhya Pradesh are heavily disturbed due to the natural calamities occurring over there continuously. This time, the crops of farmers all over the State have been damaged due to different reasons. The crops have been badly damaged due to hailstorms. This has caused heavy losses to the farmers. The crops of Rabi season have been severely damaged in Madhya Pradesh due to natural calamities. Due to change in temperature, pulses and oilseed crops like masoor, aalsi, chana etc. have been damaged. In my Parliamentary constituency Satna, crops like masoor, aalsi cultivated in 14,000 hectares of land have been completely damaged due to a pest called Maahu.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would urge upon the Union Government to immediately conduct a survey of the damaged crops and a Central Study Team should be sent there and arrangements may be made for providing assistance to the farmers. Alongwith this, I would also like to inform that yesterday there was hailstorms in ten districts including Sagar, Hoshangabad, Vidisha, Jabalpur, Damoh, Narsinghpur and Chhattarpur where crops of wheat and chana have been damaged. Our State Government has given a time of 24 hours to get a survey conducted in this regard. I would request the Union Government to send a Central Study team to provide assistance to the farmers of

\* Not recorded.

Madhya Pradesh who have suffered due to these natural calamities.

The problem of drinking water has arisen in a number of districts of the State. The water level has gone down drastically due to scanty rainfall. I would urge upon the Government to send a Central Study Team to study the problem of drinking water and provide all the necessary aid to Madhya Pradesh.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The names of Shri Krishna Murari Moghe, Shri Vijay Kumar Khandelwal, Shri Ashok Argal and Dr. Ram Lakhan Singh ji may also be associated with the issue of Shri Ganesh Singh ji.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chall): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as the entire House is aware. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please send the slip, we will associate them later.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Gangwar ji, what you want to say, you please listen to the views of Shri Shailendra Kumar ji.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as the entire House is aware that right from Parliament to every nook and corner of the country, protests were made against American President Mr. George Bush. It has been published in today's newspapers as headlines that the Samadhi of the Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi ji which holds our faith in it. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All the hon'ble Members who want to speak may send a notice first.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR. Sir, what we have seen is that Heads of States right from America to other Nations of the world have visited here and have paid their homage with due devoir and deference. But yesterday, security dogs were twice made to do rounds of the place where people visit with immense faith and respect. This has given a blow to the tradition of this country; I would demand that President George Bush or his security officers should tender their apology to the people of this country. while paying homage to the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi ji. This is what I would like to say through you. *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not show the paper.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not come here. I will not allow you to come.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The names of Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Shri Sandeep Dikshit and Shri Santosh Gangwar ji may also be associated with this issue.

*[English]*

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, in Tamil Nadu, there are 16 deemed universities which have been running for a number of years in the best manner. All of a sudden, the All India Council for Technical Education has given a notice recently that they have to apply for fresh approval once again. This is against the judgement of the Supreme Court delivered in Bharathidasan University case that once the deemed universities have got approval from the AICTE, they need not get any permission to start any course. In violation of the judgement, the AICTE has given notice to them. That is why, all the universities are closed and 75,000 students are affected. In this regards, Madras Regional Centre of AICTE is giving a different view. Education in Tamil Nadu is totally spoiled. From Tamil Nadu only, thousands of youths who studied in all these deemed universities are working throughout the world.

So, I urge upon the Government that the notices issued to the deemed universities by AICTE have to be withdrawn, and all the deemed universities be allowed to function as previously. They should also allow the students to continue with their education. This is my kind submission to you. Thank you.

SHRI AVINASH RAJ KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards those 3700 families of Punjab affected by terrorism which came to Delhi and started living here in the year 1986 and 1987. The Government formulated a scheme for these people that a pension of Rs. 300 per person per month upto a maximum

of Rs. 1000 per month would be given to them. Unfortunately that pension is not being given to the people since 1987 and that has been discontinued. Yesterday, I visited Govind Puri area of Delhi and found that as many as 70 such families are living there by constructing houses on plots measuring only 11 square yards each. They have also been faced with demolition and have been served notice regarding demolition of their houses. I would request the Union Government that as long as these people are not provided some other flats or houses as accommodation, they should not be displaced from that place. Besides, I would also like to request the Union Government to make efforts for resettlement of such terrorism hit families in Punjab itself, who have come to Delhi from Punjab and to also provide jobs or some financial assistance to the children of these families. Alongwith these families should also be provided all other facilities that are usually provided to the terrorism affected families.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir all I want to request is that, there is an acute shortage of LPG in Jaipur city. It is marriage season in full swing these days. When people approach for Gas they are asked to purchase cylinders available for commercial purposes. Cylinders for commercial purposes are available at four times high cost of the cylinder available for domestic purposes and it also carries less quantity of gas. These days season of social occasions like marriages, religious activities like Bhajans etc. is in full swing in Jaipur, therefore, these people should be provided gas cylinders at ordinary rates, and not at the commercial rates. There is no objection in giving commercial LPG cylinders for commercial purposes. This is my humble request to you.

*[English]*

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House, through you, regarding the mysterious disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. Recently, reports have been published in the media that the needle of suspicion points to Russia. Justice M.K. Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry has already submitted its final report to the Government, yet the Government is sitting over that report. It is stated that no attempt is being made to make public the report of that inquiry committee.

I would request the Government, through you, to impress upon the Russian Government to allow the archives to be made available for research. It would allow us to know and verify the actual factual position with

regard to this issue. Why is the Russian Government not co-operating in this issue? This is the allegation, which has been published in a section of the media that the Russian Government did not co-operate with the Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry.

What was Stalin's role in Netaji's disappearance?  
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ilyas Azmi, please do not read paper like this in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Was the crash stage-managed? This is the allegation, which is reported in a section of the media, namely, that the crash - which occurred in Formosa Island - was stage-managed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please maintain silence in the House. This is not a meeting place.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: The Mukherjee Commission has inquired into the matter for six years, and they have given a report to the Government. I would urge upon the Government to come clean on this report, and to place it in the public domain. This would allow the public to know the actual position, about the issue on which this Commission has inquired.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Union Government, particularly the Ministry of Textiles, to the precarious conditions prevailing in NJMC factories in West Bengal and in other factories outside West Bengal. About 16,000 workers are working in those factories, but for the past five months, they are not getting their salaries. I had talked to the Minister of Textiles, Shri Shankarsinh Vaghela, but his reply could not satisfy me.

I urge upon the Union Government to take the matter as an 'SOS' and release the money so that those 16,000 workers of the NJMC can get their salaries. Their family members are facing a serious financial crunch. The issue of non-payment of salaries has seriously affected the family members of the workers. I hope that the Government will respond to that without any delay and they will release the money for the workers of the NJMC factories.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister of Coal towards the irregularities being committed in the northwest region of Coal India. In Vaninarya region 600 workers have been rendered jobless and are being exploited since the month of May last year and payment of crores of rupees has been made to outsider companies and private contractors. A number of Worker Unions went on hunger strike while participating in the protest. Despite that the officers of WCL and Coal India are not paying any attention towards this and are carrying on with illegal mining. In the month of March, a scam worth crores of rupees was committed at the railway siding. CBI raided these people and a number of officials were punished and FIRs were lodged against them but Coal India did not initiate any action against these officials. A number of its officials have been involved in corruption. Besides this, as regards the matter of providing job to the displaced families a number of displaced families are waiting for employment after losing their land. When these people demand for jobs from the Coal India, then these farmer's children are asked to give money. The boys who have completed apprenticeship, approval has been accorded to fill up 212 posts over there, but the advertisements released by WCL, four years experience has been required. In the absence of experience, these people are not eligible to apply. I would request the hon'ble Minister of Coal to send an investigation team there in order to investigate all these matters and all the irregularities being committed in WCL.

*[English]*

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, I am again bringing to the notice of this House the sad plight of the farmers in Wayanad District.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think, your point has already been covered in the Question Hour, and the hon. Finance Minister has already replied to that.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Within a span of two to three years, hundreds of farmers have committed suicides. I pointed out earlier also that 57 widows have come from Kerala and they are sitting on a dharna demanding that their loans should be written off. It is not exactly that it should be written off, but that the amount which the Government has announced as a Wayanad Package Scheme should be remitted back as the loan amount and

the interest part should be written off so that they are relieved of this debt. Otherwise, these poor widows will go the same path as of their husbands.

So, I would request the Finance Minister as well as the Agriculture Minister to intervene, meet them, and redress their grievances.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri M. Shivanna – not present; Shri K. Yerrannaidu.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the handloom weavers in Andhra Pradesh are facing a lot of difficulties and they are in real distress. The rebate on handloom cloth is now reduced from Rs. 20 to Rs. 10. The scheme relating to 'Janata Cloth' is now disbanded as the subsidy has been drastically reduced.

So far, about 432 weavers have committed suicides because of hunger. In view of these circumstances, I would request the Union Government to prepare a special package for the welfare of handloom weavers in Andhra Pradesh. Otherwise, the suicide deaths will continue. I once again request the Union Government to formulate a special package exclusively for the weavers in Andhra Pradesh.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting and the Government to the fact that Udaipur district in Rajasthan is a tribal area. In the year 1995 Bhoomi poojan was performed for doordarshan studio, foundation stone was laid and Doordarshan provided Rs. 35 lakh part to open the doordarshan studio. After laying foundation stone there the work was given a stay due to the land being illegal and some complications. Now all the complications have been sorted out. As hon'ble Minister is present here I want that this should be included in 11th Finance Commission so that considering the culture of the area and number of artists it is made possible to open a doordarshan studio there. Otherwise too, there is only one doordarshan studio which is in Jaipur. Udaipur is a very important place of southern Rajasthan, it is important from tourist point of view, it is a heritage city and hence there should be a doordarshan studio. It is my humble request to the Government to accord permission for the doordarshan

studio at the earliest so that the money invested earlier could be utilized, as they have already purchased the land and boundary wall has also been constructed there. Only opening of studio is left which is a part of the scheme. When the Government plan to open new doordarshan studios, permission for Udaipur doordarshan studio should also be given. It is my submission to you.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat –  
Not present.

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the circulation of poor quality and sub standard duplicate gas cylinders and petromex cylinders in the market, due to which accidents occur most often. In my Lok Sabha constituency about 18 women and children were injured yesterday when a gas cylinder caused fired in Vijaypur village of Alwar. Injured were admitted to Sawai Mansingh Hospital, Jaipur. I would like to draw the attention of the House to these cylinders that their quality should be maintained and the State Government should be directed to provide free treatment and adequate compensation to the injured people.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): In my parliament constituency three people died and 25 people were injured due to bursting of cylinder. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please give notice first.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yadav ji, you should give notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Athawale ji, please sit down. We will give you time after Laluji's speech.

[English]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of Government to the comments made by Mr. Greg Chappell, the present

coach of Indian cricket team, in an interview given to a newspaper. I hope this august House will share the sentiment that I am going to express.

Though the interview was given by Mr. Greg Chappell to 'The Guardian' newspaper of the United Kingdom, extracts of it were published in all leading newspapers in India on 2nd March, 2006. The comments made against Shri Sourav Ganguly, former Captain of Indian cricket team, are in bad taste and, cross all limits of decency, and were made with the motive to malign Shri Ganguly. These comments of Mr. Chappell have definitely hurt the sentiments of the people of India and the prestige of India. I demand an unconditional apology from Mr. Greg Chappell to the countrymen for his comments against the most successful captain of Indian cricket team we have so far witnessed. Otherwise, the Board of Control for Cricket in India should ask him to go back forthwith.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bellarmin ji, Shri Kharventhan has raised the similar question. I associate your name with him.

[English]

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): I plead with the HRD Minister to come out with a statement in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your name has been associated.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bellarmin, I have given time to Dr. K.S. Manoj. Please sit down.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, India is the third largest producer of fish and the second largest producer of inland fish in the world. Last year, we have exported 4.75 lakh tonnes of fish earning Rs. 6,200 crore to the Exchequer and domestic production worth is about Rs. 22,000 crores. Around 11 million people are fully or partly engaged in the activities related to the fishing sector. Post-Tsunami changes in the marine eco-system has created difficulties in this sector. As per the recent Indo-ASEAN

Independent Trade Agreement, the Government has initiated steps to import various kinds of fish from the ASEAN countries. Only prawns and shrimps varieties are exempted. Fish varieties in these countries are similar to India and our country is competing with these countries even in the international trade. Previously, the move of importing fish from Thailand had invited great furore among the traditional fishing sector. This move to import fish from the ASEAN countries will be a further shock to the fishing sector which has only started regaining from the impact of Tsunami.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to abandon the move to import fish from the ASEAN countries.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit with regard to increase and revision of royalty of minerals. Presently royalty rates of metals like copper, zinc, tin and precious minerals like gold, diamond etc. are fixed on the basis of one percent of their market value but except coal, the rates of iron ore and lime stone are fixed per tonne and not at their market value. As a result when the market value of these minerals increases, royalty to be received by the State Government does not increase in the same ratio. For example present market value of iron ore is around Rs. 1000 to 1500 tonne but state government are receiving of only Rs. 11 to 25 per tonne, due to which Government of Chhattisgarh are incurring deficit of crores of rupees. When market value of iron ore was Rs. 500 per tonne, even then royalty rate was the same. I urge the Government that their royalty rates should be increased accordingly. Three years is the duration fixed for revision. Even after the passage of three years, the rate remains the same. Due to this, the Government of Chhattisgarh has been incurring loss of crores of rupees per annum. I would like to raise this issue before the Government of India. Royalty rates should be fixed according to the percentage of market value. The Planning Commission has given the same advice to the Ministry of Mines and Ministry of Coal. I urge the Central Government that royalty rates of the said minerals should be increased and revised.

*[English]*

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that the Gujarat State Legislature has passed a Bill – The Gujarat Control of

Organised Crime Bill, 2003 – and later on with amendments, this Act was also passed on 2.6.2004. This Bill is pending for the assent of His Excellency, the President of India.

In Gujarat, recently a bomb blast had taken place at Ahmedabad airport. It is revealed from the preliminary examination that RDX was used in this blast. RDX is not available in the country, it is only being supplied by the ISI. ISI is making our country the target. In particular, Gujarat. To control this crime, it is very necessary to get the assent of His Excellency, the President of India to the Gujarat Control of Organised Crime Bill, 2003.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Home Minister to see that assent of His Excellency, the President be accorded to the said Bill as expeditiously as possible.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA (Dhandhuka): I associated myself with this matter.

\*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this vital issue. One very important festival is being celebrated every year in March at the Malai Mahadeshwara temple in my constituency, Chamarajanagar. Devotees from several States like Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and others assemble there for that great occasion. This year it is estimated that over three lakh devotees would be arriving to participate in the festival. Sir, there is an accurate shortage of drinking water at the Mahadeshwara Temple. It will be a tough time for the organisers as more than 3 lakh devotees are arriving at the temple.

Hence, some urgent steps have to be taken to solve this problem of drinking water. I have already written letters to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources requesting them to help us in this matter. Water has to be drawn to the temple from Kaveri river through tubes. More than 6.5 crores of rupees have been spent for this project and the work is almost over. But there is one hurdle. There is a small piece of forest land measuring .3 acres and, therefore, the Ministry of Forests and Environment is not giving clearance to this project. I,

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

therefore, urge upon the Union Government to impress upon the Ministry of Water Resources to give clearance to this project immediately such that the devotees at the Malai Mahadeshwara temple can get water facilities at the top of the hill. Once again I thank you Sir, and conclude my speech.

[English]

**(ii) Re: Reported attack on Christians in the country**

SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (Mukundapuram): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of the House the situation arising out of the recent attack on the members and followers of Christianity in the country. One of such disturbing attacks took place on the 'Emmanuel Mission' in Kota district of Rajasthan quite recently which also resulted in desecration of the Holy Church and burning of the Holy Bible. The State Government concerned is not taking enough and suitable action to stop such attacks and to protect the followers of Christian faith.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to kindly take immediate necessary action to ensure that the life, property, places of worship as well as faith of the minority communities in the country are protected from such attacks. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palaghat): It is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record. Shri Sunil Kumar Mahato to speak.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): This attack is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, we appreciate the sentiments expressed by the hon. Members. Our Government is committed to protect the minorities and their interests. Any attempt or attack on them is against the constitutional guarantee given to them. This Government condemn and deplore such incidents. Wherever this is taking place, we are giving due cognizance to protect the interests of the minorities.

\* Not recorded.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Government send a team to that place?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I shall convey their feelings to the hon. Home Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

13.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Central Government should seek the report from the State Government so that such incidents do not occur in future, intentionally. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I assure the hon. Member, that I would convey their feelings to the hon. Home Minister in regard to protecting the interests of the minorities. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Radhakrishnan, whatever you are saying is not going on record. Please take your seats.

*... (Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO (Jamshedpur): Sir, police firing on tribals in Jajpur of Orissa on the very next day of New Year is quite similar to the environmental destruction for industrialization. It is very sad that bullets were fired on those tribals whose development protection has been propagated for decades and that was only because, they wanted to be rehabilitated and get adequate compensation for their land. It is even tragic that their hands were chopped off after the firing. I have these pictures and I wanted to show you the pictures.

\* Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no need for that.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO: Sir, even American soldiers did not treat prisoners of war so cruelly as tribals were treated in Jajpur of Orissa. It is not the matter of murder of only 12 tribals. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Under what rule, you want to raise your point of order?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the submission of Mr. Sunil Mahato.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO: It is not the matter of murder of 12 tribals only, but it is also a sign of danger to the tribals in the country. Today, before the whole country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Haribhau Rathod, now it's your turn to speak.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO: Sir, I may be permitted to speak. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the Jajpur incident. Tribals are migrating from there. ...*(Interruptions)* We want that a Parliamentary Committee should be constituted in the matter so that there should be no conflict in industrial sector and tribals get justice.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the submission of Mr. Haribhai Rathod.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Mahato, please take your seat now. It is not going on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing of you is going on record.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in respect of social justice, I am talking about such section of society which is still deprived of justice. You know that the protection provided in the Constitution is. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: The protection provided in the Constitution is for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs. But there are 15 crore denotified and nomadic tribes in this country and they are still deprived of justice. Kaka Kalelkar Commission and Mandal Commission were constituted in this country. There after Ayangar Commission and other Commissions were constituted. Further five year plans were formulated.

We have recommendations of the Planning Commission. There is Venkat Challaiya Commission. But even with these recommendations the Government have not given attention to the denotified nomadic tribes. Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru had made a statement in this House in the year 1953 that justice would be provided to this section. But Baba Saheb Ambedkar had made a provision in the constitution in this regard and said that:-

*[English]*

"We are providing reservation to a specific group of the backward classes".

*[Translation]*

We call this section as denotified and nomadic tribes. When we call them by this name, people fail to understand this. Denotified means

*[English]*

"Those who are notified as a criminal caste".

*[Translation]*

I am talking about these 15 crore people. They have not so far been given proper attention. I think our constitution, our democracy which we are talking about

\* Not recorded.

\* Not recorded

has failed. Until this section gets justice, until these 15 crore people get justice, they will remain neglected. The Government should think of providing justice to this section of society and should take a decision in this regard immediately.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to inform you on a serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam, you should give notice, please.

13.05 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET (2006-2007) –  
GENERAL DISCUSSION

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT  
(RAILWAYS) 2006-2007

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS  
(RAILWAYS) 2005-2006

AND

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS  
(RAILWAYS) – 2003-2004

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up items no. 10, 11, 12 and 13 together. Shri Lalu Prasad ji.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I want to make one submission. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, do you want to say something?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is there any mutual agreement?

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, you have agreed and others also have agreed.

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue was closed last night. The Hon'ble Member was not present at that time, even then, he is a big leader. You may give him ten minutes to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not ten minutes, five minutes will be allotted, I have many other business to do.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Time is to be allotted by the Chair and not by you. Achariaji, you will get only five minutes as I have other business to do.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I will conclude within ten minutes.

I thank the hon. Railway Minister for having declared next year as the Year of Passengers. But this has not been reflected in the case of suburban services. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No one except Mr. Acharia will speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nobody will be allowed to speak. Not at all.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I want to say something in regard to acquisition of EMU coaches for suburban services. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please give me one minute to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can do a favour to you that if anyone has not got a chance, he may lay his

speech on the Table, we will admit it and it will be put on record.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: In regard to acquisition of EMU coaches, the programme for the next year is that they plan to acquire lesser coaches than what they had for the current year. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Mr. Acharia's speech.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: In the last year, we had 340 coaches, whereas this year, it has been reduced to 305 coaches only. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Athawaleji, I had called your name but that time you were not present. Now you can lay your speech.

[English]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Same is the case with other conventional coaches also. ...(Interruptions) There is lesser number of EMU coaches for suburban services, but the Minister has declared next year as the Year of Passengers. But this has not been reflected in regard to coaches. ...(Interruptions)

Today, Indian Railways is using 700 over-aged coaches which are to be replaced. But there is no such programme for replacement of coaches. ...(Interruptions)

He has made announcement in regard to dedicated freight corridor. ...(Interruptions) When it was conceived, it was planned to have two dedicated freight corridors – East Freight Corridor and West Freight Corridor. Originally, the East Freight Corridor was to start from Sonapur. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Except Mr. Acharia's speech nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It has been stated in the Budget speech, that it will start from Sonapur. How has it been shifted from Kolkata? ...(Interruptions)

The third problem is this. Previously there were two terminals in Kolkata. Only a few days back, one new terminal was inaugurated, called 'Calcutta Terminal'. Another terminal is sanctioned 20 years back, but it has not been made fully conventional. Kolkata needs another terminal. There is a proposal to have a new terminal at Majerhat. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Acharia. Now, Shri Lalu Ji.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We would like to know what happened to the next terminal. It is necessary. ...(Interruptions)

The hon. Minister was kind enough to issue orders in regard to one steam loco shed. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Lalu ji, may continue, the other hon. Members may lay their speeches.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what happened to that. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Lalu ji, you may continue. The other hon. Members may lay their speeches.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why not such a single worker has so far been absorbed? ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Acharia ji, you can lay the remaining part of your speech.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You have seen the anger of the Members from West Bengal on extension of. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a point regarding Mumbai. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You also may lay your speech.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: I have only one point. In India the largest number of commuters are in the sub-urban trains of Mumbai. Particularly there are lacs of daily commuters in central and western Railways. It is my humble request to the Minister of Railways that more funds should be provided for Mumbai sub-urban trains. ...*(Interruptions)*

\*SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Sir, following are the problems of my constituency which are required to be addressed:-

1. A stoppage of the Udyog Nagri Express and Kurla Express should be provided at Urai Station because we get a lot of traffic here for Jhansi and Kanpur.
2. Sleeper tickets for day trains should be made available at Urai Station.
3. As there is no direct train to Urai from Delhi, a train should be introduced from Delhi to Kanpur Allahabad via Jhansi.
4. Platform of the Urai Railway station should be raised because several accidents have taken place there due to its low level.
5. Facility of the V.T.S. ticketing system should be provided at Urai station.
6. The exit of the platform bridge at the station should be from the outside so that residents of the colony can make their exit directly.

7. The Railway crossing on the Rath Road at Urai be doubled so as to end traffic jam in the town and ensure that trains also do not get delayed.

8. Jhansi-Kanpur railway line should be doubled so as to avoid unnecessary delay in travelling.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please give me time to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may lay your speech on the Table. Hon'ble Minister is to speak now. Thereafter, you may lay your speech.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise on behalf of my party to support the hon. Minister of railway Shri Lalu Prasad ji. Although ours is a small party but it is cooperatively more accommodating. I don't want to take more time.

U.P.A. Ki Chairperson aur Dr. Manmohan Singhji ne  
Lalu ji ko Rail Mantri ka pad diya,

Jise inhone bahut achchi tarah se chalaya hai,

Innhone khadi, kulhad ko rail ke saath milaya,

Aur achche kam karke vipakshi dalon ko jalaya,

Lalu ji ki, agar koi rok dega rail,

To hum unhein bhej denge Tihar jail,

Lalu ji ki bahut safe chal rahi hai mail, ...\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Athawale ji, your speech is not going on record. You please take your seat. You remain absent from the House whenever your name is called. Shri Lalu Prasad ji, please start your speech.

\*\* SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, On 1st April, 1847, the steam engine ran on Dhanu track between Boribander, Mumbai to Thane covering a distance of 34 Kms. The first train was run by firing of 21 cannons.

The details of Railways network as on 31st March 2005 was stated as under:- 2.22.379 wagons, 42,441 coaches, 08910 locos, 09550 passenger trains, 07151 stations, 1.6 million tonne goods, 15.00 million passengers, 16.00 zonals, 67 divisions. Hon'ble Sonia ji got you the Ministry of Railways. You run the railway department for

\* Not recorded.

\*\*The speech was laid on the Table.

\*The speech was laid on the Table.

two years. You introduced khadi and kulhad in the railways. You made the opposition feel envy by not increasing freight charges.

"Lalu Ki Agar Koi Rok Denge Rail  
To Hum Unko Bhej Denge Tihar Jail,  
Lalu Ki Bahut Tej Chal Rahi Hai Mail,  
Isliye Yahan Band Ho Gaya Hai N.D.A. Ka Khel.  
Railway Station Par Ab Bada aur Chay Mil Rahai hai  
Isliye B.J.P Wale Par Gaye Hain Naram  
Lalu Pura Kar Raha Hai Apna Dharam. ..."

"Ab To Lalu Ki Chay Piyo Garam Garam  
Tum Bhi Pura Karo Apna Dharam.  
Laluji Apni Dosti Kya Kaam Ki  
Khali 'O' Dhikh Rahi Hai Naam Ki,  
B.J.P. Ko Dosti Mahengi Paregi Ram Ki,  
Aab to Lalu Ke Saath Baat Karo Kaam Ki".

The following points pertaining to my constituency of Pandharpur may be considered in your reply to the Railway Budget:-

1. More funds should be allocated for Latur-Miraj Broad gauge.
2. The frequency of Chandrabhaga Express from Pandharpur to Mumbai should be increased from the existing twice a week to all the seven days a week.
3. There is a workshop of Metre Gauge at Kurdwadi. As conversion from metre gauge to Broad Gauge is taking place everywhere, this workshop be converted into workshop of Wagons.
4. Three new trains i.e. from Pandharpur to Varanasi, Pandharpur to Thirupati and Pandharpur to Nagpur should be introduced.
5. One or two first AC Coaches should be added to the Mumbai-Kolhapur Mahalakshmi Express.
6. Number of local trains in Mumbai should be increased. There should be four tracks for local trains and two tracks outside trains.
7. All stations in Mumbai should be renovated.

\*PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL (Jalesar): Sir, I would like to express my views on the Railway Budget. Sir, Shatabdi Express running between Delhi and Lucknow should be provided a stoppage at the Tundla Railway Station in my parliamentary constituency because Agra is an important city from the tourism point of view. Lakhs of foreigner as well as domestic tourists visit the city. The people of Agra take trains for Lucknow from Tundla Railway Station.

Lakhs of people owing allegiance to Jainism reside at Tundla and the surrounding areas who travel to pay obeisance to Shri Shikharji. Therefore, a stoppage of Nilanchal Express be provided at Tundla Railway Station.

Sir, I have come to know from reliable sources that the train, which runs on Barhan Etah railway line, is going to be suspended permanently by the pretext of unprofitability. Sir, the local people will experience inconvenience greatly if this E.V.T.-I, E.V.T.-II, E.V.T.-III, and E.V.T.-IV is suspended. This train should not be suspended at any cost.

Sir, Kasgunj is 30 kilometres away from Etah. The people of Etah, Agra, Badaun, Bareilly etc. will be greatly benefited if this stretch of 30 kilometres from Etah to Kasgunj is constructed. Sir, it will be very kind of you if the above railway line is constructed.

Sir, it is requested that beautification of Agra Fort Railway Station and that Tundla Railway Station should be carried out. Sir, more funds should be allocated to the Agra-Etawah railway line, Guna-Etawah and Etawah-Mainpuri railway line so that incomplete work can be completed expeditiously.

Sir, I would like to submit that due to Taj Mahal, Agra is an important tourist Centre of the world. Only one Rajdhani train-Chennai Rajdhani train stops here. The hon'ble Minister is, therefore, requested to provide stoppage of every Rajdhani train, which passes through this route.

Sir, there is a railway station at Jalesar Road in my constituency whose railway crossing remains closed for the hours together being the busiest train routes of Delhi-Howrah rail line, thereby causing immense traffic inconvenience to the vehicles. Therefore, an over bridge of Jalesar Road Railway Station should be constructed at

Manikpur. Sir, in the same way, vehicles have to wait for the hours together due to closure of railway crossings in East and West cabins of Tundla Railway Station. Therefore, an overbridge should be built at the west crossing out of either east or west railway crossings of Tundla Railway Station. Sir, thousands of visitors come from Agra. So, reservation quota from every train stopping at Agra should be fixed at Agra.

Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the Railway Minister that there is a Kala Haikur village near Tundla where I want a road to be constructed under the MPLAD Scheme but that road cannot be constructed because an abandoned railway pipe line is lying under ground in that way. The redundant pipe line should be removed forthwith so that the road from Tundla to Kala Haikur can be constructed.

Sir, I would like to request the hon'ble Railway Minister that a minimum of four general bogies should be annexed to every Super Fast and express Train so as to remove difficulties of the poor people.

Sir, the Kalka North East Express should be stopped at Jalesar Road Railway Station in my constituency.

Sir, a stoppage of Puri-Katihar, Sangam and Kalka Express should be provided at Barhan Junction in my Constituency so that people can be benefited.

Sir, I would like to request the hon'ble Railway Minister that the facility of computerized reservation be extended at Tundla, Jalesar Road and Barhan Railway Station.

Sir, through you, I would urge upon the Railway Minister to introduce one more passenger train on Vahan M. Line. Sir, there is not a single train in the morning from Agra to Lucknow. It would be very kind of you to introduce a super fast train in the morning from Agra to Lucknow.

*[English]*

\*SHRI. P. RAJENDRAN (Quilon): Thank you for the permitting me for raising the following issues. Sir I support the Railway Budget with some limitation as Kerala was totally ignored and I am compelled to protest on the steps of privatisation included in the Budget. MPs from Kerala have identified the urgent and genuine demands of Kerala. New train services from Bangalore, Bombay and Goa to Thiruvananthapuram and increasing of frequencies for

\*The speech was laid on the Table.

Rajdhani Express – New Delhi – TVM and Sampark Kranti to TVM are premony request completion of ongoing and development works of doubling, electrification gauge conversion and ROBs are the next.

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would extend my thanks to all those Members from all political parties who kept sitting from morning till late at night without caring of hunger and thirst to put forth their views in the context of their states and constituencies. It shows that our hon'ble Members are committed to their respective constituencies and people and have been participating in debate. I have noted down the suggestions from all those Members and I would like to assure them that Indian railways belongs to all. Whether it is the matter of laying new railway line, or doubling of line, or the provision of passenger amenities at the railway stations or the issue of railway safety or the timely arrival and departure of trains or the matter of providing comfortable cost-effective travel facility to the passenger, hon'ble Members have given their suggestions.

I have not developed the system of Indian Railways. I am not the Minister only for Bihar. Being a Union Minister I do not have any sense of discrimination and prejudice against any one. During the last two days a concern has been expressed that Indian Railways is on the deathbed. It has been a matter of challenge for all of us. As a result of our own thinking, and understanding as well as the cooperation extended by lakhs of railway officers and employees, the Indian Railways has turned around from the deathbed. I would like to assure the Members that there is a formula for allocation of fund. I will talk to them about that formula and will have discussion and seek their suggestions in the near future. There are ongoing projects in different states which have been pending for the last twenty years. They have been sanctioned despite adverse notings. We inherited that burden and an additional amount of Rs. 25000 crores will be required to complete them. My learned colleague Shri Chidambaram ji is sitting with me. I am constantly in touch with him and remind him that further delay will lead to cost overrun. I have paid attention to the welfare of the nation, all sections and states in the Railway Budget that I have presented through you. It is not the last budget. It is the third budget of our U.P.A. Government. I have presented it out of the mess. Further, we shall certainly pay attention to the points which have been missed, and the matter pertaining to Members'

constituencies. After having a meeting with them I had directed all the General Managers of Railways to address the minor problems and suggestions of the hon'ble Members at their own level by meeting them for which they have to come to the Rail Bhavan and write letters. The hon'ble Members must write to me regarding other vital matters. The suggestions of hon'ble Members should be disposed of on the spot. I am happy and hon'ble Members would agree that our General Managers had called meetings of M.Ps at all places. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): Just one meeting was called in two years. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): For the first time, the meeting was conveyed by the DRM. It was an insult. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I would like to tell Pathak ji that wherever my instructions have been violated, as he is complaining, I will take action and I want to assure him that from now onwards I'll see that such things do not occur again and everybody gets proper attention.

Sir, the railway budget for the year 2005-06 which has been presented in the house is being applauded by the people all over the country. It has boosted our morale. Everywhere this railway budget is being praised by all whether they are poor people or rich, farmer, labourer or young people, physically challenged or working women, mothers, sisters everyone is praising it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Let me speak, please. I will look into it.

[Translation]

I also thank Members of all the parties. She is our honourable lady member too. She may be in BJP or Shiv Sena, but every one has praised and reminded me about the efforts made regarding completion of the work pending

in my Ministry. Now, the work towards making Indian Railway a profit making department has started. We have not stopped; we are doing efforts to increase the profit further and we hope that we will get co-operation of Members as well as fellow countrymen in our efforts. The steps which we have taken, will definitely fulfill the resolution of our Prime Minister and Mrs. Sonia Gandhi that we have to take Indian Railways to great heights of success. We are marching towards globalization. Employees of Indian Railways have the talent, skill and work efficiency which will enable Indian Railways to face the challenges of the world and thereby achieve the success. Once we resolve to do it then there is nothing, which can stop us from fulfilling any resolution. Definitely, with the development of infrastructure of the Indian Railways development of the country will also take place. If the country wants to make progress and march ahead then we will have to develop the railways. There is no doubt that railways is the powerhouse of the nation. We have made a resolution regarding the infrastructure of the railways and we are committed to it that we have to take railways to every nook and corner. I have made efforts to this effect in the budget. I assure you that I am serious about it. The budget, which has been presented, is definitely getting praise from all and sundry, the people who have given us their mandate, are praising it. Excess praise makes a man dull and ineffective but we take it as a challenge so that no one could raise a finger on our government and on railways. We have to take railways ahead and we are marching ahead in this direction. Less amount is spent against the sanctioned amount under demands for excess grants for the year 2005-06 and 2003-04, but on certain demands for grants, excess amount is spent against the sanctioned amount. A suggestion to regularize it has been suggested in the report of the Public Accounts Committee tabled in the House during the last session. For the current year, the supplementary demands of Rs. 9149 crores is being spent on works done through capital funds, on prices of diesel and for meeting the cost of fuel due to increase in traffic etc. In the relevant reports details about the excess spending during the year 2003-04 and about the supplementary demands presented for the current year have been given. Without increasing the passenger fare, railways has earned profit. People were concerned about it. All my predecessors, whatever he is, may be present Chief Minister of Bihar *(Interruptions)\*...* all have increased passenger fares. Fares of carriage wagons, passenger trains were increased. ...*(Interruptions)\**

\* Not recorded.

\* Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The name would not be included in the proceedings.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: The people of country had to bear burden of freight. Due to increase in freight the prices of grains, fertilizers, essential commodities, iron, and all other things increase. The poor people have to bear all burden. When our government was formed, we decided, firmly not to increase freight. People were worried that Lalu Yadav and the government would increase freight. The Railways was running in loss. The report Dr. Rakesh Mohan was before us and the country. We had decided not to increase freight and we did not increase freight in our first budget. People of the country, great economists and think tanks sitting in Delhi used to say how Lalu Yadav would manage railways without increasing freight. We have not increased freight even in this third Budget also. Indian Railways is running in profit. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have recorded great achievements. It is good for us and for the country. We should always remember the message given by Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru. He said that-

"Our achievements today are only a step towards the opportunities knocking at the door where great achievements and victory are waiting us. Do we have the courage and wisdom to accept the challenges and grab the opportunities."

It was the message of Panditji to us.

Sir, some Members raised apprehension that the railways is being privatized. The scheme for promoting use of khadi and kulhar has been forgotten. Honourable members raised such apprehensions and these things have been mentioned during the discussion on the budget and it was also said that common man has been ignored in this budget. I would like to assure the House with full responsibility that we have no intention to privatize Railways or to retrench employees and the U.P.A. government and particularly my party and I would never do this. We were much apprehensive about this and people of the country were convinced about this due to deteriorating condition of Railways at that time. At that time Union Government was selling the public undertakings at throw away prices so railways was also targeted. I would like to assure the country that this vast railway network and lifeline of the country and its infrastructure would not be given to private players at any cost.

Sir, Some apprehensions have always been raised

when we talk about our works, our decisions, private traders or Container Corporation of India. In this connection I would like to tell and bring it to the notice of all concerned that traders, and Indian Railways are making efforts to do away with monopoly of Container Corporation of India. We are not getting expected profit from it so we have allowed traders to participate in it. We would not privatize Indian Railways at any cost and would not hand over it to foreign companies and multinational companies. As long as UPA government is there, it will not happen.

Sir, some hon'ble Members have said that the use of kulhad and khadi in Railways is not upto the desired level. I would like to say that they are wrong. During the year 2004-05, the railways had purchased kulhads worth Rs three crore and during this year 2005-06 the kulhads worth Rs. Five crore are likely to be purchased. Likewise during the year 2004-05, khadi garments worth Rs. 30 crore had been purchased. We have purchased khadi cloth. Gandhi Baba had said that khadi is a symbol of independence. It would provide us employment. I would like to request the Prime Minister that the way the Indian Railways is using Khadi, all offices of the Union Government should use khadi and purchase curtain in the same way. It would make us self dependent. It is therefore baseless to say that kulhads and khadi are not being used in railways. During the current year khadi garments worth Rs. 35-40 crores would be purchased. We have asked the Railways to make use of the stock of mill cloth, which had been purchased earlier. At the same times, I have asked them to purchase only khadi in future. Hon'ble members might have noticed that at some places mill cloth is still being used. We have stopped using it anymore and I have asked to use only khadi for bed cover, chadar, pillow cover.

Sir, the preceding government put burden on the public by increasing fare every year. They could think of only one thing and that was to increase rail fare. The poor public have been burdened by increasing fare at regular intervals. The condition of the Railways was very poor during the N.D.A. regime. We have worked to bring the railways out of the blues. I therefore, would like to say and

[English]

I invite all of you especially the NDA brothers and hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say is, the members that:-

"Poochhiye Mujh Se Ab Sawal Nayai  
Lekar Aaya hoon mein Jawab Nayai  
Turn to Kante Bichha Ke Nikle The  
Mein Khila 'Raha hoon Gulab Nayai"

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Except the speech of Shri Lalu Prasad nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have prepared this budget keeping in mind the common people. While it has been said here that common people have been overlooked in the budget. You would remember that before this budget we had reduced one rupee in the fares of the Sub-urban trains in Mumbai, Sub-urban trains in Kolkata, Local passenger trains all over the country, Jansadharan express trains and the long distance express trains. Although we are suffering losses in the running of sub-urban trains in Kolkata and Mumbai but we reduce their fares. It certifies that we are concerned for the common people and it also certifies that instead of increasing passenger fare we reduced it. To remove the difference between the rich and the poor and to bring harmony in the society, I have announced to start Garib Rath which is fully A.C. The fare of this train would be kept within the reach of the Common man so that the desire of the Common man to travel in a fully AC train would be fulfilled. This service is being started at four places on pilot basis. A fully A.C. Gharib Rath train would be run from the capital of one State to the capital of another State to connect the capitals of all the States after the success of this train service. Keeping in view the interest of the common man, I would like to say with regard to the historical transformation of the Railways.

"Beet gaye din patjhar ke  
Basant se ladkar rail chali,

Gareeb rath jab chala shaan se  
Ummiden uski parwan chadhin"

Sir, condition of the poor has improved. Now he has no inferiority complex and he is feeling that Indian Railways belongs to him also when the poor will travel in air conditioned coach of train at cheap fare, then the poor of the country will feel that the era of discrimination has gone. This is a message, which I have tried to communicate.

Sir, several hon. Members have expressed their apprehension that only some parts of the country have been given priority in introducing new trains while other parts have been neglected. Fifty-five pairs of new trains have been introduced this year. You said that all the new trains have been introduced in Bihar. I want to say that 110 new train services will be available after introduction of these new trains. Out of them twenty will run to north, 24 to south, 39 to east, 14 to west and 13 will run in central zone. ...(Interruptions)

Please listen to me. Frequency of twenty-four trains has been increased which will benefit almost all the regions of the country. We have tried to make available trains to all regions and to all sections of people. I would like to assure the house that we will make all the efforts to meet the increasing demands for new trains and it is our duty. Survey will be conducted and wherever there is more traffic we will try to make available more train services there. I shall never annoy any State because it will increase income.

Sir, if trains run from Bihar, then these people say that Lalu Yadav and Biharis have done nothing, they used to criticize that

[English]

"Bihar is rich but Biharis are poor"

[Translation]

Hon. Leader of opposition, Sh. Atal ji and many others had alleged that there is no infrastructure in Bihar. I would like to say that we people of Bihar produce wealth wherever people of Bihar go whether it is Pune or Surat or Punjab or Mumbai or Tinsukia or Dibrugarh or Guwahati, we produce wealth. All hon. Members are witness of the fact that Biharis produce a lot of wealth with their labour and effort. We have cleared the forests in Assam and took it towards prosperity. People of Bihar work in tea

Plantations, they go to the place of Ranaji, after reaching there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): You start train from Bihar but it should be extended upto Surat, Baroda, Ahmedabad. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: We are introducing trains for these places. He had also said that there are a number of people from Bihar in his state so train should be provided there. If he says so, if they give this mandate then *(Interruptions)*\*... have said that no Bihari will have to go out and all will get means of livelihood and employment there. I would like to announce that they *(Interruptions)*\*... we shall withdraw all the trains and the labourers who have gone out side. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The name should be removed because he is not present in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: This matter should be clarified, you have said this. Lalan ji please listen.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not that only the labourers of Bihar travel in trains. Other passengers also travel in them. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: NDA Government should get ready to provide work and employment to every person. You provide employment. ...*(Interruptions)* Lalan ji one should listen. Later on everything will come. Why do you give them undue liberty. One should accept whatever is true or realistic. You have said. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Lалуji, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

*[Translation]*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, it is alleged that our people, our labourers have migrated. ...*(Interruptions)* We very patiently listened to Mr. Swain. We asked him in the night

\* Not recorded.

and also invited him to speak. He said 'You have given so much to Orissa that we are not able to speak now'. So we did not give. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): He is blaming me for others' speech. It might be some one else who said so, I did not say such things. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: OK. Please sit down. He is not left with anything to speak about or to deliver speech on Orissa. So, I want to say in the House with complete responsibility that those who have said that-labourers have migrated from Bihar and we have become powerless. I am prepared to send all the labourers which are outside Bihar on the train free of cost but please ensure the guarantee of employment at the other end. So far as return is concerned, we shall arrange their return by rail.

If it is found that the budget falls short of trains in some particular area we will provide them, there are no two opinions about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Lалуji, please address the Chair.

*[Translation]*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, some honourable Members have expressed their apprehensions about the allocations of funds for the railway projects. Improvement of the State formula is the basis for it, infact for the on going old projects. I have already said that our emphasis is that an amount of Rs 25000 crores was sanctioned by whatever Government was in power whether it was on political consideration or in the public interest. For a project with an outlay of Rs 500 crore, only Rs two, three or five crore are allocated. Therefore, we want that even if we have to take loan for this purpose or if honourable Finance Minister, Shri Chidambaram comes to our help, it will be our endeavour to complete these projects, otherwise cancellation of ongoing projects will result in depression among the people. This is the fact, which I want to place before the House. Except the projects of doubling and electrification, the budgetary support for the rest of the projects amongst the states has been made on the basis of prevalent formula. Besides for the construction of four mega bridges, a provision of budgetary support to the tune of Rs 500 crore has been made. Rs 1750 crore have been provided for the scheme being implemented by the

Railway Development Corporation. For this purpose. Rs 750 crores will be provided as budgetary support, Rs 500 crore from the capital fund and Rs 500 crore through market borrowings. Apart from it, with a view to accelerate completion of the throughput promotion schemes, an amount of Rs 1600 crores will be spent through capital fund. This year, the entire fund for the doubling schemes has been arranged from the capital fund. Sir, I would like to assure the House that shortage of funds will not be allowed to come in the way of the works like throughput promotion and passenger amenities and during the year, the required additional amount will be made available, depending upon the progress of the scheme.

Sir, here I would like to mention particularly about the provision of funds for the national projects such as Udampur-Shrinagar-Baramula, Kumarghat-Agartala, Ziribalm-Imphal Road new lines and Lumbding-Silchar-Ziribalm gauge conversion. In the current year Rs 1165 crore has been provided for these projects. Next year Rs 2092 crore would be required for these projects. The funds will be made available by the Ministry of Finance depending upon the progress of the project during the year.

The Chief Minister of Maharashtra and several hon. Members have requested me to provide additional rail services in metropolitan city of Mumbai. Shrimati Bhawana Gawali had requested to increase allocation for the Purna-Akola-rail line. I accord top priority to women MPs. I had called them and had get their demands noted down. She is good at speaking, as her style of speech resembles Shri Bilasrao's style.

Sir, a group of leaders under the leadership of Shri Basu Deb Acharia has handed over a memorandum to me bearing signatures of more than one lakh persons to introduce railway service between Borivali to Virar. In view of public demand, I have decided to introduce 40 new intercity services in Mumbai during the year 2006-07 and have also decided to convert nearly 70 trains with 9 boggie into 12 boggie trains. This will benefit the daily passengers commuting on the Borivalli-Virar section alongwith the entire Mumbai intercity service. A special train would also be introduced. I have given special attention to that because a lot of difficulties are being over there.

Sir, in my Budget speech I had made an announcement to construct a Dedicated Freight Corridor on the Western and Eastern routes with an estimated cost of 22

thousands crore Rupees. On special insistence of the leftist colleague I had issued instructions to connect the routes going to the parts situated near Kolkata with the eastern corridor, which I mentioned in my Budget speech. Kolkata Port trust is planning to make expansion of Diamond Harbour, and Government is considering to construct a port suitable for containers and ships loaded with petro products. Import export traffic is supposed to increase with South East Asian countries and China, Japan etc. under the 'look East' policy of the Government. Once again, I would like to assure including my leftist colleagues in regard to my Budget speech that all the necessary actions will be taken without delay for the development of necessary rail infrastructure and freight corridor in the interest of West Bengal particularly for the development of ports situated near Kolkata. I would like to say my leftist friends including Basudev dada- "Bane chahe dushman Jamana Hamara, Salamat Rahe Dostana Hamara". Red salute to all of you.

Sir, the Members of Parliament of all the political parties of Andhra Pradesh have given me a memorandum regarding extension and development of rail network. A total outlay of Rs 22 crore has been fixed for the State for the year 2006-07 which is sufficiently higher than the last year's allocation. Rs 68 crore have been given for accelerated completion of doubling of Gutli to Renigunta rail line. I would like to assure the House that there would not be shortage of funds for this scheme. A proposal for construction of new line from Jagiapet to Mallacheruvi and Vishnupuram to Janpahad has been sent to Planning Commission for clearance. I have given directions that necessary action for clearance for this scheme be completed within the next month. Sufficient additional funds will be provided according to the progress of work for gauge conversion of Dharmavaran-Pakala. We have sent the proposal for gauge conversion of Ankleshwar Rajpipla rail line to the Planning Commission for clearance, respecting the feelings of Members of Parliament.

The survey work for laying new railway line from Darbhanga to Kusheshwar has already been completed. A proposal for the approval of this project also is being sent to the Planning Commission. The Oil and Natural Gas Commission has granted its approval for providing 50 percent of the funds required for the construction of Pannoli railway over bridge. I have given directions for immediate approval of this work. Many other hon'ble Members have requested for the construction of railway over bridges in

their constituencies. I would like to assure all the hon'ble Members that immediate approval for this would be granted once the consent from the concerned State Government is received to bear 50 percent of the construction cost.

All the hon'ble Members of Parliament from Kerala State have demanded for introducing a Superfast Train between Bangalore and Trivendrum and also for doubling, electrification and gauge conversion of some important routes. Their demands are bonafide and genuine.

[English]

There are certain difficulties, but I will look into it seriously.

[Translation]

The Members from Assam State have also requested to conduct a survey for gauge conversion between Durlabhchara to Baraigram, to expedite the gauge conversion work between Katakhal-Bhairabi as well as for speedy completion of the work of laying new railway line between New Mainaguri and Jogighopa and to set up a sleeper factory in Assam. I would like to assure the House that the interests of Kerala and Assam will be kept in mind and timely action would be taken upon all the reasonable demands.

[English]

People know the difficulty very well. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Further I would say. ...*(Interruptions)* A new line between Bangalore to Satyamangalam via Kanakpura, Chamrajnagar is an approved project. The final location survey work has already been completed from Bangalore to Chamrajnagar via Kanakpura and survey work is in progress between Chamrajnagar to Satyamangalam which is a forest area. As soon as this is completed further action would be initiated for the construction of this railway line. On the request of hon'ble Members, I have issued instructions to conduct survey for a new railway line between Jejo to Shri Anandpur Sahib via Garhshankar. This will connect Amritsar, the city of historic Golden Temple and Shri Anandpur Sahib, the famous Gurudwara of Sikhs with each other. Instructions have been issued to conduct a survey for the construction of Gopalpur-Raigarh railway link. Instructions have also been issued for speedy

completion of the survey work for laying new railway line between Hansdiha and Godda. Keeping in view the request made by hon'ble Members of Parliament from Arunachal Pradesh, I have taken a decision to get a survey conducted for laying new railway line in the present Budget from Murkong Salik in Assam to Paasighat in Arunachal Pradesh.

Sir, a delegation of handicapped people had met me recently. I would like to assure them, through this House, that railway will take due care for their welfare and facilities. Facilities like Parking, ramp, toilets, drinking water, tap etc. are being constructed in a phased manner in the Indian railways as per the requirements of handicapped people. Taking distinctive care of the needs of handicapped persons with reference to trains 1200 new coaches have already been added to trains and very soon such coaches would be added to all the Mail and Express trains also. If there is a handicapped person who is blind or deaf and who is sitting at platform No.1 to catch a train from there and the train arrives on platform No.2, then these people get confused. Therefore, we are going to introduce a system for such people who are unable to see so that they can be informed through the electronic system that the train would be arriving at platform number 2. We will make all the other necessary arrangements required for such people.

Sir, we have taken into account all the issues raised by hon'ble Members. Our senior leader Shri Harin Pathak ji has demanded that a new weekly train should be introduced between Ahmadabad to Amritsar in the interest of the general public.

[English]

I will look into it seriously so that no hardship will be faced by the people.

[Translation]

Our hon'ble Member Shri Ashok Argal and other hon'ble Members from Madhya Pradesh, were carrying out a protest at the Muraina railway station of Northern Central Railway. Their demand was to provide a stoppage to the Sachkhand Express and Karnataka Express at the Muraina railway station. If Members from Madhya Pradesh are present in the House, then I would like to inform them that we will provide stoppage of these trains at Muraina. But the passengers will have to be careful there because Muraina is an ill reputed area. Our attention has been

drawn towards the need for gauge conversion between Gwalior to Shyonpur Kalan-Kota. We are looking into this. ...*(Interruptions)* I am coming to all the points. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, our upcoming Member of Parliament Shri Naveen Jindalji has given some valuable suggestions in his speech. We will seriously consider those suggestions. He has demanded that Kurukshetra should be developed as a model station. I would like to assure hon'ble Member, Shri Jindal ji that Kurukshetra is a holy place. We have also fought a battle on that land under the leadership of lord Shri Krishna. We will definitely make Krukshetra a model station:

Hon'ble Member Shri Ram Kripal Yadavji has demanded that a railway line should be laid from Aurangabad to Bihata. We are seriously looking into this. We are paying our attention towards the Magadh Express also. Hon'ble Member, Shri Dushyant Singh ji has drawn our attention towards various schemes of Rajasthan, State regarding tourism. I would like to assure Shri Dushyant Singh ji that we will talk to hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan and take whatever necessary action that would be required for Rajasthan. This is there in our mind. Our next hon'ble Member, Shri Ashok Pradhan ji has demanded a dedicated Freight Corridor Terminal to be constructed at Khurja. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): You have not mentioned about the extension and increasing the frequency of trains. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Shrimati Kiran Maheshwariji as well as all the hon'ble Members have put forward their demands. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH (Bhind): Bhind has been left. Please tell us about Bhind. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I have not completed my reply yet. I will tell everything. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): Hon'ble Minister have taken my name but he did not say anything about what he has done. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I have already spoken to her. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Please throw some light as to what he is going to do regarding gauge conversion in respect of Ahmedabad? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I will not say anything without going through the file. If I say something then it may turn opposite. I will see that file. I have already spoken to her in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)* I have not finished my reply yet, therefore, he should sit down. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to inform all the hon'ble Members that we are going to introduce a train in the honour of Gandhi Baba, in the name of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, from his work place Motihari. ...*(Interruptions)* We will run that train upto Porbandar.

I have taken into account all that has been said by hon'ble Members. I will take cognizance and reply to all the questions raised by all the hon'ble Members. I would request you all that for the Railway Budget 2006-07. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS (Nagaur): What cognizance you are taking? I have been visiting you since last two years. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I had told you that your work would be done.

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS: Where the work has been done? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: If that work has not been done, then it will be done now. It is not going to be finalized today itself.

I would request the House to grant its approval to vote on accounts for the year 2006-07 Supplementary Demands for the current year 2005-2006 and demand for access Grants for 2003-04 and the appropriation Bills in respect of Railways, therefore, we will take up the remaining items of business. With these words, I would like to conclude my speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): You should at least give an assurance here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai, South-Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, nothing has been provided for the Mumbai suburban railway. In protest of this, I walk out from the House.

13.56 hrs.

*(Shri Mohan Rawale then left the House)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 2006-07 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2007, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 16."

*Demands for Grants on Accounts (Railways) for 2006-07 submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grants on Account submitted to the vote of the House (Rs.)
1	Railway Board	14,16,73,000
2	Miscellaneous Expenditure (General)	46,59,27,000
3	General Superintendence and Services on Railways	359,62,02,000
4	Repairs and Maintenance of Permanent Way and Works	659,72,21,000
5	Repairs and Maintenance of Motive Power	355,94,07,000
6	Repairs and Maintenance of Carriages and Wagons	717,86,62,000
7	Repairs and Maintenance of Plant and Equipment	386,15,41,000
8	Operating Expenses-Rolling Stock and Equipment	529,09,58,000
9	Operating Expenses - Traffic	1778,54,77,000
10	Operating Expenses - Fuel	1812,59,70,000
11	Staff Welfare and Amenities	289,92,42,000
12	Miscellaneous Working Expenses	309,30,53,000
13	Provident Fund, Pension and Other Retirement Benefits	1325,96,98,000
14	Appropriation to Funds	3208,32,33,000
15	Dividend to General Revenues, Repayment of loans taken from General Revenues and Amortization of Over-Capitalisation	4,28,12,000
16	Assets-Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	
	Revenue	8,33,33,000
	<i>Other Expenditure</i>	
	Capital	3926,07,57,000
	Railway Funds	2411,44,00,000
	Railway Safety Fund	118,47,00,000
	Special Railway Safety Fund	391,66,17,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18654,08,83,000</b>

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2005-2006 to the Vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective Supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of

the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2006, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 16."

*Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2005-2006  
submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Supplementary Demands for Grants to be submitted to the vote of the House (Rs.)
1	2	3
3	General Superintendence and Services on Railways	62,67,08,000
4	Repairs and Maintenance of Permanent Way and Works	35,04,35,000
6	Repairs and Maintenance of Carriage and Wagons	144,46,78,000
10	Operating Expenses - Fuel	1013,25,87,000
11	Staff Welfare and Amenities	43,72,56,000
12	Miscellaneous Working Expenses	18,61,43,000
13	Provident Fund, Pension and Other Retirement Benefits	77,67,58,000
14	Appropriation to Funds	3982,55,00,000
16	Assets-Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	
	Revenue	4,88,72,000
	<b>Other Expenditure</b>	
	Capital	1054,45,07,000
	Railway Funds	2659.62,89,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9096,97,33,000</b>

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2003-2004 to the Vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective excess sums not exceeding the

amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to make good the excess on the respective grants during the year ended the 31st day of March, 2004, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 14, 15 and 16."

*List of Demand for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2003-04 submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Excess Grants submitted to the Vote of the House (Rs.)
14	Appropriation to Funds	681,61,81,059
15	Dividend to General Revenues, Repayment of Loans taken from General Revenues and Amortization of Over-Capitalization	71,66,71,479
16	Assets-Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	
	<i>Other Expenditure</i>	
	<i>Capital</i>	239,45,64,876
	Special Railway Safety Fund	132,53,79, 722
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1125,27,98,936</b>

*The motion was adopted.*

13.59 hrs.

**APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) VOTE ON ACCOUNT BILL, 2006\***

of the financial year 2006-07 for the purposes of Railways."

*The motion was adopted.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Item No. 14.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now introduce the Bill.

[Translation]

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I introduce\*\* the Bill.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2006-07 for the purposes of Railways."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Item No.15.

[Translation]

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2006-07 for the purposes of Railways to be taken into consideration."

\* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2, dated 3.3.2006.

\*\* Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2006-07 for the purposes of Railways be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

14.00 hrs.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.*

*The Schedule was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

14.01 hrs.

### APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) BILL, 2006\*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Supplementary List of Business, item no. 15A.

\* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part - II, Section-2, dated 3.3.2006

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2005-06 for the purposes of the Railways.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the leave be granted to introduce the bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2005-06 for the purposes of Railways."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now introduce the Bill.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I introduce \*\* the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Supplementary List of Business, item number 15B.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2005-06 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2005-06 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

\*\*Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

*Clause 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.*

*The Schedule was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

14.02 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 2 BILL, 2006\*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up supplementary List of Business, item no. 15-C.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st March, 2004 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st March, 2004 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I introduce\*\* the Bill.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Supplementary List of Business - item number 15D.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2004 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2004 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.*

*The Schedule was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

\* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 3.3.2006

\*\* Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

14.06 hrs.

**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005**

**Amendments made by Rajya Sabha**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we take up item no. 16. The hon. Minister may move for consideration of amendments.

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): I beg to move:

"That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill further to amend the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, be taken into consideration:-

**ENACTING FORMULA**

1. That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Fifty-sixth", the word "Fifty-seventh" be substituted.

**Clause-1**

2. That at page 1, line 3, for the figure "2005", the figure "2006" be substituted.

**Clause-19**

3. That at page 9, lines 29 and 31, for the figure "2005", occurring at both places, the figure "2006" be substituted."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill further to amend the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, be taken into consideration:-

**ENACTING FORMULA**

1. That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Fifty-sixth", the word "Fifty-seventh" be substituted.

**Clause-1**

2. That at page 1, line 3, for the figure "2005", the figure "2006" be substituted.

**Clause-19**

3. That at page 9, lines 29 and 31, for the figure

"2005", occurring at both places, the figure "2006" be substituted."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We shall now take up the amendments made by Rajya Sabha.

The question is:

**ENACTING FORMULA**

1. That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Fifty-sixth", the word "Fifty-seventh" be substituted.

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

**Clause-1**

2. That at page 1, line 3, for the figure "2005", the figure "2006" be substituted.

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

**Clause-19**

3. That at page 9, lines 29 and 31, for the figure "2005", occurring at both places, the figure "2006" be substituted.

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: I beg to move:

"That the amendments made in the Bill by Rajya Sabha be agreed to."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the amendments made in the Bill by Rajya Sabha be agreed to."

*The motion was adopted.*

14.10 hrs.

**COST AND WORKS ACCOUNTANTS  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005**

**Amendments made by Rajya Sabha**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we take up Item no. 17. The hon. Minister may move the motion for consideration of amendments.

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): I beg to move:

"That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill further to amend the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959, be taken into consideration:

**ENACTING FORMULA**

1. That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Fifty-sixth"; the word "Fifty-seventh" be *substituted*.

**Clause-1**

2. That at page 1, line 3, for the figure "2005", the figure "2006" be *substituted*.

**Clause-20**

3. That at page 9, lines 39 and 41, for the figure "2005" occurring at both places, the figure "2006" be *substituted*."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill further to amend the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959, be taken into consideration:

**ENACTING FORMULA**

1. That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Fifty-sixth", the word "Fifty-seventh" be *substituted*.

**Clause-1**

2. That at page 1, line 3, for the figure "2005", the figure "2006" be *substituted*.

**Clause-20**

3. That at page 9, lines 39 and 41, for the figure "2005" occurring at both places, the figure "2006" be *substituted*."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We shall now take up the amendments made by Rajya Sabha.

**ENACTING FORMULA**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Fifty-sixth", the word "Fifty-seventh" be *substituted*.

*The motion was adopted.*

**Clause-1**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

That at page 1, line 3, for the figure "2005", the figure "2006" be *substituted*.

*The motion was adopted.*

**Clause-20**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

That at page 9, lines 39 and 41, for the figure "2005" occurring at both places, the figure "2006" be *substituted*.

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to."

*The motion was adopted.*

14.11 hrs.

**COMPANY SECRETARIES  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005**

**Amendments made by Rajya Sabha**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we take up item no. 18. The hon. Minister may move the motion for consideration of the amendments.

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): I beg to move:

"That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill further to amend the Company Secretaries Act, 1980, be taken into consideration:

**ENACTING FORMULA**

1. That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Fifty-sixth", the word "Fifty-seventh" be substituted.

**Clause-1**

2. That at page 1, line 2, for the figure "2005", the figure "2006" be substituted.

**Clause-20**

3. That at page 9, lines 46 and 48, for the figure "2005" occurring at both places, the figure "2006" be substituted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill further to amend the Company Secretaries Act, 1980, be taken into consideration:

**ENACTING FORMULA**

1. That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Fifty-sixth", the word "Fifty-seventh" be substituted.

**Clause-1**

2. That at page 1, line 2, for the figure "2005", the figure "2006" be substituted.

**Clause-20**

3. That at page 9, lines 46 and 48, for the figure "2005" occurring at both places, the figure "2006" be substituted.

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We shall now take up the amendments made by Rajya Sabha.

**ENACTING FORMULA**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Fifty-sixth", the word "Fifty-seventh" be substituted.

*The motion was adopted.*

**Clause-1**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

That at page 1, line 2, for the figure "2005", the figure "2006" be substituted.

*The motion was adopted.*

**Clause-20**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

That at page 9, lines 46 and 48, for the figure "2005" occurring at both places, the figure "2006" be substituted.

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: I beg to move:

"That the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to."

*The motion was adopted.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3.30 p.m.

14.12 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.*

16.10 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at \* ten minutes past  
Sixteen of the Clock.*

(SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*)

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, we will now take Private Members' Business.

Item No. 19, Shri Thupstan Chhewang.

**MOTION RE: NINETEENTH REPORT OF  
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS  
AND RESOLUTIONS**

SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN (Ladakh): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Nineteenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 2nd March, 2006."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Nineteenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 2nd March, 2006."

*The motion was adopted.*

16.11 hrs.

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS – Introduced**

**(I) Forest Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2005\*  
(Insertion of new Section 3 C)**

*[Translation]*

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

\* At 1530 hours quorum bell was rung. No quorum was made. At 1534 hours quorum bell was rung again and no quorum was made. At 1538 hours once again quorum bell was rung and no quorum was made. Thereafter, the Secretary-General informed the members present as follows:

"Hon. Members, there is no quorum in the House. The House cannot meet till there is a quorum. The hon. Deputy Speaker has directed that the House will re-assemble at 4 p.m. today."

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980".

*The motion was adopted.*

*[Translation]*

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: I introduce the Bill.

16.12 hrs.

**(II) Special Irrigation Development Fund  
(For Forest Areas) Bill, 2005\***

*[Translation]*

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of a Special Irrigation Development fund for the developmental of irrigation facilities in the forest areas and for matter connected therein.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce\*\* a Bill to provide for the setting up of a Special Irrigation Development Fund for the development of irrigation facilities in the forest areas and for matters connected therewith."

*The motion was adopted.*

*[Translation]*

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: I introduce the Bill.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Subodh Mohite – not present

Shri Chengara Surendran – not present

Shri C.K. Chandrappan – not present

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\*\* Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

Shri P. Karunakaran – not present

Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul – not present

Shri Mohan Singh – not present

16.14 hrs.

**Private Members' Bill –  
Under consideration**

**CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004**

**(Insertion of new article 45A), Contd.**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, we will now take further consideration of the Bill moved by Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy. Dr. P. P. Koya was on his legs, and he can continue with his speech.

Dr. P. P. Koya – *not present*

Shri B. Mahtab, you are the next speaker in the list to speak on the Bill introduced by Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Please try and give a very lengthy and inspiring speech.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): I will try to live up to your expectations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The idea behind moving this Bill is to provide free nutritious food to all children with free and compulsory education by the State, and for this purpose he has asked for insertion of a new article, namely, article 45A. Therefore, I would like to thank Shri S. Sudhakar Reddy, the hon. Member of this House for moving this Bill.

This Bill actually relates to three aspects of the genuine problem which faces the children of our country.

- Children who do not get access to come to the primary school to pursue their education, to pursue their studies;
- Children who do not get access to nutritious food; and
- Children who are forced because of social and economic compulsions to earn their livelihood by spending their youth or childhood as labourers.

To attend to that problem of the children of our country, especially the underprivileged, undernourished children of our country, is the target.

Generally, children get free and compulsory education in Government schools, who come from poor strata of society. Today, in this country, basically, we have three types of schools. One type of school is run privately, but they are named as 'public schools'. One type of schools are run by different societies, like Saraswati Shishu Mandir, Aurobindo Shiksha Kendra, Satya Sai Sewa Anushtan, etc. These are different types of schools and not generally private schools which are run by different Missionaries or different Trusts. This is a different type of school or 'B' grade school which are affiliated to different State Secondary Boards. The third one is the Government school, which for all practical terms, are public schools, but they are termed as 'Government Schools'. We have a three tier stratification of schooling in the society.

The Government's attempt, in its wisdom, in the last 10 to 15 years, has been that they will target the Government schools; they will target schools that are run by municipal bodies or local bodies; they will target those schools which have come under Education Guarantee Scheme; they will target those schools, known as Alternative and Innovative Education. That is a different branch run by the HRD Ministry. Their attempt is also to target Government-aided schools. These are the schools where Mid-day Meal is being provided.

Mid-day Meal is nothing new for us. Initially, it was in Japan – it must be in 1805 AD or 1806 AD – when first free lunch was provided to school children in one private school. That private school, looking at the plight of the children, first initiated this Scheme in the whole world. Japan was the first country which initiated this Mid-day Meal Scheme in a different way in Japan. Corporation of Madras, I would say, was the first Corporation – it was in 1925 or 1926 – which initiated this Scheme to provide Mid-day Meals in the schools which were run by the Corporation, during that time. Subsequently, in 1982, the Government of Tamil Nadu initiated this in a larger sphere throughout the State to provide Mid-day Meals in the entire State. Subsequently, States like Pondicherry, Orissa, and Madhya Pradesh followed that example. In these four States, Mid-day Meal was started to provide nutritious food during the lunch time to the school children. Later on, in the 1990s, the decision was taken by the Central Government that all

primary schools will be provided with Mid-day Meals and, accordingly, financial support was given, and FCI was instructed to provide foodgrains to respective State Governments so that it could be distributed to all schools.

There are certain inherent problems in this. Food is a basic need of the people. Many children in our country suffer from malnutrition and under-nutrition. Proper nourishment is required for their better physical health. A healthy society can develop if only its children are healthy. When nutritious food is provided by the Government free of cost to the children pursuing education, they will not have to work for food.

In the early 50s, to educate people living in the Scheduled areas an attempt was made by the respective State Governments with the support of the Central Government. The concept of Ashram schools was introduced then. Children were selected from villages and were brought to these Ashram schools which were basically residential schools. They were specifically meant for adivasis or Scheduled Tribes. I am sorry to mention that for the last ten to fifteen years, those schools have been closing down gradually. The financial support needed is not being provided to them. There is some problem somewhere. Flow of funds also is a problem. Students are not coming to the schools and teachers who are engaged in those schools in different States are also leaving.

The same problem is there in our State also. For the last three or four years, no financial support is provided to the teachers. No support is provided to the students. Even the dresses which were supposed to be given to children were also not being supplied regularly in certain States today.

We talk about providing nutritious food to school children. But we have two types of schooling. One is the primary level and the other is the secondary level. The Government has made a distinction in the primary level education. Mid-day meals are being provided to children studying from Class-1 to Class-5. But primary level does not end at Class-5. It goes up to Class-7. Most of the primary schools provide education up to Class-7, but food is being provided to children up to Class-5 only. You can imagine the situation in a school where students up to Class-5 are provided mid-day meal and students in Class-6 and Class-7 are not provided mid-day meal. This is a problem which is created inside the school campus.

The food provided under this scheme should be of good calorific value. The Government is providing rice, some Dal, a little bit of oil and some vegetable. Some people are asked by the Government or the Inspector of Schools to purchase these things and provide it to the children. Two people are provided to every school to run this scheme. Earlier their remuneration was not counted in. Later on, the Government started providing money for the cook and the person who would serve the food. But that remuneration is not being paid regularly every month to those people. Some money is now being provided. But there is a demand that this allowance should be enhanced.

Sometime before, the Orissa Government had decided to provide one egg each to the students under the mid-day meal scheme. However, after the bird flu scare surfaced in a very big way in the country, that practice has been discontinued.

In West Bengal, fish, for instance, is provided every two weeks in some respective schools. It all depends on the school who organises it; it all depends on the Village Education Committee which is formed for these primary schools. How much interest they take in this mid-day meal scheme? At the same time, I would also like to say that the news has also been flashed in different newspapers that even in Delhi, two years ago, food poisoning has taken place in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi-run schools where a number of students were sent to hospitals and they were in hospitals for three or four days to get treatment. This is not only the situation in Delhi alone, a number of States have been affected because of not cooking the food in a better manner.

I would also like to state that illiteracy is a big threat for our country. Widening the scope of basic education is definitely going to play a preventive role in reducing human insecurity. This is the view of Dr. Amartya Sen.

In India, commitment to universalisation of education is not lacking as much as fulfilment of the goal. India's illiteracy rate today is 65 per cent as compared to the global average of 80 per cent. India accounts for 30 per cent of the world's adult illiteracy. At the same time, out of 21 crore children in the age group of 6 and 14, about 20 per cent do not have access to basic education. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, which we have started, is making an attempt to bring this 20 per cent into the primary education fold. But we have around 21 crore children who are in the age group of 6 and 14. You can imagine that it

[Shri B. Mahtab]

is not that the whole lot of children will be provided with mid-day meal; but the whole lot of children are in need of nutritious food. But only a very small fraction have access to nutritious food whereas a large number of children go without one meal a day. This is the precarious condition of our children in this country. All this persists despite having several governmental programmes.

On the many incentive schemes to encourage primary school education, the mid-day meal scheme is the most popular scheme. There is no doubt about this. The school feeding programme, as I have said, needs proper monitoring by the local teachers and the local education committee. At the same time, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, through you, the instances that have come to light. For example, false registers are maintained or for that matter when the grains arrive in the school, the next day, the attendance is more. Later on, the attendance is not that much. False billing is made because of transportation. All this has come to light not only by the media, this has been reported by the C&AG Report. All these things are there in the C&AG Report.

Here, I would like to say that proper mechanism should be built to check the pilferage. Unless we check the pilferage, this programme will not give us the desired results. Our attempt should be that we want to bring in the children to the schools so that he or she would study and spend more time. The UN Report, which is called the Global School Feeding Report, says that this programme often doubles the enrolment within a year.

It produces 40 per cent improvement in academic performance; children stay in schools longer; and the expense is minimum. These are the four instances, which this UNA Report gives. They have made a study in different parts of this world. But studies in India indicate that other than attendance and retention, the child gets nutritious food. That is the main issue, which Mr. Reddy, the Mover of this Bill is insisting upon that we have to bring the child to the school, provide him other than education, the nutritious food so that we can build up a healthy society.

The scheme has achieved, at least, some social goals like reducing the gender gap. It has challenged the class and caste prejudice. When people sit on the verandah of a school together, a revolution is taking place in the minds of the children. It is transforming the mindset

of the society. One can clearly understand as to how this revolution is taking place in our country. But I still fear that this Mid-Day Meal Scheme may be still running on an ad hoc basis. The malice is there. In the primary schools on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, crores of rupees are being funded now; infrastructure is being created; school building are being created; a number of teachers are being appointed; and Sahayak Shiksha Karmis are being appointed. These things are going on.

In addition to this, our attempts should also be to restrict the interference of the cooking of meals inside the campus with the education that is being imparted in the schools, because many primary schools in other States unlike Delhi start at 10 o'clock; and their recess is at around 1200 noon to 1230 hours; and their school continues till 4 o'clock. So, every child is supposed to spend around six hours in his school. And, the Mid-Day Meal is provided during the lunch-break, during the recess. To cook that meal, though two persons are appointed, once the meal is being cooked, the students get the fragrance; and their mind get diverted. So, how to separate that?

Sir, I have seen in my Constituency a number of schools which do not have even the kitchen rooms. Now, MPLADS has come to the rescue, and in many schools we have constructed the kitchen rooms. Now, at least, neat and clean kitchen rooms can be provided. Of course, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is building three rooms, five rooms as class rooms; and we have also organised funding through different schemes where 24 hour water connectivity with toilets are there.

But now, in this year 2005-06, we have started constructing kitchen rooms so that this meal may be cooked in a proper manner. But it is cooked inside the school campus. That problem is coming up. I am unable to convince the parents, teachers and the school education committee. I would be happy if I could get a remedy from this House as to how to separate these two aspects.

I would also say that some States and some organisations in different States are reluctant today - they were reluctant earlier also - to provide wholesome meal. In Orissa also, at one point of time, the Government had, in its wisdom, decided that it would not provide cooked meal, but they would only provide the grains to the children; the children will cook the food in their houses and come to the schools. So, the responsibility is shifted to the parents;

that did not serve the purpose. Thus, it was decided that it would be better if food is cooked in the educational institutions and provided there itself. But at the same time, I would also remind this House that it was after repeated judicial pronouncements that this Mid-Day Meal is given effect to throughout the country.

But the problem here is that in 2003-04, out of a total of 10.5 crore enrolled children in primary schools, only 53 per cent of the children were provided with cooked meal. By December 2004, this is the report that I have, eight States including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Assam were yet to extend full coverage of the meal. These are inherent defects. I would be happy if I am enlightened as to what is the position today. We have 21 crore children between the ages of six and fourteen. Twenty per cent of them do not come to school.

Leaving that aside, may we know whether the intake of different States is up to the level, that they are being provided with Mid-Day Meal? Only in this arithmetic, we can understand how successful this Mid-Day Meal is. Of course, meal is not the basic objective of the primary school. After the meal, a student gets drowsiness and perhaps feels that his purpose of coming to the school is already served.

Feeding takes quite a lot of time. Normally the recess in a primary school is only for about 15-20 minutes or a maximum of half-an-hour. But to sit down together, have a meal, wash the utensil and to come back takes much more time. In a district of my Constituency, I have tried to explain to the primary level teachers also and also to the Education Department, as to why can we not start the school at 6.30 am. or 7 am. so that children after finishing their Mid-Day Meal, can go back to their houses, instead of staying back at the school till 4 o'clock. It is better that school is over in the first phase so that they take the meal and go back to their houses. Of course, in some States, it may be difficult to organise this. But there are many States where if this idea is floated, that can be done.

There is nothing more to say. I would only like to impress upon the Government, not to confine this Mid-Day Meal Scheme only up to Class- V level. Please increase it up to Class-VII so that the whole primary section is covered. The Government has to ensure proper movement of food grains to the respective districts and respective

States and ensure that the respective States take the food grain that is allotted to them according to the average strength of the children.

Thirdly, the flow of fund to the cook and the server, the two persons who are being provided money from the Central Government Budget, should also be regular.

Lastly, to make it a better nutritious food a little more amount should be provided. Some more amount should be provided so that instead of wheat flour other nutritious things can be provided. Respective State Governments are giving fish, egg or meat at least once in three months. Dal is an important ingredient which can give strength to the children. This will help the children in a bigger way to build a healthy society and a healthy nation. With these words I support the Bill.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Thank you for the opportunity given to me to speak on this Bill moved by Shri Sudhakar Reddy. This Bill, as the earlier speaker was commenting, is intended to ensure free and compulsory education to children in the age group of 6-14. This Bill seeks to insert a new article 45 (a) in the Indian Constitution. Article 45 states:

"The State shall endeavour to provide within a period of ten years from the commencement of this Constitution for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of 14 years."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you reading from the Constitution?

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Yes, Sir. Shri Reddy wants to insert one more section after 45 in the form of 45 (a).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you reading the Directive Principles of the State Policy?

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Yes, Sir. According to his contention, to ensure free and compulsory education compulsory feeding of the children or the nutritional support is a desideratum or is a pre-condition.

I fully agree that nutrition to the children at the early age is an imperative need in view of the fact that the social set up in which we live today has got a lot of disparities and dichotomies which produce vast inequalities in the endowment of food or nutrition to the people. Especially, if you see in the Indian context, we have rural

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

children and urban children. In the case of rural areas we have more deprived sections of children. Within the rural areas we have caste-wise disparities. We have gender disparities. We have Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribe and OBC children and all these children have different kinds of disabilities. Their parents are poor. Most of them live below poverty line. Most of them remain unemployed or under-employed or even disguisedly unemployed. The purchasing power in the hands of this section of people is very low and, therefore, they are unable to feed their children properly. They think that every child born is an asset to them because after ten or eleven years each child can get more to the assets or the income of the family rather than going to the school and remaining in the school without earning. That is why the incidence of child labour in India is increasing. Each child is expected to supplement the poor or the lower income of the family.

Therefore, the poverty-stricken families have a great dilemma whether to send the child to the school to get education or to send the child either for fishing or for farming which can fetch them Rs.10 or Rs.15. It can get them eking out a livelihood for them. When this great dilemma is there, we have to wean away children from the clutches of poverty and put them into schools. Therefore, the Government will have to provide free, hygienic and nutritious food to children so that it serves two purposes. The first purpose is that the Government of India has been clamouring to provide universal education to the children. This universalisation is possible if we are able to retain the children in the school by way of providing nutritious food.

The second purpose is that nutritious food also has got a subsidiary objective of increasing the health of children. These children are going to be the human resource who will enter into different walks of life in future. So, we have to keep in mind the health point of view of the children also. Therefore, nutritious food has got a greater impact on the children both education-wise as well as health-wise. Therefore, it is now universally accepted that we have to provide nutritious food.

Mr. Mahtab was quoting the example of Japan and also the example of Chennai Corporation. I should only add to say that it was Mr. Chintanai Chirpi Singaravelar who as a member of the Corporation, introduced, for the first time, the concept of Mid-Day Meal Scheme. He is the

first in many respects. Sir, as a member of the Marxist Party, you must be knowing that he was the first trade union leader. He was the first person who organised the labour movement in India. He was the first to introduce Mid-Day Meal Scheme in the Chennai Corporation.

Later Perunthalivar Kamaraj, the great champion of the poor and the down-trodden people of Tamil Nadu was the first Chief Minister in the whole country who introduced this Scheme. Thanks to that Scheme, the Government of Tamil Nadu was able to make faster progress in the field of education and gave all people who were out of the schools and who never dreamt of education, a chance to come to the fold of education. They have become great leaders today. They have entered as great educationists. They have become politicians, lawyers and have entered into great areas of national activities today, thanks to the Scheme provided by Kamaraj.

Therefore, there are no two opinions on the fact that nutritious food can bring a congenial impact on the enrollment and retention of the children. There is no doubt about it. My only contention is that does it require a constitutional amendment as sought by Mr. Sudhakar Reddy? In my view, achieving universalisation of education is a great goal. It is not a simple function of nutrition alone. If you can have a positive co-relation and if you say that there is 100 per cent co-relation between nutritious food and universalisation of education, there is no difficulty for the Government of India to spend a few crores of rupees. Already the Government has imposed a cess of two per cent and it is earning Rs.4000 crore which is going to be spent on Mid-Day Meal Scheme. Now, we have been providing this facility from 1995. The Government of India implemented this Scheme. What has been the impact? The impact has been rather not phenomenal but peripheral. It has not increased the enrollment ratio. Therefore, there is no one to one correspondence between giving nutritious food and increasing universalisation of education.

No doubt that it is one of the most preponderant factors but that alone cannot achieve universal education as contemplated by article 45. Therefore, by merely inserting article 45(A) and providing nutritious food is not going to achieve the objective of article 45. In my view, achieving the goal of free compulsory education is a complex factor which depends upon a number of independent variables. If you take compulsory and free education as a dependent variable in terms of economics,

I should say that it depends upon a number of factors and unless all these factors are brought into the system and the Government systems and various social systems, it is well nigh impossible to achieve 100 per cent literacy or enrollment and to achieve universalisation of education.

Therefore, we must ponder over many other things, just by inserting a clause and asking more nutrition may not help in improving the situation.

What is the situation today in regard to elementary school education? A number of studies have been conducted on this. The National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) has done a survey, the MHRD has done a number of surveys and various other private agencies also have conducted surveys on this. They have analysed various issues afflicting existing elementary education, or primary school education. What we will have to think is that we have to think global level as far as India is concerned and would have to consider a number of factors which would have a congenial impact on our educational system.

One of the reasons as to why we have not been able to achieve universalisation of education is that the curriculum that we have set is not at all attractive. I can say with authority that especially in the Government schools, the curriculum, the text books and the method of teaching etc. are not attractive to children. I do not know whether the Government has made any assessment of the quality of teachers, work performed by them and their responsibilities etc. We can easily say that the teachers in the private schools, teaching the same curriculum, are doing a better job with a salary of Rs. 1000 or Rs. 1500/- than those teachers of Government schools who are paid around Rs. 8000/- to Rs. 9000/- per month.

What is the type of curriculum that we are giving to the students? Does it make the students think? Does it make the student to introspect on what they are thinking? I have seen a number of schools where children simply mug up what is taught in the class. They are oriented towards examinations. Earlier there was not much competition between private school and Government schools. Now the emphasis has been that the Government schools also should achieve more results. The private schools are achieving 100 per cent result and the Government schools also now are moving towards achieving 100 per cent result. Consequently what has happened is that the Government schools also are tending

to train students in memory based education rather than on imparting skill learning education. We have not done much to improve the skills of the students in our education system.

Sir, to bring to you the reality of the school I would like to say that many of the teachers do not prepare themselves properly; they do not teach properly and they are lackadaisical and indifferent towards the students. As a result of this, when a child goes to school they are either made to play or are made to do whatever they like except for learning anything. Under this kind of a circumstance, the children and parents particularly after some time feel that there is no point in sending their children to the schools. As an example I would like to say that a VIIIth standard student is today unable to solve a simple mathematical problem; he does not know the alphabets properly and he is unable to write even a single letter or give the meaning of a simple word. Since we discourage drop outs, we do not wish to retain a student in one particular class and year after year we promote them to their next class without caring to see whether the student has learnt anything or not. We keep on promoting them till the point where we want them to go. There is now a competition amongst various States to show which State has got a 100 per cent achievement in this sector or in that sphere.

Sir, the Government framed the national curriculum in the year 2005, but how many States have come forward to take up this curriculum in right earnest? How many States have made serious efforts to implement this curriculum at the school level? This is one of the lacunae that has to be removed. We must bring in play-way methods in our teaching. We must be able to inspire confidence amongst students. We must impart moral education through story telling. It is in that the Government should try and fascinate the students to come to schools. When a child comes to a school, he or she should feel the atmosphere to be pleasant. It should be a burden less education. It should not be like burdening the students with so many textbooks, with so much of homework and not burden them with memory based education. If the child feels burdened, then he would try and avoid learning anything.

Therefore, make it as simple as possible and motivate the teachers to impart more skill-based education rather than memory-based education. For that, we must make a deep introspection about the curriculum aspect.

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

The second important thing is that we have been telling from the days of Kothari Commission and from the days of 1964 that the Government should spend 6 per cent of its GDP on education, especially on primary education or elementary education. We have not been able to achieve it. If education has been given greater importance, today in the 58th year of Independence, India would have been the most powerful nation in the world. With the second largest population in the world, if India had given education to all its people, it would have been the most qualitative human resource producing country in the world and it would have outbeaten other countries in terms of economic development. Unfortunately, we have not been able to concentrate on this and we have not been able to spend six per cent of the GDP on education.

We are imposing cess now. We are trying to get more amount of resources. In this year's budget, there has been an increase in the quantum of money that is going to be spent on education. I have calculated the total amount. It does not go to more than 3.5 per cent of the current GDP ratio. When are we going to achieve it? If this amount is not there, then how are we going to create a congenial atmosphere in the classrooms? What is the type of infrastructure that we have in the classrooms, especially in the public schools? How many schools have toilets, how many schools have water supply, how many schools have playgrounds and laboratory classes? Classrooms are not there. When we go by train around 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. beyond Trichy in Tamil Nadu, you can see classrooms under the shades of trees and places like temples. Why is this condition after 58 years of Independence? What kind of education you can give when the train or the bus is passing by and children are sitting under the shades of trees? Their attention would be diverted more towards it. Leave alone whether the teacher is able to teach or not, and even if the teacher teaches in an indifferent way, the attention of the children is attracted towards these kinds of distractions. What kind of input will go into the students? We are not even able to provide this basic norm of qualitative education leave alone quantity education. How are we going to bring quality education if the children are not even provided this simple facility of classrooms?

We are talking about Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. A large number of schemes are brought by the Government. The list that has been given is very attractive. The Government

has given a number of schemes for achieving the goal. But what has happened to all the schemes? You talk in terms of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan including the National Programme for Education of Girls at elementary level, Education Guarantee Scheme on Alternative and Innovative Education, District Primary Education Programme, National Programme - Nutritional Support to Primary Education which is commonly known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Teacher Education and so on. All these schemes are there. But what is the pre-condition? The pre-condition is that students must sit in a place where they feel congenial and comfortable to listen to what the teacher says. When drinking water is not available and in all kinds of inconvenient situations, how do you expect the students to learn? When they do not have anything attractive in the schools, they simply drop out. Even today, the drop-out rate is 34.9 per cent. I do not think the Minister would be able to refute it. It has declined from 39 per cent in 2001-02 to only 34.9 per cent. That means, every year, out of 100 students we admitted in the previous years, 34 to 35 boys go out of the school. Why do they go out? It is because there is no proper classroom, there is no proper infrastructure, there is no proper curriculum and there is no proper teaching. Alternatively, children think that if he goes with his father for fishing, he will get Rs. 15 per day. If he goes with his father who is a farmer, he will get Rs. 20 per day and his father would give him Rs. 5 and he can enjoy his life with that amount.

17.00 hrs.

He thinks as to why I should sit in a monotonous and rotten class room where nothing goes into my brain. The child becomes more rationale. It becomes more profitable for him to be a child labour rather than a student. Therefore, we should be able to address these issues rather than saying that we should provide nutritious food. Of course, I am not undermining the importance of nutritious food. If you work out a multi-factorial model with six or seven independent variables, then nutritious food would be the first factor in that. But all the other factors should also be taken into consideration. So, investment on education must be increased in proportionate to the GDP. Merely increasing the outlay does not make any greater impact. That money should be effectively utilised, in the sense that there should be target-oriented spending. Our hon. Finance Minister now talks in terms of Outcome Budget. Suppose you spend Rs. 100 crore on a particular education programme, you should know how many students are

going to cross the level of illiteracy, how many schools are going to be constructed, how many schools are going to be given the inputs, how many teachers are going to be trained, how much of curriculum improvement is going to be there etc. All these must be outlined. We should see to it that there is an effective and efficacious spending of money. Unless that is there, even if we provide eight per cent of the GDP for education, it would go a waste.

As many scholars of this country have very ruefully and regretfully commented, mere investment on education is not enough. We should see how that money creates assets and literacy among the people. That is more important. In addition to improvement in curriculum, we must orient the teachers towards these things. They should be provided with adequate training institutes and various other facilities.

Coming to education system, I would like to say that the education system that we have today frightens the students. Many students who have dropped out of the schools have become great people. Even without undergoing any formal education under this system, there are many people who have become great people. It is not that they do not have that basic intelligence.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for discussing this Bill is over. Ten more hon. Members want to speak on this Bill. If the House agrees, the time for discussion may be extended by one hour.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: The examination system that we have encourages only rote-based and memory-based learning which is not at all interesting. Students study only for the purpose of examination. Such students when they reach their adolescence are of no use to this country. A student may write very well about the Battle of Panipat. He may not miss even a word. He may write from the first sentence to the last sentence. But when we ask him about the reasons for that battle, he would not be able to say anything. But in the examination he gets ten out of ten. A student who gets 100 per cent in mathematics is not able to say what is Parliament. He does not know who is the President of this country. So, the general knowledge and the IQ is very low. That means skills are not developed. Their thinking power is not developed. Therefore, examination system must be reoriented in such a way that you are able to improve the skills of the people. I would only wish that in these days of increased use of Information

Technology, we must bring in Information Technology at the primary school level itself so that the students, after seeing the computers, are attracted towards the schools and remain there. We should bring in modern methods of teaching. I think I am contradicting myself because when there is no school, how can one bring in Information Technology and other modern methods? But it is my wishful thinking that if you want to promote and provide free and compulsory education and if you want to achieve universal education, this may be probably one of the important inputs that we need. We must introduce some kind of vocational education at the lower level and try to give the students overall knowledge.

More importantly, we should provide more of moral education to the students. When we were students, we were all taught moral education. All the elderly people today show some aspect of behaviour in the society and it is because of that great education that they got at the early stage. But today, we are forgetting about all those things.

Therefore, to sum up, I should say that our friend Shri Sudhakar Reddy's call for free nutrition food is a necessary condition. It is a necessary condition but it is not necessarily a sufficient condition. The sufficient condition has to be seen in the greater outlay for education, in augmenting infrastructure in the school education, providing a good curriculum to the students, making it more and more attractive, proving the education examination system, bringing more innovations into the school. Only by such innovations, you would be able to achieve free and compulsory education. Therefore, I support his contention to the extent that it is necessary but I am not able to agree with him because it is not a sufficient condition. Therefore, in my view, there is no need for a Constitution Amendment for this purpose. But the Government must take the full view of the education and work out very urgent steps so that, at least, in this one respect, India after 58 years has been able to achieve. Today, we talk in terms of louder language – nuclear deal, globalisation, privatisation, and all those things. Unless the lower level people are given the necessary input, which is a constitutional right, the purpose will be defeated.

You have provided basic right to education as one of the fundamental rights, but you have not created the infrastructure. As in the case of many other programmes, we should not fall in the area of elementary education. At least, let us have the pride in saying that India has

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

achieved universalisation of education. For that purpose, we should all work – the parliamentarians, the educationists, the policy-makers. Everybody should contribute, of course, in providing healthy food to the people for healthy India. Education for all and health for all can be achieved through nutritional food. But we should work consistently towards this purpose.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri C.K. Chandrappan.

First, he was attending a Parliamentary Committing meeting when his name was called. So, as a special case, he is allowed to introduce his Bill. Item No.28.

17.07 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILL – *Contd.*

(iii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2006\*  
(Amendment of article 253)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

17.08 hrs.

[English]

(iv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2006\*  
(Amendment of article 148)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

17.09 hrs

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004

(Insertion of new article 45A) - *Contd.*

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to express my view regarding the Private Members Bill introduced by hon'ble Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy ji today in the House. He has proposed to bring amendment in the constitution while advocating for providing compulsory education and nutritious diet to the small children. I associate myself with the feelings of hon'ble Member.

17.10 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*)

The motive, with which he has introduced this Bill in the House, reflects the condition of poor, backward and lower strata of people in the villages of this country.

Most of the people amongst us, who come from the rural background, realize this fact that in the 58th year of independence, in spite of all kinds of schemes and projects, the rural education in other backward classes dominated areas particularly in the backward areas, Scheduled caste and Scheduled tribe areas is lacking far behind. At the time when the mid-day meal concept was introduced in the country, it was a welcome step but there are so many places where it was silently opposed in some or the other way. We will have to agree to the fact that a number of times while keeping all our respect for the courts of this country we express our view against some decisions of the hon'ble Courts. We will have to accept the fact that the directions for implementation of mid-day meal were issued through the hon'ble Supreme Court and the State Governments were compelled for this and the Union

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Government was pressurized upon to provide budgetary support for the same. The State Governments were assigned the responsibility for its implementation. It is true that a number of State Governments have been trying to evade this programme on some or the other pretext, but wherever the scheme was implemented, the job was not satisfactory. The Wheat was supplied to the schools and the teachers half-heartedly distributed it amongst the parents of the children saying them to feed their children themselves by preparing food. After that, when there was some extreme pressure then they would distribute boiled wheat to children. Further, when there was some more improvement, they made daliya with the wheat and distributed to children, but the quality and nutritious food that was supposed to be given to the children was never actually given. It is also a fact that at a number of places, the scheme was made to be a laughing stock because the condition of schools in the villages is such that at some schools there is either one teacher or at some only two.

In the villages, it is often complained that the Government assign many other duties to teachers other than teaching, such as animal census, census, election survey, census related work all are got done by the teachers. They says that if there are two teachers in any primacy school, then one of them is engaged in government duties. Besides, they have got one more responsibility of preparing good meal for children and to feed it them, but now situation is getting improved.

The previous Government of Rajasthan was of Congress and Mr. Ashok Gehlot was the Chief Minister. He made efforts that small children should get their education within the radius of one mile. Wherever there are thirty to forty children, a school should be opened by the name of 'Rajiv Gandhi Pathshala'. With this, it was also tried that teachers of Rajiv Gandhi Pathshala, para teachers who will impart primary education, should be 12th pass or B.Ed or at least 10th pass and should be the dweller of the same locality so that they can look after the children.

I would like to bring it to your knowledge, because you are also a down to earth person and know when a youngman of this country runs after any job, takes pains, makes approaches and becomes ready to bribe also, but when he gets job in a remote area of village, then from the day one the starts trying for the transfer.

In those tribal areas, in the desert area of Rajasthan, no person is able to reach for the inspection of schools.

There teachers are present for the half day and remain absent for the half day. This is my personal experience. I have studied in village, I have studied in the typical Rajasthani area. I repeatedly say this that my parents could not afford to give me education in public school.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring it to your knowledge that where I am today, I give its credit to my teachers and headmaster of middle school. Today our headmaster is 95 years of age and he is still in the village. He was a freedom fighter. He used to wear khadi and give moral values to children and created such an atmosphere in school that children were always willing to attend school. Just now a speaker before me, has said one thing that there are schools but there is no atmosphere of education. Somewhere one room has been built, somewhere there are two rooms. Somewhere there are rooms but no tat-patti, for sitting, somewhere there are tat-path but no boundary wall in school or there is garbage spreading nearby. So, it is a matter of thought that at one side there are such schools where rooms are in dilapidated condition, tat-pattis are torn, there is no boundary wail. What to talk of bathroom and kitchen no provision for playing and skipping has been made them as are made in the private schools in the towns. Forget all these things, there are not even basic amenities in those schools. I think, 'Serve Siksha Abhiyaan' is an important programme of this Government. By means of imposing two percent education cess, a big amount of budget is being spent thereon, however it is a bigger truth that we are not getting so much gain there from as has been desired.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the admission festivals are organized in the schools, the children between the age group of 6 years to 14 years are brought in the schools, but since the atmosphere in the schools is not interesting and favourable to those children, they again go back to their parents and start working in home and fields. If you look at the register then you will find the complete number of the children but the fact remains that the names of the same children are found in the register of private school of the village, the names of same children are found in the school register of neighbourhood village and in the 'Dhani of neighbourhood village also. We have to look into the reality of the data that we get. Lots of work has yet to be done in this area.

It is the responsibility of every country to give better education to their children. But if we are not able to educate our children, then how we would make them good citizen.

[Dr. Karan Singh Yadav]

With the education, if we are not able to give them a good health, then how the poverty of the villages would be removed. More than thirty percent population of our villages are living below the poverty line. What to talk of nutritious food, even food is not available. I have seen at many places in villages that *gugri*, which has no taste, *dalia* also has no taste, neither it is sweet nor it is salty, but still children eat it with great interest. At least we have great respect for that directive of the Supreme Court earlier, the children were not even getting this food also, but today these children go to schools in the greed of getting this food. I think, if the same meal is made tasty by adding 'pakories', sometimes 'dal' to it then it would be much better.

Hon'ble Rasa Singh Rawat ji has said in his statement that children sometimes get 'halwa' also to eat. This is not in my knowledge that any school is providing halwa to eat to children.

But if some NGOs, Self Help Groups, Government or other agencies come forward to provide inputs in the form of persons whose can cook like in Rajasthan, in the tenure of Shri Ashok Gehlot, there was a scheme in which the rural 'dhanis' who Children were studying in those schools would take this responsibility and share their time. School teachers should talk to them and ensure that for one day the mother or grandmother of one child will come to school and cook for children and next day some other child's mother will come and cook and whatever incentive is admissible for this purpose should be given to them and teacher should be saved, from this burden. Hon'ble Sudhakar Reddy talks about three times meal but I think, if reasonably good food is provided then people come attracted by single time food also. They get attracted to even *Gugri* or *Dalia*. But if good food is provided, atmosphere of recreation and sports is provided, and good music, poetry and history teachers are provided, I understand that our children can get out of that atmosphere and come forward.

Sir, I have been and am a doctor. I have worked in both big hospitals of city as well as in very small hospitals. The poor nourishment of rural children, particularly of children from BPL families results in protein deficiency, diseases like 'quashiorkar', deficiency of vitamin 'D' enhanced liver, skinny skeleton bodied children that we can see in villages reflects not only their health but the

future of our country also. So, it is high time that maximum expenditure should be incurred on education and health and it should be monitored in a proper way. They should be given complete nutrition instead of simple food. Near by hospitals, block level hospitals, PHCs should carry out health checkups of the children in these villages who are between the age group of 6 to 14 years. They should draw the attention of the Government, society and administration to the deficiency noticed in the health checkup of these children, so that, the future of these children can be improved. That is the reason that in our country not only infant mortality but child mortality rate is very high. When the mortality rate is higher, our family planning slogan becomes meaningless when an illiterate person of the village sees in his neighbourhood that children are dying from poverty and malnutrition, he plans to have 4, 5 or 6 children so that at least one or two of them could be survived. Hence, it is very necessary that if the children are healthy, they get proper medical checkup and education then only parents' and common man of villages will think about family planning, otherwise a crowd is taking birth in this country in poverty. Some children are saved and some children survived by the grace of God. Therefore, education and nutrition are very important for the time to come.

Sir, I am happy that the present U.P.A. Government is paying much attention to it. I praise the views expressed by hon'ble Sudhakar Reddy. You advocate for three meals a day whereas we are not in a position to provide a single meal leave along the issue of providing two meals and three meals in a day. What I feel that they should get at least one meal which should be of good quality, nutrition and delicious and they should get good teachers besides proper attention should be given to them. With these words I support this bill.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Thank you Mr. Chairman Sir. I would like to take part in the discussion on the Private Members' Bill, that is, Insertion of new article 45(a) in the Constitution of India, moved by Comrade Sudhakar Reddy.

Sir, in our country, there are a lot of children; as somebody has pointed out, more than 35 lakh of the children in our country who are not getting adequate education. Around 21 crore children are there in the country

in the age group of 6 to 14 years. Out of this, 25 per cent of the children are not coming to the schools.

Also the dropouts percentage is around 35 per cent. Even though providing mid day meal is not a measure to attract children to school, one of the reasons for dropouts and also for not coming to school regularly is lack of adequate food. Especially in the rural areas, children are forced to work because most of the families are big families with more number of family members. Many are depending upon the farming sector or traditional industries or fisheries. In most of the families, the head of the family or senior members of the family are involved in some of these occupations. The wages earned by them are not adequate to meet both the ends. So, the children are forced to work.

Sir, I am coming from a coastal area, Alleppey district in Kerala. As you know, Sir, in Kerala, we have attained 100 per cent literacy, and our health indices are in the nature of the developed countries. Still in my State, many children are not coming to school. One of the reasons is that they are forced to work to earn their livelihood. So, in order to attract children to school, providing mid day meal is a good measure. It is also a time-tested measure. As has been pointed out by some Members, in our country it had started from the beginning of the 20th Century. It was started in the Corporation of Madras in 1923. Later it was introduced by late Shri Kamaraj in Tamil Nadu, and it was universalized in the State of Tamil Nadu. Now, in Tamil Nadu children studying up to 10th Standard are provided with mid-day meal. No doubt it is a good measure to attract children to come to school.

The other day we were discussing the problem of child labour. One of the measures to avoid child labour is to attract or force the children to come to school. As a measure to give proper education to children and to avoid child labour, providing mid-deal in the school is a good measure.

Even though the Central Government is providing foodgrains to various schools, it is the responsibility of the State Government to provide other supporting measures for cooking food, infrastructure for kitchen and other things. Many of the States are still reluctant to introduce this scheme. Till now, 23 States out of the total 35 States including the Union Territories have introduced this scheme. In 2001 there was a Supreme Court verdict directing the State Governments to implement this scheme in all the Government-aided schools. Even then many

States are reluctant to introduce this scheme. Again in 2004, the Supreme Court directed various State Governments to introduce this scheme.

Also, at that time many of the States found some excuses to refrain from this. They found it difficult to provide adequate funds for building the infrastructure and providing wages for the employees. So, the Supreme Court directed the Central Government to provide or to make provisions for construction of kitchens and also allocate funds to meet the construction expenses. I do not know whether the Central Government is providing adequate funds for the States to meet these expenses.

As Dr. Karan Singh Yadav has correctly pointed out, as far as their health and as far as their social behavioural development are concerned, this pre-school age group is very important. We have to provide nutritious food not only for the physical development but also for the mental development of the children. So, nutritious food is a must. In the Mid-Day Meal Programme, we are only providing a meal a day. I do not know how the nutritious quality of the food is. As per the direction, the mid-day meal given on a day should have 300 calories and 8-12 grams of proteins. Not only adequate calories and proteins are needed for a child but also other nutritious food should be supplied. So, I do agree with the suggestion of Mr. Sudhakar Reddy that the meal should be not only mid-day meal but also it should be provided three times a day. Otherwise, it will not meet the requirements of the child.

Still even after the Supreme Court's verdict, many States are reluctant to introduce the scheme. This is essential for the development of our nation. Actually, we are preparing the future generation. So, I support the Bill moved by Shri Sudhakar Reddy. With this Constitutional (Amendment) Bill, it should be made obligatory for all the States to provide mid-day meal in all primary schools, Government as well as aided primary schools.

I once again support this Bill.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to speak on the Constitution Amendment Bill introduced by Shri Sudhakar Reddy. The issue raised in the Objects and the Reasons of the Bill is good. What Mr. Reddy has expressed in this bill has also been endorsed by other members that the children in the

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country are becoming victims of malnutrition. What kind of infrastructure should be in the school, how their health should be improved because the children of today are future of India and the nation depends on them. India will become prosperous if the children are educated and healthy. We need to make efforts for the all round development of the children to keep the country healthy.

Sir, it has been said in the bill that there should be compulsory education, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for the children but in order to attract the children towards schools, an incentive of meal is given to the children. I oppose this idea that the children should come to schools to have meals. You want that the children should come to school with bowls in their hands with the idea of getting meal in the school.

Thus the children would pay more attention to food instead of studies. Health as well as education is a must for the children. For this purpose we have ICDS (Integrated Child Development Scheme). Under this scheme the newborn baby and the mother should be healthy so that she could bring up the child in a proper way. Before the birth of the baby she should get all nutrients like iron, carbohydrates. All these things would automatically transfer in the blood of the baby. Under the scheme of I.C.D.S., the baby is given food upto five years, since the birth of the child and that food is nutritious. The baby grows well by taking that food. The mental development of the baby is better in mother's lap and in the family atmosphere. The baby feels safe with mother in the house. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is also there. Every mother wishes her baby to become a good citizen, responsible person, I.P.S., I.A.S., leader, professor, industrialist and engineer after getting education. Parents have a dream to see their child in a good position. This bill has been brought with good intention but making an amendment in the constitution and saying that the child should get three meals is not proper, as one of our colleagues has said that the school is there but the building is not there or a teacher is not there or a school is dependent on a teacher. A toilet is not there in a school, playground is not there, sports goods are not there, no toys are there for the mental growth of the children. Suitable atmosphere for sports is not there. Considering these things I would like to make some suggestions.

The Bill, which has been moved by Shri Sudhakar Reddy, should be brought by the Government. The

Government should accept our suggestions. My suggestion is that, mid-day meal given, whether it has been ordered by the Court or the Government, should be a single nutritious meal. If we provide three meals a day i.e. at 7.30 A.M. 12.00 and 8.00 P.M., the children will have to stay at school and neither they will get time to play nor it be better for their mental development. It means the children will remain in school for the whole day in order to eat break fast, lunch and dinner. Then we will have to go for a full shift system because a teacher cannot perform duty more than eight hours in a day. It is a provision in the constitution that no Government employee will work more than eight hours. There would be two or three shifts for the teachers. It would be like tying the children. It means that we do not want to give children an open atmosphere. There are a number of contradictions. I feel that the purpose behind sending the children to school should be to get education, but not to get food. For example, there is a Minimum Guarantee Yojana. All parents have a dream to earn a good living so that they may feed their children. You go to school to get good education in a proper way and learn to live in discipline. Our country is a democratic country. Every child has a right to go to school. There are a number of castes and religions here. There is a different type of food habits and dress codes but uniform in the school is same. If a student is South-Indian, he would fetch idli-vada, if he is Punjabi, he would like tea-pakoda or parantha, if the student is from a rich family, he would fetch meat-fish or halwa poori. But there are some problems in this scheme. As I have seen that two children were playing nearby when the food was being cooked and one of them fell into the Khichdi.

Sir, there have been so many cases, some children got their limbs burnt when they fell into the khichdi, being cooked. Carelessness causes such incidents. Somewhere, the place where food is cooked, is not clean due to which lizard or something falls into the food being cooked and the food gets poisoned. These things happen many a times. Therefore, I have a suggestion that we should provide employment to the parents of the children so that they cook the food at home and give it to the children. You may give mid-day meal in the school but it should be safe. Dry food as Gram. Murmura or Kheel maybe given in the food. They contain full quantity of protein and iron. Dry fruits may be given. Dates may be given. These items may be purchased from the market and may be given to the children. These things are free from the risk of getting rotten and moreover persons are also not required to cook

the food. At some place the parents are called to cook the food. During the time of the Gehlot Government in Rajasthan, the grand mother or any aged person of the school going children were called but if they fall ill or do not reach there well in time, the children would not get the meal. I therefore, request that the children should be given dry food and if it cannot be given at noon, it should be given when the school closes.

Sir, many Members want to speak. I therefore, would not take much time and say that the Bill moved by Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy is very good. The Bill has a pious motive and it includes certain norms as to how the children of the country have to be brought up to meet their future requirements. I request him to withdraw this bill and leave it to the Government. The Government come in the House with a good and comprehensive bill alongwith suggestions from all quarters, which in order to impart good education to the children, to make proper seating arrangement in schools, to provide toilets in the schools, good teachers should be appointed. Books and copies and other stationery should be made available so that they may get good education and thus be brought in mainstream. The same type of teachers should be provided in the Government-Primary schools as are available in the private schools. Good schools should be provided so that our children can make us feel proud by getting education in such schools and help us in realizing our dream of becoming a leader amongst the other world countries in the 21st century. Our country should be acknowledged as a country in which everybody be it poor person, farmers, labourers or workers all are contributing toward the progress of the country and are living peacefully. With these suggestions, I am thankful to you for giving me a chance to speak and take my seat.

**SHRI SUGRIB SINGH (Phulbani):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2004 (insertion of new article 45 b) introduced by hon'ble Member Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy on 17th February, 2006. This Bill is related to the welfare of the children of our country. This bill provides for making mid day meal available to the small children studying in the Government primary schools in the country in better manner, so that they grow healthy and strong. This will lead to healthy development of children of our country. Hence I support this Bill. Children are future of our country. Unless the children of our country are healthy and strong, country will not be healthy. Development of children is essential for

development of country. The Government as well as we should think as to which type of education be imparted to them, how to make them prosperous and, how their health will improve. I would like to say that the Mid-Day Meal scheme is being implemented in all the primary schools of the country. I would like to bring to your notice some facts about importance of Mid-Day Meal Schemes in the education of children in backward, rural areas of the most backward districts of Orissa, which is one of the most backward state of the country.

It is a very good scheme. How children are attracted towards schools and education due to this scheme, you can see in my constituency. In all the backward districts of my state, particularly in all the districts of my parliamentary constituency Phoolbani, most of the children belong to Adivasi, scheduled castes and backward classes. In my constituency, 95 percent of people are from these categories. They do not have food for daily consumption how will they send their children to schools. Hence this scheme is certainly very good scheme and after the launch of this scheme all the children are urging their parents to send them to school, and parents are sending them to school because they are getting food in the school, Children are sent to school. This scheme should be implemented at the greater scale.

Here I would like to bring one thing to your notice that government should increase grants for this scheme in all the districts and in all the schools. Here is has been mentioned during the discussion that nutritions, good quality food should be provided under this scheme. In my opinion if Government does not increase the grants for this scheme you can not even buy firewoods to cook food in my constituency, leave asides rice, pulses oil and vegetables from the funds provided under this scheme. There is need to increase grants for effective implementation of this scheme and make the future of children bright.

One more thing is that in some schools all teachers have been involved in the implementation of this scheme. In some schools only one teacher is there and he organizes all the things for Mid-Day Meal scheme as a result he has hardly any time to teach children. Teachers who are given responsibility to manage the scheme go to market for purchase of ration and do all the things necessary for it so they do not have time to teach the children. So keeping in view this if local self help groups or non government organizations are involved in implementation of this

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scheme, then teachers will have some time to teach students. In my state, my government and my Chief Minister have started this scheme through SAG.

At several places SC/ST people propagate this scheme. Tenders are invited for purchase of rice, pulse and oil etc., and the person who is awarded tender does not purchase quality products. My demand is that all these things should be monitored properly and, Government should take stern action against the dishonest persons. Stringent legislation are required to be enacted. People who take up this work for profiteering should also be prohibited to do so.

Third thing is that there are a number of people who are living below poverty line; their children go to school to have meal. A few programmes should be formulated for their good teaching and good health. It has also been suggested that meal should be served three times, it is good suggestion, but my submission is that it will be more appropriate to give nutritious food at one time than three times. This will help them keeping good health.

I support the Bill introduced by my colleague Shri Sudhakar Reddy ji and I demand from Government to allocate more funds for it. With this I conclude.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, we are discussing an important Constitutional (Amendment) Bill moved by Shri. S. Sudhakar Reddy. This Bill proposes that there should be a new provision added in the Constitution that every school-going child would be provided with mid-day meal. In the note attached to it he has said that meals should be provided three times, and he estimated that Rs. 200 crore may be necessary for introducing this.

Sir, nobody will dispute the fact that, today, in India, in the schools, most of the children are hungry, especially, in the primary stages. I am coming from Kerala, a State where in the field of education many experiments were successfully carried out, and 100 per cent literacy achieved. But we should think about the situation faced by the students in the schools of that State itself. Why are there so many dropouts? If you observe, then you will find that students are dropping out in clusters from places where poverty dominates.

There are fishermen communities all along the coast of Kerala, and they are very poor people. So, irrespective of the State trying to help, probably, that help is not enough for these poor people to send their children to school instead of sending them for fishing. It is not merely that you give a mid-day meal and the students will come. It is one way of promoting it and there is no doubt about it, but unless poverty, which is existing in the country is fought and won, these problems would not find a solution.

Sir, one of the statements made by Mr. Ronald Anil Fernandes in a study on our poverty states that:

"Fifty per cent of the world's hungry live in five countries: India, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Pakistan and Indonesia. ..."

Fifty per cent of the hungry live here. So, we are to tackle the problem of hunger and poverty, and only then can we find a solution to the problem of mid-day meal. I have no doubt about it.

If mid-day meal programme is successfully done with a political will, then it can make very substantial changes in the system, which is existing in the schools today.

I was reading about this Mid-day Meal Programme itself. Mr. Kamaraj Nadar, who was a Member here, was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. There is a kind of unique thing about him. Thiru Kamaraj used to travel without all the paraphernalia, motorcade, police security and all that. Probably, in those days, it was not so much necessary. One day, when his car was stopped at a railway level-crossing, the Chief Minister saw a few boys busy with cows and goats. They were grazing the cows and goats. The Chief Minister had asked one boy, "What are you doing with these cows? Why did you not go to school?" The boy immediately answered. He asked the Chief Minister: "If I go to school, will you give me food to eat? I can learn only if I eat." That boy's retort sparked the entire process, into establishing the Mid-day Meal Programme in Tamil Nadu. This is a small incident, but it speaks volumes that it is easy to preach that you go to school and study, and you will become a great person later.

With a hungry stomach, however desperate a child's wish is, or however seriously the parents want their children to go and study, hunger will stop them from going there. We have to keep this reality in mind. With that in mind, probably, now, the Government is trying to, in the Budget

last time, and in the Budget, this time also, promote this programme. But even with all these promotional activities, it reaches, according to Government's own statement, up to 150 million children. That is a fraction of the hungry children in the schools. What we require is more determined action. There is no dispute among anybody that it should be done. But then, the Government should have more serious political will to give it a priority, and find resources so that, on a priority basis, this programme is implemented. Whether that is done is very often doubtful because even when there is Central support, there are programmes which the States have been asked to undertake, many States are refusing to do it because of the economic constraints. They may have constraints. If they have constraints, then how will they go ahead? That is the problem which the Chief Ministers should discuss with the Central Government.

**18.00 hrs.**

My feeling is that it is good that the Government of India is doing it. But it is equally important to realise the fact that if this has to go deep into the masses and a solution has to be found out, you have to really involve the States and the people. So, a meeting of Chief Ministers' and Human Resources Ministers' meeting should be convened by the Prime Minister and they should discuss thoroughly as to how the problem should be tackled, how the assistance rendered by the Centre should be utilised effectively by the States.

Secondly, there is a programme which could be taken up along with this programme of mid-day meal and that is the ICDS of the Government of India. ICDS is a very good programme. The idea is to provide a better quality of life in the villages to women, children and adolescents, girls especially. In the last Budget the Government stated that it was going to enhance the Scheme. In this Budget again the Government stated that it would further enhance it. Again the question is you allot not sufficient money to run that programme in a decent manner.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chandrappan, please wait.

It is 6 o'clock now. Is it the opinion of the House to extend the sitting of the House?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Shri Chandrappan will continue his speech next time.

The House stands now adjourned till 11.00 a.m. on Monday, 6th March, 2006.

**18.01 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, March 6, 2006/Phalguna 15, 1927 (Saka).*

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