

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

11.03 hrs.

Friday, December 7, 2007/Agrahayana 16, 1929 (Saka)

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for Adjournment.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Right now, we have to take up obituary reference.

...(Interruptions)

11.01 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform of the sad demise of one of our former colleague, Shri Sarju Prasad Saroj.

Shri Sarju Prasad Saroj was a Member of the Ninth Lok Sabha from 1989 to 1991, representing the Mohanlalganj Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

Earlier, Shri Sarju Prasad Saroj was a Member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1980 to 1989. Shri Saroj also served as the Minister of State in the Government of Uttar Pradesh from 1980 to 1982.

Shri Sarju Prasad Saroj was a Member of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of External Affairs during the Ninth Lok Sabha. He also served as the Chairman, Railway Recruitment Board, Allahabad in 1996.

A committed social and political worker Shri Sarju Prasad Saroj was earlier a Member of the Zilla Parishad, Pratapgarh. He strove for the welfare of the poor, downtrodden and the deprived sections of the society.

Shri Sarju Prasad Saroj passed away on 27 July, 2007 at Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 65.

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

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

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to me. I have given a notice for Adjournment. The delimitation that was carried out in the country. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the time. Hon. Member, Prabhunath Singh ji you know that this is not the time. Please wait for an hour. Let us go through the Question Hour first.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the powers given to the Delimitation Commission by the Parliament have been grossly misused. You may refer to Sachar Committee report. The Sachar Committee has also stated that the Muslim majority areas have. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the time to discuss this issue. Question No. 321, please.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice for the suspension of the Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will accommodate you after the Question Hour is over.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Question Hour should be taken up

MR. SPEAKER: We will take it up after the Question Hour is over.

11.04 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Vacant Posts of Judges

*321. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vacant posts of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and in various High Courts at present and the details of vacant posts that have been filled up in the last two years; and

(b) the steps taken to fill up the current vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Against a sanctioned strength of 26, the Supreme Court had 25 Judges in position as on 5.12.2007 leaving 1 vacancy to be filled up. In the High Courts, on the same date, against a sanctioned strength of 689 Judges, 600 Judges were in position leaving 89 vacancies to be filled up.

During the Calendar years 2006 and 2007, following number of vacancies were filled up:

	2006	2007 (up to 5.12.2007)
Supreme Court	03	07
High Court	110	59

In addition to the appointments made up to 5.12.2007, a total of 49 proposals received from various High Courts are at different stages of consideration.

While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep arising on account of retirements, resignation or elevation of Judges. After the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 in the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record & Anr. Vs. Union of India, read with the Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the entire process of initiation of proposal for appointment of a Judge of a Supreme Court lies with the Chief Justice of India and for the appointment of a Judge of a High Court, with the Chief Justice of that High Court. Government has been periodically reminding the Chief Justices of High Courts to initiate proposals for filling up all vacant posts of Judges in the High Courts.

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very happy to see the reply given by the hon. Minister. The Government is taking all steps to fill up all vacant posts of judges to clear the huge backlog of pending cases. But still there are a number of cases pending in the Supreme Court and High Courts. For example, there are about 43,580 cases pending in the Supreme Court as on 30th June, 2007 and 36,78,043 cases pending in 21 High Courts at the end of March, 2007.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you need not mention those details. Please put your question.

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Sir, in Andhra Pradesh alone, 1,50,037 cases are pending. Even the hon. Prime Minister had expressed his concern in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held in New Delhi on 8th

April, 2007 and suggested that courts could consider having more than one shift to clear the backlog of cases. Hence, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Law Commission has examined the question of the strength of judges and other related matters and made suitable suggestions or recommendations. If so, I would like to know the details.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not put such a long supplementary.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, so far as review of the strength of judges is concerned, it was done recently. I would like to submit that on 1.4.2007, the strength of judges was increased by 65 judges in the court of Allahabad. Thereafter, a second review took place with the CJI and on 1.11.2007 another 153 judges were added to various High Courts.

So far as the State of Andhra Pradesh is concerned, there are 19 vacancies today and five proposals are pending with us.

So far as second shift is concerned, no Government has given its comments so far, except, Gujarat that they have started, on an experimental basis, the second shift in trial courts. This matter is being studied in detail as to how to reduce the pendency of cases in the country.

So far as the strength is concerned, I had already submitted that the review takes place, according to law, every third year and 200 more vacancies have been added to the earlier strength of about 700. Now the strength will be augmented to 900. In the Supreme Court, it remains 26. The trial courts have vacancies and we are requesting the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices to fill up the vacancies as quickly as possible. This is the situation.

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Sir, a common man's access to justice to pursue his cases has become very costly under the present judicial system. I would like to know whether the Government is proposing to establish regional benches of the Supreme Court and the High Courts and whether some State Governments have requested them in this regard.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, we are a proud country where there is full access to justice to the citizens and that is why this docket explosion taking place in the country. So far as regional benches is concerned, on various occasions hon. Members have written to me and there have been proposals also. We always approach the Supreme Court for their concurrence, but so far we have not been able to persuade the Supreme Court to agree on this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also liked to ask the same question that has been asked just now, whether Government propose to set up a bench of the

Supreme Court in Nagpur city in Central India? I have asked this question time and again, as it is very difficult for the people living in Kanyakumari and Cochin upto Thiruvananthapuram to reach Delhi covering long distance. So if a bench of the Supreme Court is set up somewhere in Central India, it will be convenient for the people and they will get justice. I would like to know whether the Government propose to take some steps in this direction.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Very good question.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, I have replied to it, but I would like to inform the hon. House that this problem of people reaching the court is being solved in another way. We are resorting to the video conferencing and e-filing so that a man sitting in Nagpur can file the case from Nagpur and even argue his case from Nagpur. It is being made possible in a very near future. In some courts, it has already been started.

MR. SPEAKER: What about the lawyer's fee? Who will argue on Television? Is there any reduction?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): It is a fight between two big lawyers.

MR. SPEAKER: No fighting!

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I am nowhere near him.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister is there any proposal of constituting special courts for expeditious disposal of cases relating to trial of sensational rape cases and other offences.

MR. SPEAKER: This question is about vacant posts. They are not able to fill the existing vacancies and you are asking for new courts.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: Sir, so far as Orissa High Court is concerned, more than 2,00,000 cases are pending.

MR. SPEAKER: All rape cases!

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: Sir, about ten lakh cases are pending in Subordinate Courts. I would like to know what steps the hon. Minister is going to take to fill up the vacancies for backward States, like Orissa and other States.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I would like to inform the hon. House on both counts. So far as the rape cases are concerned, they are Session's trial. He knows it very well that we have augmented the session's courts by providing fast-track trials. Each State is happy with the strength of the Fast Track Courts. So far as Orissa High Court is concerned, we have almost full strength. We have recently added to their strength by five Judges.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Recently, there appeared a newspaper item that our hon. Chief Justice of India has remarked that the cases are pending in large numbers because the Judges could not be appointed in time. As we all know that the recommendations will have to come from the Judiciary. The President will have to put his seal only. All these things should come from the Judiciary. Then, where is the delay? Is it delay in sending the recommendations? Or, is it delay in putting the signature? It may kindly be explained as to what exactly is the position.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I will not attribute delays to any person. The system is such. They are very high appointments. The proposal starts from the High Court; it goes to the State Government. They are given two months to go into it. Then they come to the Central Government. We take some time in verification. Then it goes to the Collegium in the Supreme Court. So, it is filtered at various stages. This process is necessary having regard to the fact that High Court appointments are very important appointments, and it is not good to appoint them in a hurry. Nonetheless, Sir, the vacancy position has been comfortably reduced. We have been appointing, on an average, 120 or 110 Judges in a year, which was 55 Judges in earlier years. So, we are expediting it. I will not attribute any blame whether there are delays in the Courts or delays somewhere else. They are being appointed. The fact that we are giving 200 new Judges to the High Courts show the anxiety to reduce the arrears.

MR. SPEAKER: Without attributing anything to anybody, is not the date of retirement of Judges known beforehand? When the vacancy will be caused is known from the date of his appointment.

Mr. Minister, you need not answer this.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the vacancies in High courts are filled either by promoting the session judges of the lower courts or by directly appointing advocates. I would like to know as to how long the recommendations regarding the appointment can be kept in pending and after how many days appointments are made? As far as I personally know, the High Court of Patna had sent the names of some advocates recommending them for appointment years back but the proposal is still pending with the Ministry. The proposal is pending because they were lawyers of the CBI and had discharged their duties honestly. Is it that since they were honest, so they should not be appointed as judges? Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what is the justification of keeping it in pending for political considerations.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think that the Government has any role now.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: How long will it be kept in abeyance? I would like to know as to how long the proposal will be kept in abeyance?

[English]

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ: There are two proposals pending from Patna High Court. One relates to an Advocate; another relates to a Judicial Officer. This matter was referred to the Collegium; and the Collegium has recently sent the papers back to us.

Indeed, there was a controversy on one candidate of an Advocate because of his role in sending the Army to the Court. Positively, some inquiry was made, and the Collegium was informed. After the Collegium's views, we are processing that proposal. I am not hiding anything. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to ask. ...*(Interruptions)* I have given my notice.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: So, what?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

*SHRI. M. SHIVANNA: Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister the number of vacancies of Judges reserved for Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Castes which have not been filled so far in the Supreme Court and particularly in the Karnataka High Court. And what are the steps taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies in the Supreme Court and in the Karnataka High Court as number of cases pending there is very large.

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Sir, I would also like to support him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please wait. This is no system of supporting a Supplementary.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bwiswmuthiary, unless I call you, you cannot get up. Please wait for your turn. You just cannot innovate systems.

Mr. Minister, is there any reply to it? He has asked about Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, this is a matter which has to be discussed in a great detail. Now, after sixty years of Independence, there is heartburning in the minds of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes because they

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

are not in large number in the High Courts or the Supreme Court but we have a satisfaction that we are giving due consideration to this aspect. Earlier in 1980s, Scheduled Caste Judges had been coming to the Supreme Court also not as Scheduled Caste but on merit. Similarly, there is no reservation for Scheduled Castes in the High Courts but they have a good case that they should find more representation and they should have faith that the secular policy of this country will do. Unless that is done, this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bwiswmuthiary, this system of getting up whenever you like will not be permitted.

Now, Shri Bwiswmuthiary.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Jagannath, what has happened to you recently?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Law Minister as to how many Scheduled Tribe Judges have so far been appointed in the Supreme Court as well in the High Courts across the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It does not relate to this Question.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Secondly, I would like to know whether the Government of India has contemplated to set up one permanent Bench of the Guwahati High Court at Kokrajhar for 30 lakh population of Bodoland territory or not.

My next question is. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, what are you trying to do? You can put only one supplementary. You have already put two supplementaries which do not relate to the main Question. You give a notice to the hon. Minister and he will give reply.

Mr. Minister, are you in a position to reply?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, I can reply to one question.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. You give your reply.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, we have one Scheduled Tribe judge, Justice Sema. I will also inform the hon. Member that we have a special policy for the Scheduled Tribes. We started the search as early in 1985 and we located five very eminent judges from the Scheduled Tribes in the North-East. Justice Shashank was a Naga, and then there was Justice Sema, then Justice S.K. Sema and several others. North-East has given very eminent judges.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, there are very eminent judges from the North-East. They should be certainly considered. There is no doubt about that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already allowed five supplementaries. No more supplementaries please.

Q. No. 322 – Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

[Translation]

Inadequate Generation of Additional Power

+

*322. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for generation of additional power during the Tenth Plan Period and the actual achievement of the target made during that period;

(b) the reasons for the shortfall in the achievement, if any; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken to overcome the shortcomings identified so far?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The growth in electricity generation which was around 3.1% towards the end of the 9th Plan reached an impressive 7.3% at the end of the 10th Plan; this was despite the fact that against a target of 41,110 MW for the 10th Plan, capacity addition of 21,180 MW was actually achieved. The increase in generation has been mainly due to improvement in the plant load factor which has increased from 69.9% at the end of 9th Plan to 76.8% by the end of the 10th Plan. As shown in the table given below, the yearly generation targets set during the course of 10th Plan were almost fully achieved with only marginal deviations:

Year	Target (BU)	Actual Generation (BU)	Achievement (%)
2002-03	545.55	531.61	97.4
2003-04	579.90	558.34	97.5
2004-05	586.41	587.42	100.2
2005-06	621.50	617.51	99.4
2006-07	663.00	662.52	99.9

BU = Billion Units

(b) The slight shortfall in achieving the generation target set during the 10th Plan were mainly due to non-availability of adequate quantity of gas, and delays in the

completion of projects scheduled to be commissioned in the 10th Plan.

(c) The overall achievement against the generation target, during the 10th Plan was almost 99% and the same during the current year (April - November, 2007) has been 99.7%. While it is expected that additional supplies of natural gas would be available from domestic sources at affordable prices in the 11th Plan, efforts are also being made to ensure that the ordering process for the entire additional capacity proposed to be added during the 11th Plan is completed by mid 2008, so that the projects can be commissioned by March 2012. Furthermore, in order to meet the 11th Plan targets, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) is augmenting its capacity to deliver 10,000 MW per annum by December 2007 and further to 15000 MW by December 2009. The monitoring process has also been strengthened.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply of the Government and the hon. Minister is quite misleading. On the one hand, in his reply, the hon'ble Minister has admitted that in the Tenth Five Year Plan period against a target of 41,110 megawatt, the actual capacity addition was 21,180 megawatt and on the other hand while giving the figures of Five Year Plan for the years 2002, 2003 the figures have been given in billion units in the table whereas in the reply the figures are given in megawatt unit. Against a target of 41,110 megawatt when he. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is the use of reading whatever has been written in the reply.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I am not reading. I am submitting that the figures are misleading....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fact is that as has been stated in the reply against the target fixed for the Tenth Five Year Plan period only 50 per cent power could be generated in the country. But the target to provide electricity to all the parts of the country and all the people is a distant dream. A shortfall of 10 per cent has been shown, however, at peak hours this shortfall rises up to 13 per cent and in some States it goes up to 25 per cent. So, through you, I would like to submit that the policy of the Government is responsible for not meeting the target of power generation as the C&AG, in its report, has also held the Government projects and the Ministry of Power, responsible for not meeting the target in the Tenth Five Year Plan period. This is part 'A' of my question. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is only one part of the question. You will get one more opportunity.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I would like to know whether the Government have reviewed the C&AG report and whether efforts have been made to rectify the lapse on its part. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your question is over. Now you will not get any opportunity to ask supplementary question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, the reply to the question that was asked has been given and it is not misleading. The question was asked in regard to power generation and the reply conforms to power generation and capacity addition.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please maintain silence in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: The point raised by him relates to capacity addition during the Tenth Five Year Plan. And I just now told about power generation. The target of power generation is fixed up yearly while that of capacity addition is fixed during Five Year Plan. For his convenience I have replied both the points. It is correct that there has been slippage in the target fixed for capacity addition during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: How many meetings are going on in this House? What is this?

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: In regard to that I had replied that I had convened a meeting of the officers and took initiative to identify the lacunae and we are now making efforts to correct them. Last time, the target was fixed at 42,000 megawatt and it was found during mid-term review that the target was 36,000 megawatt. The shortfall made us realize that it was for want of yearly and monthly monitoring, so the monitoring of orders has been started from last year. During the first year of the Tenth Five Year Plan, orders were placed for 20,000 Megawatt; thereafter most of the projects were not completed owing to which less target was achieved. During the 11th Five Year Plan, we fixed the target at 78,000 Megawatt

so a decision was taken in regard to issuing orders during the last year of the Tenth Five Year Plan itself and we fixed capacity addition at 78,577 megawatt out of which orders of 56,000 megawatt have been issued till date. I am glad to apprise the House that as per monitoring done as on date 5,000 megawatt power on line has been commissioned in this year itself.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, the national electricity policy envisages per capita availability of power to be over 1,000 unit for all by the year 2012, what efforts are being made by the Government to achieve that target? At present, power plants are relatively less in number and only BHEL is supplying equipments for power plants. There is a great shortage of equipments, which is resulting in 25 per cent losses and due to which we have to bear burden of electricity shortage and taxes. I would like to know the efforts being made by the Government to check it so that the actual target could be achieved during the 11th Five year Plan.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very good question. I agree with him that it happened during the Tenth Five Year Plan and we have started issuing orders in view of it. It is true that there is only one company in the country which manufactures this plant. In the light of this fact I also briefed the Prime Minister who constituted a Group of Ministers headed by the Minister of Finance. It was discussed in that meeting that efforts should be made to rope in maximum vendors. I would like to share this information with the House that another company Larsen & Toubro has signed an agreement with Mitsubishi as well. Several other companies are entering and we want that there should be competition in the country. The main objective of our Act of 2003 is to provide cheap and quality power and you must have observed in the competitive bidding that the cost of one unit was fixed at the rate of Re one and 19 paise under the Ultra Mega Power Project during the competitive bidding. This is the main aim of our Government to provide cheap and quality power to all, particularly to the poor, and the target of providing per capita one thousand unit till the year 2012 would also be achieved.

[English]

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: As per the reply given by the Minister, the achievements are almost 99 per cent, which is shown in the table. But still the country is facing a shortage of power supply and also low voltage.

People, especially the farmers, are facing great difficulties due to power cuts and low voltage. The farmers have to suffer huge losses of crops due to power shortage. The Union Government, in consultation with the State Governments, should take immediate steps to overcome the shortage of power. For this purpose, the Union Government should upgrade the existing power plants into Mega and Ultra Mega Power plants.

Keeping in view of the above, I would like to know from the Minister (a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from any State for upgradation of power plants into Mega Power Plants and Mega Power Plants into Ultra Mega Power Points; (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, especially in respect of Karnataka; and (c) the amount allocated and released to the States, particularly to Karnataka.

MR. SPEAKER: What is all this? You should learn what the purpose of supplementary question is. You are asking for the entire electricity generation.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: I am asking for the entire country as a whole.

MR. SPEAKER: No, this is not right.

The Minister may be knowing answers to all but I would not permit.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: I would like to mention in the House that at the all-India level, the shortage of power, the energy shortage is 7.9 per cent and the peaking shortage is 12.9 per cent. It is a fact that the country is facing power shortage, and today we require to have about 20,000 MW power to overcome the prevailing shortage, and that is the reason we have targeted in the Eleventh Plan 78,577 MW. That has been targeted. I have not calculated this for the Ultra Mega Power Project. One unit of Ultra Mega Power is coming to 4,000 MW. Three such Ultra Mega Power Projects have already been awarded, and one is on the line. So, these all will come in the Twelfth Plan but we are trying. At least we have been told that one unit out of the two projects are being tried to get in the Eleventh Plan.

But I would like to assure you that there is reason today for shortage of power for the agriculturists. I have been requesting the States to separate feeder for agricultural purposes so that at a particular time these agriculturists will be given sufficient electricity and according to their desire. Once the feeder is separated, better consideration can be given at that juncture.

About the grant of mega status to the projects, the notification to the existing Mega power policy is under consideration of the Government. Those projects which we have started, those projects which are about to start and asking for mega projects benefits and are coming over here, we are examining them.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we can club Q. 328. There is a request for this. I think that is good.

Per Capita Power Consumption

*328. SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the per-capita average units of power being supplied in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government has set up any target for supplying per capita one thousand units of power in the country by the year 2012;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has identified the sources for generation of power for realization of the prescribed target; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has worked out the per capita consumption of electricity as 631.41 KWh for the year 2005-06.

(b) and (c) The National Electricity Policy notified in February, 2005 inter-alia envisages that the per capita availability of electricity to be increased to over 1000 Units by 2012. CEA has intimated that in order to meet the per capita availability of 1000 units by 2012, a capacity addition of 78,577 MW comprising of 16,553 MW Hydro, 58,644 MW Thermal (coal 52,795 MW, Lignite 1,450 MW, Gas 4,399 MW) and 3,380 MW Nuclear has been proposed through conventional sources in the 11th Plan. Apart from this, a capacity addition of 14,000 MW from new and renewable sources has been envisaged, and 12,000 MW from captive power plants is also expected during the 11th Plan.

(d) and (e) The sources for generation of power which have been identified to meet the above include coal, gas, lignite, hydro, nuclear and other renewable sources such as wind, bio-mass, solar etc.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: The hon. Minister has stated about the target set by the Central Electricity Authority.

[Translation]

Hon. Minister had given an assurance in this House that hydro-power would be given as much importance as it is being given to thermal power. However, the assurance given by him two years ago is not being reflected in this document. The target was to provide electricity to all by 2012 comprising of 16,553 MW of hydro and 58,644 MW of thermal power. Just now he has mentioned about the ultra megawatt. When there is availability of hydropower in the country the river water is being wasted by flowing on to the Bay of Bengal. By when generation of hydropower is likely to be at par with generation of Thermal power?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has elaborately answered earlier.

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: He has not told about hydropower.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, capacity of hydropower in the country is One Lakh 50 thousand megawatt and so far we have achieved 34,600 megawatt. However, going into the reasons for the shortage during the last 60 years, one can analyse that shortage of infrastructure in the North-East and insurgency has been responsible for this underperformance. Owing to all these reasons people are not prepared to go there. So, we want to go ahead with it by giving some more incentives. The hon. Member must be aware that foreign companies do not venture in Arunachal Pradesh, NTPC and NHPC want to set up a unit there and are making efforts to set up units with the capacity of at least 5000 MW. We need everyone's cooperation in that regard since there are several issues besides environment. We have decided to provide P.A.P.S. facility to the people there. So we are also paying one paisa more on generation, for local area improvement,

[English]

also 12 per cent free power we are going to give them.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have any more questions?

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: One clarification, Sir. He said that NTPC has withdrawn it has also withdrawn the funds invested in the Dibang project for 4000 MW. I would like to ask as to what steps are being taken by him for the active participation of both the P.S.U.s, NTPC and NHPC?

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, NTPC has withdrawn the proposal since DPR is not ready there while that of the others is ready. Mr. Speaker, Sir you must be knowing that several DPRs were prepared by the Central Electricity Authority and private companies were ready to participate there. So, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh had taken a decision to entrust this project in private hands through an M.O.U. Today, the country needs electricity, so we shall be liberal in our policies and I had announced it in the House that the expenditure incurred on D.P.R. will be paid to them with interest. Today, I would like to inform the House that they have already received D.P.R. from a developer and rest of the D.P.R.s are yet to be received. In regard to NTPC, I would like to state that the D.P.R. of the project they have undertaken is not ready and until the D.P.R. is ready full assessment of the cost of the project and the expenditure to be incurred cannot be made, so the work is held up.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: In the next Session, we shall have a full discussion.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, I appreciate the hon. Minister that he is making great strides for enhancing the generation of power in our country. In spite of phenomenal growth in our economy, we are still lagging behind in generating power as is desired. May I ask hon. Member whether any difference of opinion exists between the Ministry of Power and the Planning Commission in fixing target of power generation and whether Planning Commission is eager to lower the target of power generation or not?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to ensure a quarrel?

[English]

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, I must bring it to the notice of the House that there is no such type of difference of opinion between the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Power. Our relations are so cordial and we have been discussing many issues with the Deputy Chairman, and Chairman of the Planning Commission is the Prime Minister of the country. So, we have very cordial relations in establishing our many projects and getting clearances. There is no dispute at all.

MR. SPEAKER: Cordiality helps in getting more funds.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Sir, the North-East has been depicted as the country's future powerhouse. May I know from the hon. Minister the names of the projects for which the targets have been set in the North-East region for the Tenth Five Year Plan, with actual achievement of targets? How many projects have slipped to Eleventh Five Year Plan?

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, this requires notice because I will have to get information. I will submit that, I will inform the hon. Member about this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever you want, you write to him and he will send the information.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Thank you, Sir. The essential natural resources for power production are water, coal and natural gases, which are very much available in the State of Assam. But there is an acute shortage and power problem in the State of Assam in spite of having all these resources. What proposal has been taken up by the hon. Minister to improve the power situation in the State of Assam?

Secondly, there is a hue and cry in the area of consumption or among the consumer industries of Assam regarding the defective digital meter system. I want to ask this through you from the hon. Minister. Have you received

any complaint from the State of Assam regarding the defective digital meter system?

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, I have not received any complaint from the State of Assam. However, it refers to the work to be done by the State Government, and they have to look into it. But the hon. Member must be knowing that 750 MW is being done by NTPC at the Bongaigaon Power Station.

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has noted that the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has worked out the per capita consumption of electricity as 631.41 KWh for the year 2005-2006, and we are visioning about 1,000 units by 2012. Is the Minister also aware that in some States the per capita demand is much higher than in some of the other States? This is higher in some States like Haryana and Punjab because a lot of power is being used for irrigation purposes so that we are able to fulfill the food grains pool of our country. Is the Ministry considering any subsidized and additional power demand fulfilment for the States, which are using more power in the agricultural sector? For example, Haryana is using more than 50 per cent of its power for the agricultural sector.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, it is a fact that Haryana and Punjab are the two States that are using more power for the agriculturists. Recently, I have been discussing with the Chief Ministers of both the States to increase capacity addition, and they have responded to it too. I am quite sure that whatever the hon. Member has been expecting will be fulfilled soon in this Plan itself.

MR. SPEAKER: I rightly find that in the media.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This habit is very strange. I rightly find in the media that the performance of the young Members of Parliament is being specially noticed. Therefore, I should give them more opportunities. I welcome this.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Thank you very much, Sir. There are very high incidents of transmission and distribution losses as well as theft of power in our country in the power sector. I would like to ask this through you to the hon. Minister. What steps is the Government taking to reduce the transmission and distribution losses as well as theft of power?

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, the country's losses were more than 40 per cent, but now from the Tenth Plan we have been working very hard and it has been reduced to 38 per cent as the national average. We have taken steps at many places to reduce the transmission losses as well as ATC losses.

As regards transmission lines, we have switched over from 120 KV lines to 220 KV lines; from 220 KV lines to 400 KV lines; and now we are going to switch over to 700 KV

lines. India has got very excellent power grid, and it has been certified even by the Western countries. In the next Five-Year Plan, we are likely to switch over to 1,200 KV lines. Thereby, the losses will come down as soon as we increase the transmission to a higher capacity. We are also reducing the T&D losses.

As regards theft of power, we are trying to reduce the losses. The hon. Speaker and this august House is aware that we have passed a law in the Parliament. It has come into existence, and we can expect to reduce our losses through stringent measures.

MR. SPEAKER: I am treating Shri K. Yerranna as a young Member because of his perpetual youth.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, he is not on his seat.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are facing shortage of power. In Andhra Pradesh, after the firm allocation by GAIL the promoters have already completed three power projects but have not started production because of lack of gas. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is paying fixed charges of hundreds of crores, which is a great loss to the people of Andhra Pradesh and the consumers. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Yerranna, you are putting the Question like an old Member. Please ask your Question quickly.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Why has gas not been supplied even after having given firm allocation for it? When will these projects come into operation?

This is my Question to the hon. Minister.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, there are some three or four projects in Andhra Pradesh that are idle, and in between – when there was a shortage – we tried to request the Chief Minister and tried to run it on Naphtha, but it was very costly.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, this has been explained much in detail earlier also.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Now, adequate gas is not available in the country, and new finds of gas will be available by 2008 and the position will become comfortable. I am quite confident that in the next year the gas will be available, and these three or four units will be started.

MR. SPEAKER: He has just left his youth, Shri N. N. Krishnadas.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Thank you, Sir. As we talk about generation of electricity, we talk about new establishments for generating power. What about the established power generation units in our country like the Kayamkulam

Thermal Power Station? I would like to know this through you from the hon. Minister. What is the reason for not yet starting power generation in its established capacity? When will it be started?

MR. SPEAKER: His query is about some particular power station.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Is the Kayamkulam Power Station nuclear or thermal?

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: It is thermal.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: I will have to collect information regarding this, and I will inform the hon. Member accordingly.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 323, Shri Punnu Lal Mohale – not present.

Q. No. 324, Shri K. Virupakshappa – not present. Shri P.C. Gaddigoudar

Branches of SIDBI

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*324. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR:

SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) working at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more branches of this bank in various States, particularly in the State of Karnataka; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

Statement

Presently there are 64 branches of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in the country. The State-wise branch position is given in the Annexure enclosed.

Further, SIDBI has identified 10 more centres for opening branch offices during the next six to seven months. This includes one branch at Hubli, Karnataka.

Annexure

State-wise details of branches of SIDBI

Name of the State/Union Territory	No. of branches
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	03
Arunachal Pradesh	01
Assam	01

1	2
Bihar	01
Chandigarh	01
Chhattisgarh	01
Delhi	02
Goa	01
Gujarat	06
Haryana	02
Himachal Pradesh	01
Jammu and Kashmir	01
Jharkhand	03
Karnataka	02
Kerala	01
Madhya Pradesh	02
Maharashtra	08
Manipur	01
Meghalaya	01
Mizoram	01
Nagaland	01
Orissa	02
Puducherry	01
Punjab	02
Rajasthan	02
Sikkim	01
Tamil Nadu	05
Tripura	01
Uttar Pradesh	06
Uttarakhand	02
West Bengal	01
Total	64

SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR: Sir, the Minister has stated in the reply that there are 64 branches of the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) presently working in the country, and 10 more branches are to be opened shortly. I am also happy to know that one is to be opened in Hubli too.

I would like to insist on the hon. Minister that the Government should open many more branches to develop the small industries. This will be helpful to the youth also.

Secondly, I would like to ask this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The second Question can be asked later on. Mr. Minister, will you open many more branches?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, this is a suggestion. I will keep it in mind.

SHRI P.C. GADDIGODAR: I would like to know this through you from the hon. Minister. What are the norms and conditions for opening up the banks?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, SIDBI is not a regular commercial bank as a Public Sector Bank. SIDBI is a specialized bank in order to lend to small industries through both direct finance and refinance. SIDBI works through other banks also. SIDBI uses the platform of other Public Sector Banks also. Therefore, SIDBI opens branches depending upon the need to have a branch in that area or that State in order to cater to the small and medium industries in that area. But when small and medium industries develop in that area and it requires a specialized SIDBI branch, SIDBI will open a branch in that area.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri J. M. Aaron Rashid – not present.

MD. SALIM: Sir, as you know, when we look at the industrial scenario in this country, we find that there is regional imbalance. The Government is particularly putting emphasis on small and micro enterprises because that is where the employment potential is. If you see the footprints of SIDBI, you will find regional imbalance not only in terms of the number of branches and its presence, but also its activities and the number of schemes sponsored. Now, the question to the Finance Minister, through you, is whether he will undertake an exercise to remove regional imbalance in terms of patronage of SIDBI of small and micro enterprises. Will the Minister issue instructions to SIDBI in terms of striking a balance in regard to its presence and activities region-wise?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Members may not ask me to reply. You shall ask the Minister, through me, to reply to it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I do not find any glaring imbalance in the footprints of SIDBI – Maharashtra has eight branches, Gujarat has six, Tamil Nadu has five, Uttar Pradesh has 6, and all other States are represented.

MD. SALIM: West and East, South and North.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: This is a function of industrial development, industrial growth, investment, and promotion of small and medium industries. States which are proactive and promote small and medium industries will naturally attract more small and medium industries and, therefore, SIDBI will lend more.

Secondly, Sir, SIDBI does not do direct lending alone. SIDBI's portfolio is not direct lending. Direct finance is only a

small part of SIDBI's portfolio. SIDBI really provides refinance support, and refinance is done to primarily lending institutions which are essentially the State-level financial institutions. There is a State Finance Corporation in most States, but many of these State Finance Corporations today have a negative net worth. Unless the State Finance Corporations have a positive net worth and lend to small and medium industries, how does that SFC expect that SIDBI would refinance them? The problem is deeper than merely looking at the number of branches. I think what is important is that States must actively promote industrialization, actively woo investment in small and medium industries, resurrect or restore the vitality of their State Finance Corporations, and you will not find SIDBI wanting in both direct finance and refinance.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as has been said by the hon'ble Minister six branches have been opened in Uttar Pradesh while the population of Uttar Pradesh, the heart of India, is about 18 crore. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government will make effort to open the branches at tehsil and block levels to promote small and cottage industries?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has replied to that question.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have said that SIDBI is not like a public sector bank which does extensive direct finance. SIDBI is really a refinancing institution. It refines primary lending institutions. It has nothing to do with the population. It depends upon the amount of industrialization that is taking place, especially in the small and medium sector. If industrialization picks up, more units come up and when SIDBI finds a need, surely it will open branches even at tehsil levels.

Organic Farming

*325. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to extend loans with concessional rate of interest to farmers who propose to undertake organic farming methods;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) To ensure that farmers receive Short Term Credit at 7% with an upper limit of Rs.3 lakh on the principal

amount, Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks are being provided interest subvention of 2% per annum on their own involvement of funds. The Government is also providing interest subvention to NABARD for concessional refinance to RRBs and Cooperative Banks for the purpose. This scheme, since its introduction from Kharif 2006-07 is applicable for Organic Farming also.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: I thank the hon. Finance Minister for providing concessional loans for organic farming. Coming to my first supplementary, organic farming is very eco-friendly and export-oriented. Will the Finance Minister consider issuing guidelines to all banks to provide exclusively 30 per cent of agricultural credit to farmers engaged in organic farming? May I know from the hon. Finance Minister whether he would extend loans at concessional rates for organic farming to Self-Help Groups? As the House knows, the Self-Help Groups are very active all over the country, especially in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We do not make any distinction between lending to farmers who use chemical fertilizers and lending to farmers who undertake organic farming. That is the thrust of the answer. All concessions available to the farming sector are available to farmers who undertake organic farming.

Now, as far as Self-Help Groups are concerned, they are free to use chemical fertilizers or undertake organic farming. There is no distinction at all.

However, organic farming has to be promoted. I understand that the National Horticulture Mission has a component intended to promote organic farming. I understand, Sir, a question was asked and the Minister of Agriculture answered elaborately on organic farming. But if she wants to know more about organic farming, I think the question should be put to the Minister of Agriculture. As far as the banks are concerned, we make no distinction. All concessions available to all farmers are available to farmers who undertake organic farming.

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Sir, will the Government consider a National Project on Organic Farming extending soft loans to entrepreneurs who are in the business of making biodynamic compost, liquid manure and other organic preparations? Sir, I understand the Ministry has not issued instructions to State Governments regarding organic farming loans. I would like to know, through you, Sir, whether the Minister will ask the State Governments to submit a plan of action within a certain time limit.

MR. SPEAKER: You can better do that.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, as I said, banks do not make any distinction between chemical fertilizers and organic farming. But since the hon. Member has asked this question, I have collected the information from the other Ministries. There is a Centrally-sponsored Scheme on National Horticulture Mission which promotes organic farming. The Ministry of Commerce launched the National Programme for Organic Production in April, 2000. The objectives of that Programme, I can read them out. APEEDA provides financial assistance to those who are engaged in organic farming. There is national standard for organic production and certification measures being implemented by APEEDA. I think, different Ministries who are directly connected with farming and export of agricultural products are promoting organic farming.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, with regard to the loans given to the farmers at a concessional rate of interest, though it is reduced from nine per cent to seven per cent, it is confined only to the short-term loans and has not been extended to long-term loans. I would like to know whether the Minister is thinking of applying his mind on this issue, as per the recommendations made by Dr. Swaminathan Commission, that is, reducing the concessional rate to four per cent.

MR. SPEAKER: You are going from where to where, I do not know. This is a question on organic farming.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, it is about giving loans at concessional rates to the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: That does not mean that it can be any question relating to farmers. Mr. Minister, do you wish to answer this? I will not compel you.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the seven per cent interest for crop loans was introduced by this Government two years ago and, of course, the State Governments have supplemented it by offering a further subsidy of one or two per cent; in one case, even as much as three per cent.

As far as investment credit is concerned, which is what we call long-term credit, there is the second Vaidyanathan Committee Report. We are examining that Report. We have held one consultation with all the State Finance Ministers and Chief Ministers. Some consensus has emerged. I have sent the consensus of that meeting to the State Finance Ministers and Chief Ministers. Once I get the response, we will certainly take into account what the hon. Member has said.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the Finance Minister whether the Government would reduce the rate of interest on loans for organic farming interest from seven per cent to four per cent?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Whatever rate of interest will apply to farming will apply to organic farming.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the farmers took loans for farming. Similarly, in Jammu and Kashmir also farmers took loans but due to turmoil and terrorism in the State they could not repay their loans. When the former Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowdaji visited there, he made an announcement to waive the loans of farmers. Many Governments came to power and went, however, the loans of the farmers have not been waived till date. An amount of Rs. 2000/- which the farmer had taken for fertilizers has now reached upto Rs. 20,000/-.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Government whether it will make any arrangement to waive off the loans of farmers, as a commitment in this regard had been made by the former hon'ble Prime Minister and in view of the fact that farmers having suffered due to turmoil and terrorism in the state?

MR. SPEAKER: Would the hon'ble Minister like to say something?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, we require notice for this question.

MR. SPEAKER: Certainly.

You put a specific question, important but specific.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: ...*

MR. SPEAKER: The comment will be omitted. Shri Lal Singh, please do not do this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the basis for giving economic assistance to NABARD for enabling it to pay the interest?

The Government make arrangement for giving financial assistance to NABARD, I would like to know as to what arrangement the Government have made regarding bio-agriculture for the upliftment of the farmers?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripalji, this Question is not related to the topic. I don't know what you people do, the Question is related to some issue and you ask something else.

* Not recorded.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Question is whether the Government would reduce the rate of interest on loans to the farmers as subsidy is being given to them?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The other hon. Member has asked that question and yet you are asking the same question.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Let me repeat most respectfully, Sir, this Government reduced the interest rate from 10 per cent to seven per cent. Any suggestion for further reduction will be considered very sympathetically.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Sir, organic farming is the best method to follow for this country. To encourage organic farming, banks are not coming forward to sanction loans as and when they are required.

MR. SPEAKER: Put this question to Agriculture Minister.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: I would request the hon. Minister to give specific directions, especially in the case of organic farming, that loans should be distributed as and when required. Also, the amount fixed now is Rs.3 lakh now which may please be increased to at least Rs.10 lakh, and with a longer term.

MR. SPEAKER: Today is the last day of this Session. Therefore, I am being a little liberal.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I entirely agree with the hon. Member. At the next review meeting with the banks I shall include this in the agenda and encourage them to lend more to organic farming. There are other schemes which I have mentioned - the National Horticulture Mission, the National Programme for Organic Production, etc., - which give certain benefits. But I shall ensure that these benefits are extended to organic farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: Q.No.326 - Shri Ramdas Athawale - Not present.

Q.No. 327 - Shri Vijoy Krishna

Legislation Regarding Model Code of Conduct

*327. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Election Commission for making a legislation on the model code of conduct with a view to vest power with Chief Election Commissioner to disqualify and impose penalties on violators;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Government has not received any such proposal in this regard. However, in the past there was a proposal from Election Commission of India to give statutory backing to the Model Code of Conduct but in July, 1998 after the experience garnered through successfully conducting a large number of elections in the country without giving a statutory backing to the Model Code of Conduct, the Election Commission withdrew its proposal.

- (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our democratic country has entrusted onerous responsibility to the Election Commission. I would like to tell the Government that even today many irregularities take place in the election process and Question is raised regarding the neutrality of the Election Commission. Many Questions are related to elections. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government are considering any proposal with regard to election reforms?

[English]

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: We have received certain proposals. We are trying to develop consensus in political parties.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Pending Projects under SGSY

323. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of proposals received from various State Governments under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) are pending with the Union Government;
 (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise/UT-wise; and
 (c) the steps taken by the Government for the speedy clearance of such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The details of number of special project proposals under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) received from various States

since inception of the scheme in April, 1999 indicating their status, State wise is given at Statement enclosed. Since inception of the scheme, 794 proposals have been received by the Government, out of which, 236 projects have been sanctioned/approved so far, 421 project proposals have been returned to the concerned State Governments or other sponsoring agencies for various reasons such as non compliance with the guidelines of SGSY special projects, non viability of projects, lack of focus on Below Poverty Line beneficiaries etc. and 137 project proposals are with the Government at various stages of processing including proposals referred to technical agencies for comments, proposals cleared by Project Screening Committee but yet to go to Project Approval Committee etc.

A large number of special project proposals under SGSY are received from State Governments and other Agencies for sanction. Since they are large livelihoods projects whose cost can go up to a maximum of Rs. 15 crore, such proposals are first scrutinized for their compliance with the guidelines of Special Projects under SGSY, mainly relating to focus on beneficiaries from families Below Poverty Line (BPL), commitment for 25% matching share of project cost by the State Governments, inclusion of credit component, etc. Projects that do not fulfill these requirements are returned to the concerned State Governments. The State Governments keep on revising, restructuring and resubmitting such proposals. The proposals are also sent for obtaining technical comments of the concerned line Departments/agencies, wherever necessary. The project proposals which comply with the basic parameters of the guidelines are then appraised through two Inter- Ministerial Committees for screening and approval. The projects are first examined and screened by the Project Screening Committee (PSC) headed by Joint Secretary (SGSY) with members from the Internal Finance Division and the Planning Commission. The projects cleared by PSC are finally considered and approved by the Project Approval Committee headed by Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, with Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser, Ministry of Rural Development, Advisor (Rural Development), Planning Commission and Joint Secretary (SGSY) as members. Receipt of project proposals, their revision by the sponsoring State Governments and their appraisal and approval through the above two tier Inter Ministerial Committees is a continuous process. It is also proposed to revise the existing guidelines of special projects under SGSY to bring them in line with present priorities. Since appraisal and approval/clearance of proposals is a continuous process and depend on various factors like their fulfilling the prescribed guidelines, economic viability of the proposals, BPL focus of projects, etc., no time frame can be indicated for final clearance of such project proposals.

Statement**SGSY Special Projects Received till Date**

(As on 04.12.07)

State	Total	Approved	Under Process*	Returned
Andhra Pradesh	57	24	3	30
Arunachal Pradesh	23	4	9	10
Assam	33	11	3	19
Bihar	31	8	7	16
Chhattisgarh	21	6	9	6
Multi State	43	23	3	17
Goa	1	1	0	0
Gujarat	23	9	4	10
Haryana	9	1	1	7
Himachal Pradesh	18	9	5	4
Jammu and Kashmir	15	4	3	8
Jharkhand	9	3	0	6
Karnataka	42	6	8	28
Kerala	24	9	7	8
Maharashtra	52	13	10	29
Manipur	36	6	4	26
Meghalaya	11	2	0	9
Mizoram	13	5	1	7
Madhya Pradesh	74	21	24	29
Nagaland	29	5	8	16
Orissa	22	2	4	16
Punjab	9	5	1	3
Rajasthan	59	21	5	33
Sikkim	2	1	0	1
Tamil Nadu	34	8	1	25
Tripura	17	5	2	10
Uttar Pradesh	32	7	5	20
Uttaranchal	31	13	5	13
West Bengal	24	4	5	15
Total	794	236	137	421

* Includes all project proposals under different processing stages, Referred, Deferred.

Allocation of Funds to DRDAs

326. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which funds are being allocated to District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) and Zilla Parishads;

(b) whether there is uniformity in the allocation of funds to them;

(c) if so, the amount allocated to the development agencies in the country during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government has any mechanism to monitor the expenditure of the district rural development agencies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development through State Governments and Union Territory Administrations implements a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes for poverty alleviation, employment generation, creation of rural infrastructure and providing basic amenities for people living in rural areas of the country. The programmes are Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY), Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), DRDA Administration, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP), Computerization of Land Records (CLR) and Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating Land Records (SRA & ULR). The central share is released to District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) in respect of the programmes of SGRY, SGSY, IAY, DRDA Administration, IWDP, DPAP, DDP and NREGS. The IWDP, DPAP, DDP and NREGS are demand-based programmes and others are allocation based. Funds in respect of PMGSY, ARWSP, CLR and SRA & ULR are released to State Governments and funds with respect to TSC are released to District Water & Sanitation Committees.

Funds under all schemes are released as per laid down criteria in the approved guidelines. In case of SGRY, the allocation of funds to districts are made on the index of backwardness formulated on the basis of the proportion of rural SC/ST population in the district to the total SC/ST population in the state and inverse of per capita production of the agricultural workers in that district. Under SGSY, the allocation is made on the basis of the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in the district. Under IAY, the inter district

allocation within a state is done by assigning 75% weightage to housing shortage and 25% weightage to rural SC/ST population of the concerned districts. Under programme of DRDA Administration the districts are categorized based on numbers of blocks and the administrative cost per district is fixed. IWDP, DPAP and DDP are project-based demand driven programmes and projects are funded on the basis of per hector cost norms. NREGS is demand-based scheme and there is no allocation criterion.

(c) Allocation (Budget Estimates) under various rural development schemes of the Ministry was Rs. 15998.40 crores, Rs. 24480.00 crores and Rs. 31443.62 crores during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively. During the same periods, the actual release was Rs. 18166.83 crores, Rs. 27488.83 crores and Rs. 30981.94 crores. Under allocation based programmes of SGRY, SGSY, IAY and DRDA Administration, the central allocations to DRDAs during the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 was Rs. 7955.92 crores, Rs. 9128.90 crores and Rs. 6919.07 crores respectively. The Central releases under both allocations based and demand based programmes of SGRY, SGSY, IAY, DRDA Administration, IWDP, DPAP, DDP and NFFWP/NREGS to the DRDAs during the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 was Rs. 11380.07 crores, Rs. 14941.47 crores and Rs. 16991.57 crores respectively.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Effective monitoring mechanism is in place. The Ministry is monitoring the monthly progress through on-line Management Information System (MIS). Expenditure under various programmes is monitored based on utilisation certificates submitted by the implementing agencies. With a view to monitor the expenditure made under various programmes by the DRDAs, the Ministry has developed a comprehensive system of monitoring the implementation and impact of the programmes including utilization of funds through Periodical Progress Reports, Performance Review Committee, Area Officer's Scheme, Vigilance and Monitoring Committee at the State/District Level with greater involvement of Members of Parliament, National Level Monitors to monitor quality of work, adherence to implementation of schemes as per programme guidelines.

Small Savings Schemes

329. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quantum of investment by the people in the small savings schemes run by the Banks and the Post Offices has declined;

(b) if so, the rate of decline registered during the

year 2006-2007 in comparison to the year 2005-2006 and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage people to invest in the said savings schemes?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The gross small savings collections during 2005-06 of Rs. 1,99,794 crore declined to Rs. 1,81,705 crore during 2006 - 07 (Provisional). The decline of 9 per cent in gross collections under various small savings schemes reflects, inter-alia, investors' preference for alternative savings instruments.

(c) The small savings schemes, carrying different terms and rate of interest administered by the Govt. of India, are designed to provide safe and attractive investment option to all individuals who invest in these savings schemes. Central and State Governments take various measures from time to time to promote and popularize small savings schemes through print and electronic media as well as holding seminars, meetings and providing training to the various agencies involved in mobilizing deposits under these schemes. A website of the National Savings Institute under Government of India, Ministry of Finance has also been launched to facilitate interface with the public through wider dissemination of information on small savings and on-line registration and settlement of investor's grievances. The website address is nsiindia.gov.in.

[English]

Utilisation of IHSDP Fund for Infrastructure

*330. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state the State-wise details of the allocation and utilisation of the funds meant for Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) for infrastructure development in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): The Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) provides Additional Central Assistance in a composite manner both for housing and infrastructure components to the States/UTs. Since Additional Central Assistance under the said scheme was released only in 2006-07 and current financial year (2007-08), no utilization certificates relating to infrastructure in slum areas have been received so far from any State/UT Governments. The details of allocation and release of funds for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

7 Year Fund Allocation, Approved & Released under IHSDP - 13. 11. 2007 (Projects approved upto 06.10.07)

Sl.No. State/UT	Total ACA Allocation	Planning Commission		ACA Approved		Total ACA Released		ACA released by 13. 11.07			
		Allocation		Year		Year					
		2005-12 (IHSDP)	2006- 2007	2005- 2006	2006- 2007	2005- 2006	2006- 2007				
		For year	For year	Year	Year	Year	Year				
1	579.71	65.38	63.83	0.00	210.57	37.75	248.32	0.00	83.33	40.83	124.16
2	4.52	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	47.25	5.33	5.20	0.00	10.79	22.33	33.11	0.00	5.09	5.20	10.29
4	140.06	16.91	15.42	0.00	36.55	23.21	59.76	0.00	8.96	15.40	24.36
5	68.44	7.00	7.54	0.00	122.00	0.00	122.00	0.00	31.26	29.74	61.00
6	15.79	1.78	1.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	213.54	24.08	23.51	0.00	51.54	66.44	117.98	0.00	18.00	23.38	41.38
8	133.05	15.01	14.65	0.00	182.96	0.00	182.96	0.00	49.61	41.87	91.49
9	16.19	1.83	1.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	80.22	9.05	8.83	0.00	0.00	32.23	32.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	113.33	11.67	12.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	137.34	15.49	15.12	0.00	41.90	63.94	105.84	0.00	14.93	14.97	29.90
13	165.69	18.69	18.24	0.00	50.10	31.07	81.17	0.00	21.46	18.19	39.65
14	230.53	26.72	25.38	0.00	138.00	15.38	153.38	0.00	45.77	25.38	71.15
15	484.82	54.66	53.39	0.00	120.71	55.84	176.55	0.00	55.80	32.49	88.29

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
16	Manipur	12.35	1.38	1.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	Meghalaya	8.97	1.01	0.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	Mizoram	7.65	0.86	0.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	Nagaland	6.79	0.77	0.75	0.00	44.14	0.00	44.14	0.00	0.00	9.63	12.44	22.07
20	Orissa	140.85	15.89	15.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	Punjab	143.80	16.22	15.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.15	7.15	0.00	0.00	3.58	3.58
22	Rajasthan	353.80	39.90	38.96	7.22	110.06	22.30	139.60	0.00	39.26	30.54	69.80	69.80
23	Sikkim	0.90	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	Tamilnadu	291.15	32.83	32.06	0.00	112.56	42.24	154.80	0.00	43.37	31.92	75.29	75.29
25	Tripura	8.36	0.94	0.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Uttar Pradesh	712.01	80.15	78.40	0.00	22.11	0.00	22.11	0.00	11.05	0.00	11.05	11.05
27	Uttaranchal	43.58	5.06	4.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	West Bengal	271.51	30.62	29.90	0.00	150.57	54.84	205.41	0.00	55.08	29.83	84.91	84.91
29	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	Pondicherry	6.95	0.78	0.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7.29	0.00	0.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.56	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34	Lakshadweep	1.03	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35	Daman and Diu	1.97	0.00	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	4450.00	499.99	490.00	7.22	1404.58	474.73	1886.52	0.00	492.61	355.75	848.36	848.36

Payment of Extra Wages under NREGS

*331. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding non-compliance of guidelines by some States under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS);

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last year and in the current year;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that some States are paying extra wages under the Act;

(d) if so, whether the State Governments are bearing the cost of extra wages; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No complaints regarding non compliance of guidelines by States under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) have been received. However, complaints of irregularities at the field level have been received. State-wise number of complaints received are given in the enclosed statement. Details are available at website www.nrega.nic.in.

(c) No, Sir. Wages are paid under NREGA as per the minimum wage fixed by the State Government under section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for agricultural labourers. The Central Government has not notified the wage rate for any state or for any area under any state for the purposes of NREG Act.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Statement

Sl. No.	States	No. of Complaints
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	2
2	Assam	5
3	Bihar	19
4	Gujarat	5
5	Haryana	2
6	Karnataka	3
7	Madhya Pradesh	22
8	Maharashtra	5

1	2	3
9	Mizoram	1
10	Orissa	10
11	Rajasthan	7
12	Tamil Nadu	2
13	Uttar Pradesh	33
14	West Bengal	10
15	Chhattisgarh	7
16	Jharkhand	11

Agriculture Rural Credit Programme

*332. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need for improvement in the agricultural rural -credit programme as reported in Financial Express dated November 9, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Advisory Committee on flow of credit particularly for small and marginal farmers under the chairmanship of Professor Vijay Shankar Vyas has submitted its report in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) The flow of agriculture credit has more than doubled in the last three years from Rs. 86,981 crore in 2003-04 to Rs. 2,03,297 crore in 2006-07. This has been possible due to the following steps taken by Government of India (GoI) to ensure availability of timely and affordable credit for farm sector:-

- The Government of India (GoI) is providing interest subvention @ 2% per annum to Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks on their own funds and concessional refinance to Cooperative Banks and RRBs since Kharif 2006-07 to ensure Short Term crop loans upto Rs.3 lakh to farmers at interest rate of @ 7% per annum at the ground level.
- The GoI has stipulated a target of Rs.2,25,000 crore for agricultural credit flow by all the banks during 2007-08.
- Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks have been successful in financing 50 lakhs new farmers during each of the last three year.
- Banks have simplified the procedure for documentation for agricultural loans.

- Loans upto Rs.50,000/- have been made collateral and margin free and the requirement of 'No Dues Certificate' has been dispensed with.
- Banks have been advised to provide all eligible farmers with Kisan Credit Cards.
- Banks have been instructed to achieve financial outreach through provision of a General Credit Card to households, to open "No Frills" accounts with limited overdraft facilities, to extend financial outreach by utilizing services of Civil Society Organisation like Farmers Clubs, Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Post. Offices as Business Facilitator/Business Correspondent Model, etc.

The Advisory Committee on Flow of Credit to Agriculture and Related Activities from the Banking System set up by the Reserve Bank of India under Chairmanship of Prof. V.S. Vyas had examined various issues relating to agriculture credit and submitted its final report on June 30, 2004.

Several recommendations of the Vyas Committee have been accepted and communicated to the Banks for implementation. These, inter-alia, include: (i) waiver of margin/security norms for agricultural loans upto Rs.50,000/-, and in case of loans for agri-clinics and agri-businesses upto Rs.5 lakh; (ii) bringing about procedural simplifications; and (iii) financing of oral lessees and landless agricultural labourers through the Self Help Group and Joint Liability Group approach.

[Translation]

Loan to Consumers/Farmers in Rural Areas

*333. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge difference in the amount of deposits and advances in most of the nationalised banks in rural areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. According to the Reserve Bank of India, the gap between deposits and credit of public sector banks in rural areas has been decreasing steadily, as a consequence of which, the CD ratio has improved from 50.89% in 2004-05 to 60.15% in 2006-07.

[English]

Setting up of Power Stations by NTPC

*334. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has signed MoU with some State Electricity Boards recently to set up power stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the NTPC proposes to set up more power stations particularly in those States which are facing severe power crisis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)/Memoranda of Agreement (MoAs) signed by NTPC Ltd. with State Electricity Boards/State Power Utilities for setting up power stations is enclosed as Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Depending on economics of generation and supply, NTPC Ltd. has planned to set up new thermal and hydro power projects in various States of the country. The details of on-going and new power projects envisaged to be set up during 11th Plan are enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs)/ Memorandum of Agreements (MoAs) signed by NTPC Ltd.

- i. MoU signed with Tamil Nadu Electricity Board on 12.7.2002 for jointly establishing and operating a 2x500 MW coal based Thermal Power Project at Vallur, in the State of Tamil Nadu. Feasibility report has been finalized for the third unit of 500 MW.
- ii. MoU signed with Haryana Power Generation Corporation Ltd. (HPGCL) and Indraprastha Power Generation Company Ltd., Delhi (IPGCL) on 24.8.2006 for establishment of a 3x500 MW coal based Thermal Power Project at Jhajjar in the State of Haryana.
- iii. MoA signed among NTPC, Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) and Government of Bihar on 26.12.2005 for jointly taking over the 2x110 MW Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Station of BSEB for revival and operation.
- iv. MoU signed with Bihar State Electricity Board and Government of Bihar on 14/10/2007 for establishing and operating a 3x660 MW coal based Thermal Power Project at Nabinagar in Aurangabad district, in the State of Bihar subject to establishment of techno-economic viability.
- v. MoU signed with Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. on 22.11.2007 for jointly establishing and operating a 2x660 MW coal based Thermal Power Project at Meja Tehsil in Allahabad district, in the State

of Uttar Pradesh subject to establishment of techno-economic viability.

vi. For Hydro Projects, NTPC has signed the following MoUs/MoAs:

- a) MoU signed with Govt. of Himachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board (HPSEB) for Koldam (800 MW) Hydro Project on 26.02.2000.
- b) NTPC Hydro Limited (a 100% subsidiary of NTPC Ltd.) has signed an MoU with West Bengal State Electricity Board (WBSEB) for Rammam-III (120 MW) Hydro Project on 29.04.2005.
- c) MoU signed with Government of Uttaranchal for Loharinag Pala (600 MW) on 23.06.2004,

Tapovan Vishnugad (520 MW) on 23.06.2004, Lata Tapovan (171 MW) on 18.08.2003 and Rupsiabagar Khasiabara (261 MW) on 21.11.2005.

- d) MoA signed with Government of Arunachal Pradesh for Etalin (4000 MW) and Attunli (500 MW) Hydro Projects on 21.09.2006.

Further to above, MoU had also been signed with Delhi Transco Ltd. on 24.8.2006 for establishing and operating a 2x490 MW Coal Based Expansion Power Project at Badarpur in Delhi subject to availability of clearances and establishment of techno-economic feasibility. However, based on detailed technical studies carried out, the project has not been found techno-economically feasible.

Statement-II

NTPC's Capacity Addition Programme during XI Plan

(figures in MW)

Project (Fuel)/State	Capacity	XI Plan 2007-12
1	2	3
I Capacity commissioned		
Sipat-II (Coal)/Chhattisgarh	1000	500
Sub Total I		
II Capacity under construction		
Kahalgaon-II, Phase-I (Coal)/Bihar	1000	500
Kahalgaon-II, Phase-II (Coal)/Bihar	500	500
Sipat-II (Coal)/Chhattisgarh	1000	500
Sipat-I (Coal)/Chhattisgarh	1980	1980
Koldam (Hydel) / H.P.	800	800
Barh (Coal)/Bihar	1980	1980
Korba-III (Coal)/Chhattisgarh	500	500
Bhilai Exp. Power (Coal) - JV with SAIL/Chhattisgarh	500	500
NCTPP-II, Dadri (Coal)-Unit-I/U.P.	980	980
Farakka-III (Coal)/West Bengal	500	500
Loharinag Pala (Hydel)/Uttaranchal	600	600
Tapovan Vishnugad (Hydel)/Uttaranchal	520	520
Simhadri-II (Coal)/Andhra Pradesh	1000	1000
Indira Gandhi STPP at Jhajjar-JV with HPGCL & IPGCL (Coal)/Haryana	1500	1500
Vallur (Coal)-JV with TNEB/Tamil Nadu (Main Plant award in July '07)	1000	1000
Sub Total II		13360

1	2	3
III Capacity under ordering		
Mauda (Coal), Maharashtra	1000	1000
Bongaigaon (Coal), Assam	750	750
Barh-II (Coal), Bihar	1320	1320*
Nabinagar-JV with Railways (Coal)/Bihar	1000	1000
North Karanpura (Coal)/Jharkhand	1980	1320*
Kawas-II (Gas)/Gujarat\$	1300	1300
Jhanor Gandhar-II (Gas)/Gujarat \$	1300	1300
Sub Total III		7990
IV Capacity for which Feasibility Report finalized		
Rihand-III (Coal), U.P	1000	500
Sub Total IV		500
Grand Total (I to IV)		22350
Capacity at the end of X Plan	27404 MW (Coal 22709 and Gas 4695)	
Present Capacity	27904 MW (Coal 23209 and Gas 4695)	
Capacity at the end of XI Plan	49754 MW (Coal 40539, Gas 7295 and Hydro 1920)	

* Unit- 2 on best effort basis

\$ These projects will be taken up only after signing of GSPA.

[Translation]

Increase in the Domestic and Foreign Capital Investment

*335. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN": Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of foreign capital investment in the Indian share market is constantly increasing in comparison to the domestic capital investment;

(b) if so, the half yearly growth rate of both categories of capital investment during each of the last three years;

(c) the total amount of domestic as well as foreign capital investment in the share market of the country by the end of September 2007;

(d) The dates on which an increase or fall of more than 500 points in each category was registered in the share market during the year 2004 and upto the same period; and

(e) the reasons therefore and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The amount of foreign capital investment in the Indian share market in comparison to the domestic capital investment and the pattern of growth rate of both categories of investment during the last three years is given below:

Date	Foreign capital investment (FCI)		Domestic capital investment (DCI)		Ratio of FCI/DCI
	Value (Rs. Cr)	Growth Rate	Value (Rs. Cr.)	Growth Rate	
31-Mar-05	308713		1276872		0.24
30-Sep-05	462038	49.67%	1636225	28.14%	0.28
31-Mar-06	647880	40.22%	2165321	32.34%	0.30
30-Sep-06	566490	-12.56%	2427642	12.11%	0.23
31-Mar-07	678858	19.84%	2688492	10.74%	0.25
30-Sep-07	984642	45.04%	3901919	45.13%	0.25

(c) The total value of foreign capital investment across listed companies in the Indian share market by end of September 2007 was Rs.9,84,642 Cr and for domestic capital investment, it was Rs.39,01,919 Cr.

(d) The increase or decrease in market capitalization of listed companies is captured by Sensex at BSE and Nifty at NSE. There is no segregation of index on the basis of investment by foreign and domestic investors.

At NSE there has been no instance of an increase or fall of more than 500 points on any given date during the period 2004 to September 2007. At Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) during the period 2004 to September 2007 Sensex witnessed rise and fall of more than 500 points on 10

instances: 17/May/04 (-564.71 points, 11.14%), 18/May/06 (-826.38 points, 6.76%), 09/June/06 (+514.65 points, 5.54%), 15/June/06 (+615.62 points, 6.89%), 28/Feb/07 (-540.74 points, 4.01%), 02/April/07 (-616.73 points, 4.72%), 27/July/07 (-541.74 points, 3.43%), 1/Aug/07 (-615.22 points, 3.96%), 16/Aug/07 (-642.7 points, 4.28%) and 19/Sept/07 (+653.63 points, 4.17%).

(e) The movement of any particular index at any point of time cannot be attributed to any single factor. The volatility is inherent in stock markets. The volatility in securities market is a function of the perception of investors – domestic and overseas, retail and institutional – about the economy, the sector and the company. This perception is influenced by many factors including the macro-economic environment, growth potential of the economy, corporate performance, domestic and international events, and market sentiments.

SEBI and the Exchanges have put in place systems and practices to promote a safe, transparent and efficient market and to protect market integrity. The systems include advanced risk management mechanisms comprising on-line monitoring and surveillance and various limits on positions, margin requirements, circuit filters, etc. which reduce the scope for excessive volatility in the market. During the period of volatility, Exchanges focus on monitoring of the circuit filters and take appropriate action to modify the circuit filters for individual stocks.

[English]

Study on Himalyan Glaciology

*336. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a specialized research centre at the national level for holistic studies on Himalayan glaciology and for monitoring all important glaciers to deal with snow melting;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which such a centre is likely to be set up;

(d) whether the rate of shrinking of Gangotri glacier during the last three decades is more than the rate during the last decade; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the effects of shrinking of above glacier?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL):
(a) to (e) The Department of Science and Technology had been mandated by the Committee of Secretaries to establish

a National Institute for Research & Development on Himalayan Glaciers. Accordingly, the Department of Science & Technology has initiated the consultative process for preparing a detailed Project Report for establishing an Institute for "Snow, Ice and Glaciers Studies".

The National Institute of Snow, Ice and Glacier Study (NISIGS), as it may be called, will be initiated as a cell at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehra Dun in the coming 2 months. Subsequently, a suitable location would be chosen for the establishment of the National Institute from where an integrated research activity on a network of selected glaciers could be co-ordinated in the three climatic zones of Himalaya namely, the zone under the influence of the westerlies (Jammu & Kashmir); SW monsoon (Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand); and both SW and NE monsoons (Sikkim-Arunachal region) for the better understanding of Himalayan glacier dynamics.

Commissioning of expert groups for the preparation of Road map, Detailed Project Report and EFC note have been initiated.

The Geological Survey of India has been carrying out studies on the recession of Gangotri Glacier since 1935. Between 1935 and 1996 the average recession rate of Gangotri Glacier was 18.80 m/year but during 1976-96 an increased recession rate of 28.25 had been observed. Further, studies carried out by Jawaharlal Nehru University and G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development had recorded the recession rates of Gangotri Glacier as 17.15m/year between 1971 and 2004 and 12.10m during 2004-05.

As regards the impact of shrinking of the Gangotri glacier there seems to be no immediate cause of major concern. Retreat or advance is a natural process for the glacier. The most important reason for understanding the health and dynamics of Himalayan Glaciers lies in the fact that they play a significant role in the control of the climate of the subcontinent and have a profound influence on the nature of agriculture and its productivity, hydro-power production and environmental changes that may have a direct bearing on the life and livelihood of the people living in the region.

Recruitment in Banks

*337. DR. H.T. SANGLIANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has scrapped the Banking Services Recruitment Board;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the alternative arrangements made for proper selection for Bank officers/employees?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) To enable the banks to be Board driven

and to face competition, Government have permitted greater autonomy to bank managements in framing their own recruitment strategy and its implementation. As a follow up to this, all the Banking Service Recruitment Boards were closed by 31.12.2001.

(c) Banks were advised on 19.9.2001 to frame their own recruitment strategy with the approval of their respective Boards to meet their future manpower requirements. However, while framing their strategy, banks were advised to ensure that the recruitment policy is transparent and the process of selection is fair, just, objective and unbiased and takes care of the reservation policy for SC/ST/OBCs as per Government guidelines.

Wind Energy Generation by NTPC

*338. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is considering to generate 650 MW wind energy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the locations thereof;

(c) whether the NTPC has signed any MoU with Asian Development Bank for setting up a joint venture company to undertake such projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. NTPC Limited has formulated its business plan for capacity addition of 1000 Megawatt (MW) through renewable energy sources which includes 650 MW through Wind Energy. As part of this, NTPC proposes to set up a 50 MW wind farm on fast track basis. Details of locations etc. could be available only after the finalization of the bidding process.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. NTPC Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Asian Development Bank (ADB) on 23rd July 2007 for setting up a Joint Venture Company to undertake renewable power generation.

The intent of the MoU is to establish a Joint Venture (JV) Company between NTPC, ADB and suitable strategic investors to be selected by NTPC and ADB. Finally, the equity holding shall be as follows:

NTPC - 40%,

ADB - 20% and

Strategic Investors - 40%.

The portfolio of the JV will include wind power, mini and micro hydroelectric power projects and other renewable

power generation resources such as industrial cogeneration, waste-to-energy, solar, geo-thermal, bio-mass and bio-fuel projects.

Small Hydro Power Projects

*339. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has a large potential of small hydro power upto 25 mw capacity which has not yet been developed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Union Government to develop the micro hydro power potentiality in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR):

(a) The estimated potential of small hydro power (upto 25 MW capacity) in the country is about 15,000 MW. However, not all of this potential might be technically feasible and economically viable. So far, small hydro potential of 2018 MW has been exploited through 609 projects. In addition, 227 projects aggregating to 695 MW are under implementation.

(b) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing various incentive schemes for the development of small/ mini/ micro hydro projects in the country. Central Financial Assistance is given to the State Governments/ Agencies for identification of new potential sites & preparation of state perspective plan, setting up of new small hydro power (SHP) projects, renovation and modernization of existing SHP projects and completion of languishing projects. The Ministry provide subsidy to the private sector for setting up new SHP projects. Subsidy is also given to the state agencies/local bodies/NGOs for development & up-gradation of watermills. The Ministry has created a center namely Alternate Hydro Energy Center (AHEC) at IIT, Roorkee, to provide technical support, organize training programmes and testing of small/ mini/micro hydro projects. Recently, a real time digital simulator for small hydropower plants has been set up at AHEC for providing advanced training to operators and engineering staff of different types of SHP plants.

Change in Conditionalities of World Bank Loans and ADB Loans

*340. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether conditionalities of loans have been changed by World Bank/Asian Development Bank/International Finance Institutions in case of all the State related Projects/private Projects;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether India had requested for the change of conditionalities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor and the response of the respective banks thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No Sir.

- (b) Question does not arise.
- (c) No Sir.
- (d) Question does not arise.

Drinking Water Quality in Cities in UP

3107. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that drinking water supplied to many cities of Uttar Pradesh is unfit for drinking;
- (b) if so, the details thereof location wise;
- (c) whether about 80% samples of water have been found negative; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken/being taken in this regard?

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

Investigation on Formula One Car Racing

3108. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether formula one car racing event held in London had violated RBI guidelines;
- (b) if so, whether Directorate of Enforcement is examining the issue; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) M/s United Breweries Ltd., an Indian company, had entered into an agreement with M/s Benetton Formula Ltd., U.K., for display of Kingfisher brand without prior approval of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and thereby acknowledged a debt of US \$ 15 million.

(b) and (c) On the basis of investigation caused by the Directorate of Enforcement under the provisions of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 (FERA), a show cause notice

was issued to M/s United Breweries Ltd., Bangalore and its Chairman Shri Vijay Mallya. The case was adjudicated by the Adjudicating Authority and the charges were dropped. The Directorate of Enforcement filed a review petition before the Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange (ATFE), New Delhi, which was dismissed. The Directorate of Enforcement has filed an appeal before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi against the order of ATFE which is pending.

[Translation]

Services of Anganwadi Workers

3109. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether anganwadi workers are assigned other works, which do not fall under ICDS scheme beyond their eight hours duty at their centres;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government provides them with additional remuneration for this;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Under the Scheme of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Anganwadi Centres function for 4 to 5 hours per day in most of the States. As per the information received, several States have assigned duties to Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) beyond the scope of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. These duties relate to survey of BPL families, leprosy detection, registration of births & deaths, disbursement of pension for old aged and widows etc.

(c) to (e) For the additional work, States are paying remuneration out of their own resources. The amount ranges from Rs.100/- to Rs.3200/- amongst States/ Union Territory (UT) Administrations.

[English]

Excise Duty on Sugar

3110. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government to waive excise duty on sugar and molasses or to defer the payment of excise duty for three years; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken or to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister, Government of Maharashtra requested the

Union Government to waive excise duty on sugar and molasses on account of a downward trend in their prices and in case waiver is not possible, to defer payment of excise duty for three years.

(b) The Union Government has considered the request and has decided to give bank loans under special guidelines to the sugar mills in private, public and cooperative sector which will also involve interest subvention.

Redefining Wealth Tax

3111. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to re-define the wealth tax in order to include the big land-holders in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Different tax proposals before the Government, including changes in the provisions of tax-laws form part of the budgetary exercise and can not be disclosed at this stage.

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

Post Tsunami Construction Activities

3112. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint assessment mission of the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the United Nation's Development Programme had visited Andhra Pradesh in the year 2005 to define the quantum of assistance required for post tsunami reconstruction activities;

(b) if so, the nature of assistance received from these agencies; and

(c) the work done so far as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The necessary details are being collected and will be placed in due course.

UN Assistance for Drinking Water Projects

3113. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some drinking water projects in rural areas in the country have been accorded top priority by the United Nations;

(b) if so, whether the funds have been allocated for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) As per available information, Government is not aware of top priority being given by the United Nations to some drinking water projects in rural areas in the country.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Weather Forecast for Farmers

3114. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to ensure that proper forecast of weather be available to the farmers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its features and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Location specific weather forecast based Agro-meteorological Advisory Services (AAS) are being provided the farmers in the country in collaboration with Agricultural Universities/ICAR Centres in 107 Agro-climatic zones in the country.

The AAS Units are provided quantitative forecast of six weather parameters for next 4 days twice a week i.e. Tuesday and Friday along with forecast of cumulative weekly rainfall. The weather forecast includes information on rainfall, cloud cover, maximum temperature, minimum temperature, wind speed and direction. At the AAS Unit level, crop specific farmers' advisories are generated by a panel of experts from Agricultural Universities/ICAR Centres and disseminated through mass media and also through personal contacts with the farmers.

To further improve the accuracy and quality and outreach of the Agro-meteorological Advisory Services at the Agro-climatic Zone level, services rendered by National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) and India Meteorological Department (IMD) are now being integrated. Under integrated AAS, agromet advisory extension and dissemination at the district level is envisaged.

Profit/Losses by Indian Bank Branches Abroad

3115. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the country-wise number of the branches of Indian public sector banks functioning abroad;

- (b) whether most of the Indian public sector banks functioning abroad are incurring losses;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to take measures to make them profit making; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As on 31st March, 2007, a total of 112 branches of public sector banks were operating abroad, out of which 22 were in United Kingdom, 9 in Hong-Kong, 8 each in Fiji Islands and Mauritius, 7 each in Singapore and United Arab Emirates, 6 each in United States of America (USA) and Sri Lanka, 4 each in Japan, Kenya, Bangladesh and Oman, 3 in Belgium, 2 each in Bahama Islands, Bahrain, China, France and South Africa, and 1 each in Afganistan, Australia, Cayman Island, Channel Islands, Germany, Israel, South Korea, Maldives, Seychelles and Thailand.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The overseas branches of PSBs have earned a total profit of USD 285.28 million during the year ended 31st March, 2007. Only 9 overseas branches of public sector banks have incurred losses of USD 4.11 million during the year 2006-07, out of which 6 were newly opened branches and were yet to establish themselves.

(d) RBI monitors the financial position of the banks having branch presence abroad, on an ongoing basis, and the respective banks are advised to initiate appropriate steps to improve profitability of their overseas branches.

Migration of Youth

3116. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey in regard to migration of rural youth to urban areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check such migration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development have not conducted any survey with regard to migration of rural youth to urban areas. However, National Sample Survey Organization of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation collects information through the sample survey regarding the number of persons migrated from rural areas to urban areas etc. The Report No.470 of NSS 55th round (July, 1999-June, 2000) contains the information of estimated number of migrants in major States.

The Ministry of Rural Development implements through the State Governments, major schemes like Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) which is a wage employment programme and Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) to provide self employment to the members of the rural poor families of the country. Government have also launched a National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) with the objective of providing guaranteed wage employment of 100 days in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members are willing to take up manual work. Initially, only 200 districts were covered under this scheme and with effect from 1.4.2008 all the districts are to be covered under NREGA and the SGRY will be subsumed into it. The Ministry of Rural Development is also implementing other schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Rural Drinking Water Supply (DWS), Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) and Watershed Development Programmes with the objective of developing rural infrastructure and basic amenities for improving the living conditions of the rural masses. These schemes are primarily designed to provide employment to the rural poor in their villages or nearby villages besides creating rural infrastructure and creating basic amenities so that migration of people from rural to urban areas could be reduced.

Science and Technology Proposals from Andhra Pradesh

3117. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent some proposals to Union Government for development of Science & Technology during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;
- (c) the decision taken by the Government on these proposals; and
- (d) the number of proposals lying pending/rejected by the Union Government along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. The Ministry of Science and Technology in the Union Government does not provide financial assistance to State Governments. However, the Union Government supports scientific research proposals received from research and development institutions, universities, voluntary organizations, state science and technology councils and other autonomous organizations in various states including state of Andhra Pradesh. According to available official statistics, the Union Government have funded 175, 141 and 188 numbers research and development projects at a total cost of Rs. 27.94 crores, Rs.32.17 crores and Rs. 56.90 crores

during the years 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 respectively in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Policy Regarding Merger/Acquisition of Companies

3118. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a liberal and open policy to promote Indian companies for acquisition/merger;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of mergers and acquisitions carried out by India corporate both in the country and abroad during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) A new Companies Bill, containing inter-alia, proposals for streamlining the process of mergers and acquisitions by companies in India, is under preparation and will be introduced in the Parliament in due course.

(c) The information is being collected.

Habitat Infrastructure Plan

3119. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a new plan known as Habitat Infrastructure plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy, 2007 mentions that all States would be encouraged to develop a 'Habitat Infrastructure Action Plan' for all cities with a population of over 1,00,000.

Compensation regarding Delay in Justice

3120. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to award compensation to the affected parties in case of delay in justice; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R.

BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal before the Government.

Safer Transport System under JNNURM

3121. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to provide any assistance to various State Governments to switch over to safer transport systems in their cities under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has initiated any safety measures to ensure safety of pedestrians and cyclists on city roads;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (e) Urban Transport including roads, highways/expressways/MRTS/Metro is one of the sectors admissible under Urban Infrastructure Governance (UIG) component of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). This Ministry has formulated National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP) which, among other things, seeks to ensure safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

[Translation]

Insurance for Rural People

3122. DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued directions to the private insurance companies to cover the people in rural areas and farmers under the insurance schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the private insurance companies thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that all insurance companies including those in the private sector are required to comply with obligations towards the rural and social sectors as notified by it under the IRDA (Obligation of the Insurers towards the Rural or Social Sectors) Regulations, 2002. The obligations of the private sector insurance companies towards the rural and social sectors are as under:

A. Rural Sector:

- (i) in respect of life insurer:
- 7% in the first financial year.
 - 9% in the second financial year.
 - 12% in the third financial year.
 - 14% in the fourth financial year. 16% in the fifth financial year.
 - 18% in the sixth and seventh financial year of the total policies written direct in that year.
- (ii) in respect of a non-life insurer:
- 2% in the first financial year.
 - 3% in the second financial year.
 - 5% thereafter, of the total gross premium income written direct in that year.

B. Social Sector:

- five thousand lives in the first financial year.
- seven thousand lives in the second financial year.
- ten thousand lives in the third financial year
- fifteen thousand lives in the fourth financial year
- twenty thousand lives in the fifth financial year
- twenty five thousand lives in the sixth and seventh financial years,

(c) The compliance of the rural sector obligations of all the insurance companies including the private sector is monitored by the IRDA. All the private sector life and non-life insurance companies have fulfilled the target set out for the year 2006-07.

[English]

Adoption Issues

3123. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recently made amendment in law to allow non-Hindu parents to claim full parenthood instead of just 'guardian' status that they were allowed till now which led to the children being denied rights to inherit property besides creating procedural hassles for parents at the time to school admission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006, there is

no restriction in adoption on account of sex or religion of the child or prospective adoptive parents. Further, as per the Juvenile Justice [Care and Protection of Children] Amendment Act, 2006, adoption means the process through which a child is permanently separated from his biological parents and becomes the legitimate child of his adoptive parents with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities that are attached to the relationship.

Complaint Regarding IPO

3124. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a large number of complaints against an application filed with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for Initial Public Offering (IPO) by Reliance Power Ltd. (RPL);

(b) if so, complete details thereof and action taken on the complaints;

(c) whether the matter has been placed before SEBI Board; and

(d) if so, the reaction of SEBI Board thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The union Government has received a large number of complaints against an application filed with Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for Initial Public Offering (IPO) by Reliance Power Ltd. (RPL). Since these are governed under SEBI Act 1992 they have been forwarded to SEBI for necessary action. Copies of complaints have also been forwarded to Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

SEBI has sent the complaints to Lead Mangers of the IPO for redressal at their end.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Not applicable in view of answer to (c).

Testing of Samples of Electronic Meters

3125. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Power Research Institute (CPRI), Bangalore is engaged in conducting testing of samples of all kinds of Electro-mechanical and Electronic meters;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the results of test conducted by CPRI during the last three years;

(c) whether more than 75% meters have been rejected by CPRI;

(d) if so, whether the CPRI takes more time in testing meters and electronic meters; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Central Power Research Institute (CPRI), Bangalore is engaged in conducting testing of samples of all kinds of electro-mechanical and Electronic Energy Meters covering single phase and three phase meters including Low Tension and High Tension Trivector Meters as per National and International Standards. The tests are being carried out at the facilities available at CPRI, Bangalore and CPRI, Bhopal. CPRI is also carrying out the Third Party Inspection, Field evaluation of Energy Meters (Onsite testing of Energy Meters at consumer premises) as per the requirement of distribution companies, Electricity Regulatory Commissions and other Government agencies.

The approximate number of type tested set of meters covering both single phase and three phase at CPRI, Bangalore and Bhopal is 275 since the last three years. Out of these, approximately 136 numbers did not comply with standards.

In addition to this, CPRI, Bangalore & Bhopal have tested Energy Meters of different types for Acceptance, Routine, Temper test and selected test as per customer requirements. Approximately 238 meters out of 3282 samples have not complied with the requirements of Standards/Client requirement.

CPRI is also carrying out testing of Electronic Energy Meters at different customer locations under the aegis of Public Grievances Cell, Department of Power, Government of NCT of Delhi since 28.05.2007. Earlier in 2005-06, CPRI conducted testing of Electronic Energy Meters at various consumer premises as per requests received from M/s. Bombay Suburban Electric Supply (BSES), M/s. New Delhi Power Limited (NDPL) and Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC). CPRI have tested a total of 555 meters upto 21.11.2007 in Delhi. Out of the meters tested, 7 have been found faulty.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) CPRI carries out tests according to relevant standards of testing which prescribe the minimum number of hours/days that a meter should undergo a test. These may vary for different types of meters and tests from 45 minutes to 40 days.

Review of DIP Guidelines

3126. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed a comprehensive review of its Disclosure and Investor Protection (DIP) guidelines; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) SEBI has proposed to convert the Disclosure and Investor Protection (DIP) Guidelines into regulations. The contents of DIP guidelines are not expected to change substantially except for strengthening disclosure norms. The objective of converting guidelines into regulations is to provide it greater force of law.

SBIRI

3127. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of entrepreneurs provided grants/loan under Small Business Innovation Research Initiative Scheme (SBIRI) as on date, entrepreneur-wise and category-wise;

(b) whether the fund earmarked for the scheme has been fully utilized;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any mechanism to monitor the utilization of the above fund;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the success achieved in the scheme as on date?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India has supported 26 companies/entrepreneurs under the scheme "Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI)" so far. Under Phase I, 17 projects have been funded while under Phase II, 13 projects have been supported. One project is a combination of Phase-I and Phase-II activity. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) More than 50% of the funds earmarked for the current financial year have been utilized. Remaining funds are expected to be utilized for the projects in the pipeline. The releases will be made for on-going and new projects.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. The Project Monitoring Committees (PMCs) have been constituted separately for each project supported under the Scheme. The Committees monitor the technical progress as well as the utilization of funds. The PMCs meet regularly. The companies submit Utilization Certificates to the department.

(f) The funding to the projects under the scheme started in December, 2006. The Biotech Industry has shown a very good response to the scheme. A climate for strengthening

Public Private Partnership has been created in biotech sector through the implementation of this scheme.

Statement

S.No.	Entrepreneurs	Category
1.	ABL Biotechnologies Limited, Chennai (2)	Phase I and Phase II
2.	Actis Biologies Pvt Indian Ltd., Mumbai	Phase II
3.	Bejo Sheetal Seeds Private Limited, Jalna	Phase I
4.	Bharat Biotech International Limited, Hyderabad	Phase II
5.	Bharat Serum and Vaccines Ltd., Mumbai (2)	Phase I and Phase II
6.	Bhat Bio-Tech India (P) Ltd., Bangalore	Phase I
7.	Bioseed Research India Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad (2)	Phase I and Phase II
8.	Customised Technologies (P) Ltd., Bangalore	Phase II
9.	ExCel Matrix Biological Devices Private Limited, Hyderabad	Phase I
10.	Frontier Lifeline Pvt. Ltd., Chennai	Phase I
11.	Healthline Private Limited, Bangalore	Phase I
12.	IMGENEX India Pvt. Ltd, Bhubaneswar	Phase I
13.	Labland Biotech Private Limited, Mysore	Phase II
14.	Maps (India) Limited, Ahmedabad (2)	Phase I and Phase II
15.	Mediclone Biotech Pvt. Ltd., Chennai (2)	Phase I and Phase II
16.	Multiplex Bio-Tech Pvt Ltd., Bangalore	Phase I
17.	Navya Biologicals Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore	Phase I
18.	Oriental Aquamarine Biotech India Private Limited, Coimbatore	Phase II
19.	Pelican Biotech and Chemical Labs, Alapuzha Kerala	Phase I
20.	Poseidon Biotech, Chennai	Phase I
21.	Scigenics Biotech Private Limited, Chennai	Phase II
22.	Sri Surya Anjaneya Industries, Visakhapatnam	Phase I
23.	USV Ltd., Mumbai	Phase II
24.	Virchow Biotech (P) Limited, Hyderabad	Phase II
25.	Yashraj Biotechnology Limited, Navi Mumbai	Phase I & II
26.	Zenotech Laboratories Ltd., Hyderabad	Phase I

[Translation]

Unemployment Allowance

3128. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is paying unemployment allowance to the labourer under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU):

(a) and (b) Unemployment allowance becomes payable in case a job seeker is not provided employment within 15 days of receipt of his application seeking employment or from the date on which the employment has been sought in case of an advance application, whichever is later. Unemployment allowance is paid by the State Government from its own resources. Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported to

have paid a total of Rs. 475386 to 1574 applicants as unemployment allowance in Barwani district. Unemployment allowance has also been paid in Bolangir district (Mirdhapalli Gram Panchayat in Bolangir block) and Navrangpur district (Block Tentulikhunti) of Orissa. The State Government is also in the process of paying unemployment allowance in Kalahandi district of Orissa in Gopinathpur Gram Panchayat of Rampur block and Giginda Gram Panchayat in Narala block. Payment of unemployment allowance has not been reported by any other State.

[English]

Captive Power Generation

3129. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- whether the power is not being generated at the optimum level in captive power plants in the country;
- if so, the details thereof with the power generation capacity and actual power generation by them during the last three years; and
- the steps being taken by the Government to augment the power generation capacity of the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The captive power plants (CPPs) generate power as per the requirements of the industry. As per information available with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), overall utilization of CPPs is approximately 40%. The utilization of diesel based CPPs is below 20%. Plant Load Factor of Steam & Gas plants on an average is about 50%. Following is the power generation capacity and actual power generation by the CPPs during the past three years:-

Year*	Installed Capacity (Mega Watt)	Generation (Million Units)
2003-04	18740	68170
2004-05	19100	71420
2005-06	21470	73640

* The information relating to the year 2006-07 is not available.

(c) Government have taken a number of policy initiatives which are expected to increase power generation through investments in public as well as private sector. Some of the major initiatives are given below:-

- De-licensing of thermal generation and captive generation being freely permitted.
- Structural reforms for State Electricity Boards.
- Formation of Central and State Regulatory Commissions.

- Formation of National Grid.
- Open access in Transmission and Distribution.
- Power trading being recognized as a distinct activity.
- Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme.
- Incentives to reduce T&D losses.

Durgaduani Tidal Power Project In West Bengal

3130. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- whether the Government has started implementing the first of its kind Durgaduani Mini Tidal Power Project in Sundarbans, West Bengal;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether necessary funds have been sanctioned for this purpose;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which this plant would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (e) The West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency (WBREDA) submitted a Detailed Project Report (DPR) in 2001 for setting up a 3.65 MW capacity tidal power project at Durgaduani in Sundarbans Island, West Bengal. This report was examined by an Expert Group and WBREDA was advised to obtain required statutory clearances and revise the cost estimates. These details were submitted to the Ministry in June, 2006. The revised cost estimates submitted for the project were Rs.40.15 crores.

Meanwhile, WBREDA entered into an MOU with the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC), Faridabad for updation and upgradation of this DPR and its execution. The updated DPR prepared by NHPC has been received in the Ministry in November, 2007 and is under examination.

As per this DPR, the project capacity has been raised to 3.75 MW with cost projections of Rs.53.98 crores and project completion period of 33 months from the date of sanction. The Ministry has already agreed to it in principle. But the formal sanction would be issued after the approval for investment is obtained.

Land Allotment to Political Parties

3131. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI PRAKASH B. JADHAO:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National and State Level Political Parties having specified representation in the Parliament have been allotted land for construction of Central Office in Delhi;

(b) if so, the list of the allotments made so far;

(c) whether some Political Parties have already been allotted land on Deendayal Upadhyaya Marg New Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any other Political party had also applied for allotment of land on Deendayal Upadhyaya Marg, New Delhi;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. Allotment of land has been made on the basis of the policy of the Government dated 13.7.2006.

(b) to (d) Based on the said policy, land has been allotted to Rashtriya Janta Dal and All India Congress Committee for Indian National Congress. Rashtriya Janta Dal has been allotted 1904 Sq. M. at Deendayal Upadhyaya Marg and All India Congress Committee has been allotted 8093.72 Sq. Mtrs. (2 Acres) at Pocket 9, Rouse Avenue.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) Applications for allotment of land at Deendayal Upadhyaya Marg have been received from Communist Party of India (Marxist), Nationalist Congress Party, Shiv Sena Parliamentary Party and Samajwadi Party. The process of land allotment ordinarily involves consideration by the Screening Committee based on various aspects including availability of land, concurrence by Finance Division and approval by the competent authority. The process has been initiated.

Setting up of Power Project by NTPC at Cheyyur in Tamil Nadu

3132. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) proposes to set up a Thermal Power Project at Cheyyur in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funding pattern, and the time schedule of its completion?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) NTPC Limited has identified a site near Cheyyur village in Kanchipuram District of Tamil Nadu for

development of a power project with a capacity of 2400 Mega Watt (MW). The project is envisaged to be taken up for benefit in the 12th Plan with debt-equity ratio of 70:30 where the equity portion is proposed to be met from the internal resources of NTPC Limited.

Age Limit for Enrolment as Lawyer

3133. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision of age-limit for enrolment as Advocates under Advocates Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shelter for Tsunami 2004 Victims

3134. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent for construction of temporary shelters for the Tsunami 2004 victims of Andaman & Nicobar Islands;

(b) the details of unspent amount on this account;

(c) the present position of construction of permanent shelter for Tsunami 2004 victims; and

(d) the total amount spent there till date?

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

Collagen based Products for Wound Dressing

3135. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai has developed two collagen based products alongwith drug delivery system for wound dressing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for commercial production of above products?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL):

(a) Yes, Sir. CLRI has developed two collagen based products along with drug delivery system for wound dressing.

(b) The details of the developed products are as follows:

i. The first collagen-based dressing for controlled delivery of Silver Sulphadiazine has been developed to address infection during healing process. The preparation of collagen scaffold impregnated with silver sulphadiazine (SSD) loaded alginate microspheres is capable of delivering the drug in a controlled manner, thus reducing frequency of dressing change and making wound assessment and management easier.

ii. Another product is collagen based wound dressing material to deliver ciprofloxacin, an antibiotic.

(c) The knowhow pertaining to the first product i.e. collagen-based dressing for controlled delivery of silver Sulphadiazine has been licensed for commercial productions.

Medi-Claim Policy by NBCC

3136. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) has introduced a Medi-claim Policy (cash-less) for the welfare of their employees and their dependents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all categories of employees have been covered therein;

(d) the complete details of cases settled for treatment, rejected and pending for settlement for the last two years;

(e) whether the procedure for awarding Medi-claim Policy has been followed as per CVC guidelines; and

(f) if not, the action taken by the Government for violating the Government Directives by NBCC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are as under:-

Year	Insurance Company	Premium
2005-06	M/s IFFCO - Tokio	Rs.1,14,77,865
2006-07	M/s Cholamandalam M/s Insurance Com.	Rs.1,53,95,000
2007-08	M/s National Insurance Company (PSU)	Rs.1,55,00,000

(c) All categories of inservice employees in the regular establishment and retired employees who have retired from the regular establishment are covered.

(d) During the year 2005-06 out of 1051 claims, 1026 claims amounting to Rs. 1,87,71,469 were settled and 25 claims were rejected. During the year 2006-07, 912 claims

amounting to Rs.1,96,15,401 were settled; 38 claims were rejected and 164 claims are pending due to reasons such as being in process or non-furnishing of required documents related to treatment etc.

(e) and (f) Offers were invited from all the Insurance, Companies dealing in medical insurance and the policy was taken from the Company which has quoted the lowest premium.

Smuggling of Medicine Out of the Country

3137. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cough syrups like corex of M/s Pitzer and Phensedyl of M/s Nicholas Piramal are being smuggled to Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof alongwith action taken/being taken thereon;

(c) whether some other countries have also informed the Government in regard to this; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of cases of seizure of Phensedyl and Corex syrup by Customs field formations are as follows:-

Year	Brand Name of the cough Syrup	No. of seizure cases	(Rs.in lakhs)
			Value
2004-2005	Corex	02	0.70
	Phensedyl	341	48.63
2005-2006	Corex	01	0.05
	Phensedyl	455	58.64
2006-2007	Corex	26	2.40
	Phensedyl	602	90.90
2007-2008 (upto Oct 07)	Corex	23	0.75
	Phensedyl	438	34.97

Appropriate action has been initiated against the offenders under the Customs Act, 1962 and NDPS Act, 1985. The field formations have been directed to keep constant vigil to curb smuggling of cough syrup along the international border. Bilateral agreement between India and Bangladesh has been signed for mutual cooperation on drug related matters.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) 'Nil' in view of (c) above.

[Translation]

Filing of Property Return by Judges

3138. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enact any law for the Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court regarding annual filing of return while in service and to file the return of their family assets at the time of their retirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The following Resolution was adopted in the Full Court Meeting of the Supreme Court of India on May 7, 1997:

"RESOLVED FURTHER THAT every Judge should make a declaration of all his/her assets in the form of real estate or investments (held by him/her in his/her own name or in the name of his/her spouse or any person dependent on him/her) within a reasonable time of assuming office and in the case of sitting Judges, within a reasonable time of adoption of this Resolution and thereafter whenever any acquisition of a substantial nature is made, it shall be disclosed within a reasonable time. The declaration so made should be to the Chief Justice of the Court. The Chief Justice should make a similar declaration for the purpose of the record. The declaration made by the Judges or the Chief Justice, as the case may be, shall be confidential."

The Judges (Inquiry) Bill, 2006, which inter-alia provides for setting up of a National Judicial Council to probe into the allegations of misconduct against the Judges, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 19.12.2006. The proposed National Judicial Council shall, in addition to examining the complaints against the Judges, also draw up a Code of Conduct for the Judges. The Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice which has since given its Report. The Report of the Standing Committee is being examined.

[English]

Human Genome Diversity Project

3139. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra University scientists in collaboration with US scientists under Human Genome Diversity Project have tracked markers that cause cancer;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the tracking of cancer markers help in containing cancer?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No sir, there is no formal collaboration between Andhra University scientists with US scientists under Human Genome Diversity Project for tracking any marker related to cancer.

(c) The cancer biomarkers are a great help in containing cancer development especially if detected early. The best example for this has been pap smear detection of cervical cancer. This has brought down the fatalities due to cervical cancer in western countries dramatically. Detection of prostate specific antigen levels similarly is helpful in diagnosis of prostate cancer where again detection at early stages helps in containing the disease. In fact estimates point out that the overall mortality and economic burden, when the overall population is screened for cancer development at earlier stages, would be significantly reduced.

Cases Against Children

3140. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

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

(a) whether the cases are going on against children as old as six years in the country;

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

(c) the number of such cases which have been pending for the last five years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reform such children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) As per the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and its Amendment Act, 2006, State Governments are to constitute one or more Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) and Child Welfare Committee (CWC) for every district for exercising the powers and discharging the duties conferred or imposed on such Boards and Committees in relation to juveniles in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection. The detailed case records alongwith case summary of every case are maintained by the concerned Board and Committee. The Union Government does not maintain such information. The Chief Judicial Magistrate or the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate shall review the pendency of cases of the Board at every six months, and shall direct the Board to increase the frequency of its sittings or may cause the constitution of additional Boards, where needed.

(d) The Juvenile Justice Boards shall make an order directing the juvenile to be sent to a special home for a period not exceeding three years. The Model Rules, 2007 framed under the Act specifies the standards of care of institutions and the facilities like clothing & bedding, nutrition, medical facilities, education, vocational training, counselling medical care, recreation facilities, etc. to be provided to the children staying in these institutions.

*[Translation]***World Economic Forum Report**

3141. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:
SHRI KIREN RIJJU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the report of "World Economic Forum" the Indian Economy is the most gender discriminatory in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian economy is worst among Ten world economies with regard to the participation of women in economy;

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

(e) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to increase the participation and prospects of women in Indian economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The Global Gender Gap Report 2007 brought out by the World Economic Forum, Geneva, an independent international organization, has come to the notice of the Government. But the Government has not reviewed the Report. The Report ranks India at 114 among the 128 countries ranked on the basis of the overall Global Gender Gap index 2007. In the area of economic participation and opportunity, as per the Global Gender Gap Report 2007, India ranks 122 with a Gender Gap Sub-Index score of 0.398.

(e) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing various programmes and schemes like the Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP); Swawlamban Programme; Swayamsiddha Project and Swashakti Project for the all round empowerment of women besides the schemes of other Departments like Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (40 per cent of the benefits under this programme are earmarked for women), Swarnajayanti Shahari Swarozgar Yojana, Development of Women and Children in Urban Areas (DWCUA), etc. to strengthen the income generation capacity and economic security of women. Women are also being encouraged to organize themselves into self-help groups and resources are channelized to these groups.

*[English]***TDS Paid by Companies**

3142. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Companies in the country and the amount of tax paid by them during each of the last 3 years;

(b) whether the Government provides some tax related incentives to these Companies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The direct tax paid by companies during each of the last 3 years is as under:

(Rs. In crores)	
Financial Year	Direct tax paid by Companies
2004-05	82,680
2005-06	1,01,277
2006-07	1,44,318

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. Government has provided a large number of tax related incentives under Income-Tax Act 1961 to the companies/corporate tax payers in India. These provision are contained in relevant sub-section of section 10, 32, 35, 36, 80 & 115 of Income-Tax Act 1961.

Increase in import duty on Cotton

3143. SHRI PRAKASH B. JADHAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the import duty on cotton; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to increase the import duty on cotton.

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

*[Translation]***Non-payment of Wages Under NREGS**

3144. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding non-payment/under payment of wages under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) during the last one year;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A statement containing the requisite details is enclosed as Statement.

Statement				
Sl.No.	Name of the complainant	Allegations made	Action taken by Ministry	Action taken by State Government
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh				
1.	Dr. Midium Babu Rao, MP(L.S), Bhadrachalam	<p>Payment of Rs. 40/- per day (which is less than minimum wages and insufficient to meet minimum family needs) to field Assistants working in Andhra Pradesh along with following points</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fix the daily wages @ Rs. 125/- per day Payment of Travelling Allowance & Dearness Allowance to visit Mandal headquarters. Providing ID cards Conveyance allowance for supervising works in their specified area. Providing Accident Insurance Providing Medical Facilities 	<p>Forwarded to State Government on 24.01.07. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Second reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Third reminder was sent on 22.08.07</p>	<p>Field Assistants are responsible to provide a maximum of 100 days of employment to labour. Employment generation works mostly take place in the agricultural season. During the agricultural season, works generally come to a stand still. In view of this seasonal pattern, experience shows that, field assistants do not have work throughout the year. However, in order to ensure that there is a functional response to demand whenever it is raised, field assistants are paid a retainer fee of Rs. 1200/- per month for all 12 months. Whenever field assistants generates > 1250 person days of employment, he/she is paid Rs. 2000/- per month. Thus the pay structure of field assistants includes two parts namely a monthly retainer fee and performance linked incentive. In addition to the above, field assistants are paid travelling allowance and dearness allowance whenever they attend meetings at mandal/district Head Quarters.</p> <p>In A. P. field assistants are employed by Gram Panchayat through a resolution. Hence the Government cannot issue ID cards.</p> <p>One field assistant, is positioned in every Gram Panchayat if there are more than 5 hamlets/habitations, 2 field assistants are positioned. Since there work is confined within the Gram Panchayat, there is no scope for payment of conveyance.</p> <p>GOAP is preparing a detailed HR policy which covers insurance, medical facilities etc. Further action on these items will be taken in due course.</p> <p>It is under active consideration under Human Resource Policy at Government level.</p> <p>Government of India may accord permission to meet their expenditure from NREGS central share on par with the wage seekers.</p>
2.	Sh. K.Paranna Dora & Sh. Koppara Sangayya, EGS	<p>Improper implementation of NREGS in Nagur (V), Gurugubilli(M), Vizainagaram District, Andhra Pradesh</p>	<p>Forwarded to State Government on 24.05.07. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Third reminder was sent on 22.08.07</p>	<p>There are two colonies in Nagur (V) of SC/ST of which the wage seekers of SC colony have stated that they have received wages as per pay order through Post Office.</p> <p>In ST colony, the allegation was proved and concerned Field Assistant and Branch Post Master were removed from service in the month of November</p>

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2006 and action is being initiated to recover the under-paid wages amount from the concerned.
in Chintala cheruvu desilting, Naguru (V), Social Audit brought out that one middle man colluded with Field Assistant and Branch Post Master and underpaid wages. The MPDO, Gurugubilli (M) Vizainaparam Distt. has been instructed to book criminal case against them and recover the misappropriated funds.

Assam

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| 1. | Shri. Bankim Chandra Brahma, Kokrajhar Zila Committee, Assam | Improper implementation of NREGA in Assam due to bad infrastructure and illegal activities | Forwarded to State Government on 14.6.2007. Reply awaited. First reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Second reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07 |
| 2. | Shri Sher Bh. Chetri, PO & PS Hailong, N. C. Hills, Assam | Complaining of non-receipt of wages under NREGA | Forwarded to State Govt. on 15.06.07. Reply awaited. First reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Second reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07 |
| 3. | Shri Nagendra Nath Roy and others, | Misappropriation of Government funds and improper implementation of NREGA in Assam | Forwarded to State Government on 26.07.07. Reply awaited. First reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07 |
| 4. | The Secretary, Kalinagar Nagarik Adhikar Suraksha Samity, Hailakandi (Assam) and Shri Bimanta Thaseen, N.C. Hills (Assam) | Allegation of inordinate delay in release of sanctioned rural development funds on obtainable Scheme by our Project Director, DRDA, Hailakandi for the financial year 2006-07 and misuse of NREGA funds more than 20 crores, fake muster rolls, use of JCB machines and embezzlement of NREGA funds. | Forwarded to State Government on 19.09.07. Reminder sent on 28.11.07 |
| 5. | Shri Bimanta Thaseen, r/o village Topodisa, B.P.O. Sarkari Bagan, Hailong, Distt. N.C. Hills, Assam (forwarded by O/o MRD) | large scale misuse of funds and corruption by DRDA officials under NREGA. | Forwarded to State Government on 15.10.07. Reminder sent on 28.11.07 |

Bihar

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| 1 | Shri Nikhil Kumar, MP (LS) | Improper implementation of NREGA in Aurangabad | Forwarded to the State govt. on 28.9.06. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 4.1.2007. Second reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Third reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Fourth reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07. |
| 2 | Capt. J. N. P. Nishad, MP (RS) | Embezzlement of funds under NREGA in Dariyapur (Saran) block of Chhapararn | Forwarded to the State Govt. on 16.09.06. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 4.1.2007. Second reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Third reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Fourth reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07. |

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3.	Prime Minister office	Job card not made in Rahua Panchayat, Kako-Block, Jehanabad	Forwarded to State Government on 24.01.07. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Second reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Third reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
4.	Shri Tariq Anwar, MP (RS)	Misappropriation of funds and irregularities in Katihar under NIFFWP	Forwarded to State Government on 06.06.07. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Second reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
5.	Sh. Nikhil Kumar, MP (LS), (Matter raised under Rule 377)	Improper implementation of NREGA in Bihar	Forwarded to State Government on 14.6.2007. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Second reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
6.	Shri Rajnandan Prasad Singh, Dy. Chairman, Samastipur, Distt. Congress Committee.	Non-implementation of NREGA in Waranagar Block of Samastipur, Bihar	Forwarded to the State government for examination on 27.7.2006. Reply from State Govt. awaited. First reminder was sent on 15.9.06. Second reminder was sent on 4.1.2007. Third reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Fourth reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Fifth reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
7.	Shri Alimuddin Ansari, Purnia	Improper implementation of NREGA in Purnia, Katihar, Arariya and Kishanagaraj	Forwarded to the State Govt. on 21.11.06. Reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Second reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Third reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
8.	Dr. Jagannath Mishra, National President, Kishan Sabha	Lack of awareness among the rural population of Bihar about NREGA	Forwarded to State Government on 24.01.07. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Second reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Third reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
9.	Shri Rajesh Yadav, Vice President, Zila Parishad	Irregularities in Tree Plantation under NREGA in Darbhanga	Forwarded to State Government on 06.06.07. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Second reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
10.	Sh. Neeraj Kumar Jha, President, DYCC, Madhubani	Some practical difficulty in the implementation of NREGA	Forwarded to State Government on 19.7.2007. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
11.	Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, MOS for Communication and Information Technology	Irregularities in implementation under NREG Scheme, District Madhubani.	Forwarded to State Govt. on 28.07.07. A reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	

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12.	Shri Suresh Rai, Coordinator, Meenapur, Muzzafarpur, Bihar	Irregularities and improper implementation of NFFWP Muzzafarpur	Forwarded to State Government on 15.02.07. Reply awaited. First reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Second reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Third reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
13.	Shri Maheshwar Prasad Yadav, MLA Bihar Vidhan Sabha	Alleging Corruption under Rozgar Guarantee Yojana, Katra	Complaint received on 03.07.07 is being forwarded to State Government	
14.	Sh. Digvijay Singh, General Secretary, AICC	Irregularities in the implementation of NREGA	Complaint received forwarded to State Government	
15.	Sh. Ganesh Prasad Singh, MP, Lok Sabha	Request for payment of pension to the agricultural labourers under NREGA	Complaint received forwarded to State Government	
16.	Sh. Digvijay Singh, General Secretary, AICC	Alleged corruption, irregularities and improper implementation of NREGA in Munger, Bihar	Complaint received on 24.08.07 forwarded to State Government on 10.09.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
17.	Ms Indu Jha, Member, Zila Parishad Darbhanga, Bihar	Seeking information under the RTI Act about the proceedings and other related matters in Darbhanga Zila Parishad meeting of 27.06.07.	Forwarded to State Government on 19.09.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
18.	Shri Maheshwar Prasad, Member, Bihar Vidhan Sabha, Patna	Complaint regarding corruption, irregularities and improper implementation of NREGA in Katra Block, Bihar	Forwarded to State Government on 28.09.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
19.	Shri Birendra Kumar Singh	Alleged financial irregularities by the President and Secretary of GP, Mokar, Rohtas District, Bihar.	Forwarded to State Government on 01.10.07 Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
Chhattisgarh				
1.	Sh. Digvijay Singh, MLA	Corruption, irregularities & improper implementation of NREGA	Forwarded to State Government on 14.6.07. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Second reminder was sent on 22.08.07	The State Government has reported vide letter dated 24.08.07 that the complaint does not relate to NREGA, but it is regarding Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana
2.	Shri S. L. Saluja, Rashtriya Sanjajak,	Corruption in the implementation of NREGA in Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh	Forwarded to the State Government on 08.01.2007. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 23. 3. 2007. Second reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Third reminder was sent on 22.08.07	The State Government has now changed the name of the scheme as NREGS, Chhattisgarh instead of Chhattisgarh REGS being used earlier. About other issues, the State Government has stated that they are not established

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3.	News item in 'Indian Express' 5.8.2007	Irregularities in the purchase of pesticides worth Rs. 5.00 crore using NREGA funds	Forwarded to State Government on 5-08-2007 A reminder was sent on 22.08.07	Chief Minister Chattisgarh has ordered setting up of a 3 members committee headed by Commissioner of the Employment Guarantee Scheme, Shri P.C. Mishra to conduct an inquiry into the matter. District Collector Kanker has been shifted and ZP. CEO has been suspended. The amount spent on purchase of pesticides and fertilizers in Kanker will not be charged under the NREGA and such expenditure will be booked under the agriculture schemes run by the State Govt.
4.	Smt. Mohsina Kidwai, MP (LS)	Alleging that Chhattisgarh Govt. of using the name as Chhattisgarh Gramteen Rozgar Guarantee Yojana instead of NREGA.	Forwarded to State Government on 14.06.07. A reminder was sent on 22.08.07	State Government did not receive forwarding letter dated 14.06.07. Copies thereof sent again to the State Government.
5	Shri Dewraj Singh, MP, Lok Sabha	Delay in receiving job cards, non-issuance of job cards, selection of a low-priority or inappropriate work and use of machines at the worksite	Forwarded to State Government on 07.09.07	
6	Smt. Ingrid Mcleod, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha	Information regarding on-going works under NREGA in Bilaspur District	Forwarded to State Government on 24.09.07	
7	Shri Ramadhar Kashyap, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha	Alleged corruption and involvement of contractors in the implementation of NREGA in Kabirdham District of Chhattisgarh.	Forwarded to State Government on 01.10.07	
Gujarat				
1	Shri. M.D. Vasava, MP (LS)	Non-payment of wages to labourers in Narmada district	Forwarded to the State Government on 15.6.2007. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Last reminder sent on 22.08.07.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All interior villages including 18 villages of Deofapada talukas of Narmada district have been covered under the NREG Programme. 2. The pending wages of Rs. 25 crores have already been paid to the labourers of Narmada district. 3. The estimates for enhancing cost of dug-wells from Rs. 1.50 lakh to Rs. 2.00 lakh is being actively considered by the Director,

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DRDA, Narmada and the results thereof shall be communicated to the Hon'ble M.P. as & when the rates are revised.

4. Timely payment of wages to the workers has been ensured and there is no pending payment of wages beyond 15 days. (The Director, DRDA, Narmada district has duly replied to the Hon'ble M.P. with reference to his two letters of grievances dated 20.03.07 and 18.05.07 and no further points have been raised by the Hon'ble M.P. which may please be noted.)

Forwarded to the State Government on 13.7.2007. Reply awaited. Last reminder sent on 22.08.07.

Non-payment of wages to workers under NREGA

Sh. Mansukhbhai D. Vasava, MP (LS)

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1. All interior villages including 18 villages of Decapada talukas of Narmada district have been covered under the NREG Programme.
2. The pending wages of Rs. 25 crores have already been paid to the labourers of Narmada district.
3. The estimates for enhancing cost of dug-wells from Rs. 1.50 lakh to Rs. 2.00 lakh is being actively considered by the Director, DRDA, Narmada and the results thereof shall be communicated to the Hon'ble M.P. as & when the rates are revised.
4. Timely payment of wages to the workers has been ensured and there is no pending payment of wages beyond 15 days.

(The Director, DRDA, Narmada district has duly replied to the Hon'ble M.P. with reference to his two letters of grievances dated 20.03.07 and 18.05.07 and no further points have been raised by the Hon'ble M.P. which may please be noted.)

Forwarded to the State Government on 14.08.2008. A reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Second reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Last reminder sent on 22.08.07.

Mal practice under Grammatika Scheme under NREGA

NREGA's Staffs, Banastarantha, Gujarat

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The works pertaining to afforestation and tree plantation are taken up in rural areas as prescribed under the permissible works under Schedule-1 of Section 4 of NREGA. The plans and estimates are prepared on the basis of SOR prescribed by the State Government Resolution dated 30.05.06 and they are also prepared according to the site condition and availability of space and the technical sanction is accorded by the deputy Director (Watershed) of DRDA as the rates adopted in the estimates are as per the SOR of the Forest Department. Thus, the works carried out under NREGA is as per provision of the Act and guidelines issued by GOI and there is no malpractice in implementation of the scheme.

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4.	Shri Hasmukh Patel, Gujarat Congress Committee	Government of Gujarat is not interested in the implementing the Act	Forwarded to the State Government on 04.09.2006. Reply is still awaited. A reminder was sent on 4.1.2007. Second reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Third reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Last reminder sent on 22.08.07.	As per detailed point-wise reply received from the State Govt., most of the points of complaints have been refuted.
5.	Shri Praveen Rashtrapati, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha	He was nominated to the State level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee by this Ministry in September 2006, but no meeting of the Committee has been called by the Chairmen of the Committee so far and his letters to the State Government in this regard have also not been replied to.	Forwarded to the State Government on 15.10.2007	
Haryana				
1.	Shri. Khair Singh	Irregularities in the implementation of NREGA in Dhokera village under Mahendragarh	Forwarded to the State government examination. Reply from State Govt. awaited. A reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Second reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Third reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 22.11.07.	
2.	Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Minister of Panchayati Raj and Youth Affairs & Sports	Complaint regarding preparation of fake muster rolls, use of JCB machines & embezzlement of NREGA funds in Mahendragarh district of Haryana.	Forwarded to State Government on 19.09.07. Reminder sent on 22.11.07.	
Jharkhand				
1.	Shri Chandra Shekhar Dubey, M.P (L.S).	Need to review implementation of NREGA A matter raised under Rule 377.	Forwarded to the State Government on 09.08.2006 for examination, necessary action and report to this Ministry. Reply from State Govt. awaited. First reminder was sent on 15.9.06. Second reminder was sent on 4.1.2007. Third reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Fourth reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Fifth reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
2.	Sh. Niyel Tiki, MLA	Irregularities in the choice of works under NREGA	Forwarded to the State Govt. on 12.07.2006 for examination, necessary action and report to this Ministry. A reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	Reply from State Govt received. Accordingly, there is no violation of NREGA guidelines so question of irregularities does not arise.

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| 3. | Shri Subhoth Kant Sahay, MOS (Food processing industries) forwarding the representation received from Shri K. N. Tripathy, General Secretary, Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee | Improper implementation and embezzlement of NREGA fund in Jharkhand | Forwarded to the State Government on 18.10.2006. Reply from State Government awaited. First reminder was sent on 04.01.2007. Second reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Third reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Fourth reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07. |
| 4 | Shri Janardan Prasad, General Secretary, Jharkhand Mazdoor Kisan Samiti, Jharkhand | Administrative irregularities in the implementation of NREGA in Jharkhand | Forwarded to the State government for examination on 9.6.2006. Reply from State Govt. awaited. First reminder was sent on 15.9.06. Second reminder was sent on 4.1.2007. Third reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Fourth reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Fifth reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07. |
| 5. | Ms. Begum Noor Bano, Ex-MP, | Mis-functioning of Jharkhand State Govt. in the implementation of NREGA | Forwarded to the State government for examination on 9.6.2006. Reply from State Govt. awaited. First reminder was sent on 15.9.06. Second reminder was sent on 4.1.2007. Third reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Fourth reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Fifth reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07. |
| 6. | Shri Rajender Yadav and Shri Kashi Nath Mahato, Ranchi | Improper implementation of NREGA in Ranchi | Forwarded to State Government on 21.11.06. Reply awaited. First reminder was sent on 4.1.2007. Second reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Third reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Fourth reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07. |
| 7. | Sh Somra Soren & other villagers and Sh A. Bhattacharya, Executive Director, SUHRIT | Embezzlement of funds corruption & improper implementation of NREGA | Forwarded to the State Government on 14.6.2007. Reply from State Government awaited. A reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Second reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07. |
| 8. | Shri Suresh Yadav and villagers of Malhurgai Jharkhand | Use of machinery corruption and embezzlement of Fund under NREGA | Forwarded to State Government on 26.07.2007. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07. |
| 9. | News appearing in 'The Indian Express' dated 23.5.07 | Corruption in the implementation of NREGA during social audit in four blocks in Jharkhand | Forwarded to the State Government on 31.5.2007. Reply from State Government awaited. A reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Second reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07. |
| 10. | Shri Dharendra Agarwal, MP (LS) | Corruption under NREGA, Dist. Chatra, Jharkhand | Forwarded to State Government on 31.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07. |
| 11. | Shri K. N. Tripathi, Member, National Rural Employment Guarantee Council, Jharkhand | Under utilization of funds, poor selection of work, irregularity in sanctioning funds to an NGO in West Singhbhum and Saraikela-Kharsawan district | Forwarded to State Government on 21.09.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07. |

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Karnataka

1. Labourers working in Karnataka Rural Employment Act & CBO members of Davangere and Chitradurga district

Forwarded to the State Government on 9.1.2007 for examination, necessary action and report to this Ministry. Reply from State Govt. awaited. A reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Second reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Third reminder was sent on 22.08.07

Report received vide CEO, Zilla Panchayat, Davangere letter dated 17.10.07.

2. News item in 'Deccan Herald' dated 21.08.07

News item dated 21.08.07 is being forwarded to State Government

Improper implementation of NREGA in Davangere and Chitradurga district of Karnataka

Need for implementation of NREGA for Soligas Tribals of Bilgiri Rangaswamy Temple Wildlife sanctuary in Chamrajnagar Distt. of Karnataka

3. Shri Aloysius P. Fernandez, Executive Director, MYRADA, Bangalore

Forwarded to the State Government on 01.10.2007

Madhya Pradesh

1. Shri Digvijay Singh, M.L.A, forwarding the complaint of Ms. Madhuri in Barhvari

Improper implementation of NREGA

Forwarded to the State Government on 28.09.2006. Reply from State Govt. awaited. First reminder was sent on 15.9.06. Second reminder was sent on 4.1.2007. Third reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Fourth reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Fifth reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.

2. Shri M.V. Rajshelkaran, MOS (Planning)

Improper implementation of NREGA in Barabani district

Forwarded to the State Government on 21.11.2006. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 4.1.2007. Second reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Third reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Fourth reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.

3. Shri Sikdar Patel, President, DCC

a) Use of machinery
b) Involvement of contractors
c) Denial of job cards to women workers
d) Denial of unemployment allowance
e) Harassments of women workers by Talukdar
f) Information not displayed on boards
g) Inflated estimates
h) getting private work done

An NLM was deputed to visit the district. He had submitted his report. As per NLM report, most of the points of complaints are not substantiated during the enquiry. In one case, there were some serious financial irregularity committed by the Panchayat Secretary in collusion with a Panch of the Panchayat. The additional CEO of the district summoned the Inspector of Panchayat for further action. The report has been forwarded to the State Govt. on 14.08.2006 for their examination, necessary action and report to this Ministry. Fourth reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Fifth reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.

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| 4. | Shri Subash Yadav,
President
MP Congress
Committee | a) Out of Rs. 45 crore released to Sheopur district, the work worth Rs. 30 crore are being done through line departments and they are being done through contractors in which BJP workers are being given contract.
b) Use of machinery
c) Involvement of contractors | An NLM was deputed to visit the district. As per NLM report, most of the points of complaints are not substantiated during the enquiry. In one case, there were some serious financial irregularity committed by the Panchayat Secretary in collusion with a Panch of the Panchayat. The additional CEO of the district summoned the Inspector of Panchayat for further action. The report has been forwarded to the State Govt on 24.08.2006 for their examination, necessary action and report to this Ministry. A reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07. |
| 5. | Shri Brijraj Singh
Chauhan | -do- | An NLM was deputed to visit the district. As per NLM report, most of the points of complaints are not substantiated during the enquiry. In one case, there were some serious financial irregularity committed by the Panchayat Secretary in collusion with a Panch of the Panchayat. The additional CEO of the district summoned the Inspector of Panchayat for further action. The report has been forwarded to the State Govt. on 24.08.2006 for their examination, necessary action and report to this Ministry. A reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07. |
| 6. | Shri Shivbalak Prasad
Sakot. | Improper implementation of NREGA in Satna | Forwarded to State Government on 08.01.2007. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Second reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. A reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07. |
| 7. | Shri Shakeel Qureshi,
Advocate | Corruption in the implementation of NREGA by Shri Ashok Sharma in Sheopur district | Forwarded to State Government on 08.01.2007. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Second reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Third reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07. |
| 8. | Sh. V.B. Shukla,
President, Block
Congress Committee,
Dindori, MP | Complaint of low wage payments and exploitation of labourers by Sub-Engineers | Forwarded to State Government on 15.6.2007. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Second reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07. |
| 9. | Shri Digvijay Singh,
MLA, Madhya
Pradesh Vidhan Sabha | Irregularities in construction of Pond under NREG Scheme, District Rajnandgaon | Forwarded to State Govt. on 4.06.07. A reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07. |
| 10. | News Item in 'Dainik
Jagran' dated
20.06.07 | Use of machines in the works, improper maintenance of Muster Rolls & other violation of NREGA guidelines & improper implementation of NREGA in Shiwपुर District of Madhya Pradesh | Forwarded to State Government on 14.09.07. Reminder sent on 28.11.07. |

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| 11. Letter dated 21.08.07 of Shri Lail Saheb Yadav, President, Distt. Congress Committee, Shivpuri Distt. | Delay in receiving job cards, non-issuance of job cards, non-allotment of work to labourers who have been issued job cards, no arrangement for drinking water at the site, sub-standard work being executed in Shivpuri District | Forwarded to State Government on 06.09.07.
Reminder sent on 28.11.07. |
| 12. Letter dated 21.08.07 of Shri Ghanshayam Singh, MLA, President, Distt. Congress Committee, Datta. | Misutilization of NREGA funds, selection of a low priority or inappropriate work, selection of a work that serves a vested interest, non-issuance of job cards etc. | Forwarded to State Government on 06.09.07.
Reminder sent on 28.11.07. |
| 13. Letter dated 21.08.07 of Shri Dharmendra Choudhary, President, Distt. Congress Committee, Ashoknagar | Non-issuance of job cards, particular to those persons living below the poverty line, low utilization of funds allotted, sub-standard work being done in Ashoknagar Distt. | Forwarded to State Government on 06.09.07.
Reminder sent on 28.11.07. |
| 14. Letter dated 09.08.07 of Kunwar Krishna Kumar Singh (Churnai) MLA | Mis-appropriation of funds by the President, Gram Panchayat, Paudi Village, Payment of wages to fictitious persons etc. in Sidhi Distt. | Forwarded to State Government on 06.09.07.
Reminder sent on 28.11.07. |
| 15. Letter dated 21.08.07 of Shri Biraj Singh Chauhan, President, Distt. Congress Committee, Sheopur Distt. | Issuance of job cards to ineligible persons, non-allotment of work, use of machines, use of material more than the limit laid down under NREGA & corruption in implementation of NREGA in Sheopur Distt. | Forwarded to State Government on 06.09.07.
Reminder sent on 28.11.07. |
| 16. Letter dated 21.08.07 of Shri Jyotiradhy M. Scindia, MP, Lok Sabha | Irregularities and mismanagement in implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in District Guna, Madhya Pradesh | Forwarded to State Government on 07.09.07.
Reminder sent on 28.11.07. |
| 17. Shri Ramesh Jaisav and others residents of Jaisav Panchayat Vijaypur, Gram Panchayat Gorfana, District Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh | issuance of false job cards, muster rolls by the President & Secretary of Gram Panchayat, Gorfana. | Forwarded to State Government on 19.09.07
Reminder sent on 28.11.07. |

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18.	Heerendra Singh, Gram & PO Dhanora, Jangad Panchayat Parbhani, District Khandwa	The under payment of wages, use of machines at the worksite, works being awarded to contractors, fake payment by manipulation of job cards and other irregularities in the implementation of NREGA in Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh	Forwarded to State Government on 19.09.07. Reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
19.	Shri Praveen Rashtrapal, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha	In job cards issued by Madhya Pradesh Government the names of NREGS is being mentioned as MP Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.	Forwarded to State Government on 15.10.07. Reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
20.	Shri Sita Prasad Mehta, President, Jangad Panchayat, Amrapatan	Irregularities and corruption by officials of Water Resources Department, Amrapatan in Satna District.	Forwarded to State Government on 04.10.07. Reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
21.	Shri Brij Bhushan Tiwari, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha	Corruption by the President, Kharch GP, Satna district in the implementation of NREGA.	Forwarded to State Government on 09.10.07. Reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
22.	Prof. Ramgopal Yadav, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha	Non - allotment of work and non-payment of unemployment allowance in Babel District	Forwarded to State Government on 12.10.07.x Reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
Maharashtra				
1.	Shri Hansraj G. Aheer, M.P. (L.S)	Corruption in wage payment in Chandrapur district	Forwarded to the State government on 09.06.2006 for examination, necessary action and report to this Ministry. Reply from State Govt. awaited. First reminder was sent on 15.9.08. Second reminder was sent on 04.01.07. Third reminder was sent on 29.3.2007. Fourth reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Fifth reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 22.11.07.	
2.	Shri A. Vijayaraghavan, M.P.(RS)	Low payment of wages to workers in Nandurbar district	Forwarded to the State government on 19.07.2006 for examination, necessary action and report to this Ministry. Reply from State Govt. awaited. First reminder was sent on 15.9.08. Second reminder was sent on 04.01.07. Third reminder was sent on 29.3.2007. Fourth reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Fifth reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 22.11.07.	

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3.	Shri Hansraj G. Aheer, M.P. (L.S)	Low wage rate, irregularities and improper implementation of NREGA	Forwarded to the State government on 14.6.2007. Reply from The State Govt. awaited. First reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Second reminder sent on 22.08.07	The State Govt. has raised minimum wage rate from Rs. 47/- to Rs. 68/- vide Govt. Resolution dated 24.04.07. Regarding complaint of low wage rate and improper implementation of NREGA in Maharashtra, reply has been given by State Cabinet Minister to Hon'ble M.P.
4.	Shri Hansraj G. Aheer, MP (L.S)	Corruption under implementation of NREGA in	Forwarded to State Government on 14.06.07. A reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 22.11.07 Maharashtra and increase the wages from Rs. 100 to Rs. 125.	
5.	Shri Anant M. Guchte, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)	Complaint about the naming of the Scheme by Maharashtra Government as Maharashtra Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme instead of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Maharashtra.	Forwarded to State Government on 19.09.07. Reminder sent on 22.11.07	
Mizoram				
1.	Shri Laishring Chuang, V/PO, Siachangkawn, BL, Sangau, District Lawngitai, Mizoram	Non-maintenance of NREGA records & non-issuance of job cards in Block Sangau, district Lawngitai, Mizoram.	Forwarded to State Government on 19.09.07. Reminder sent on 22.11.07.	
Orissa				
1.	Shri Chander Sekhar Sahu, MOS for Labour & Employment	Improper implementation of NREGA	Forwarded to the State government on 12.07.2006 for examination, necessary action and report to this Ministry. Reply from State Govt. awaited. First reminder was sent on 15.9.06. Second reminder was sent on 4.1.2007. Third reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Fourth reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Fifth reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
2.	Circular brought to the notice of MOS during his visit of Orissa	Execution of NREGS works by the Junior Engineers in Panchayat Raj Deptt.	Forwarded to State Government on 08.6.2007. Reply awaited. First reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Second reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
3.	Shri Nabha Kumar Mishra, advocate	Intentional negligence and irregularities committed under NREGA	Forwarded to the State government on 5.07.2006 for examination, necessary action and report to this Ministry. Reply from State Govt. awaited. First reminder was sent on 15.9.06. Second reminder was sent on 4.1.2007. Third reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Fourth reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Fifth reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	

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4.	Shri Gyaneeswar Manjhi, ward member,	Misutilisation of public money under NREGA	Forwarded to the State government on 16.01.2007 for examination, necessary action and report to this Ministry. Reply from State Govt. awaited. A reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Second reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Third reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
5.	Secretary, NREGA Committee, Navarangpur	Misappropriation of NREGA fund by Shri Sarveswar Routray	Forwarded to the State government on 16.01.2007 for examination, necessary action and report to this Ministry. Reply from State Govt. awaited. A reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Second reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Third reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
6.	News items in "Sambandh" on 11.02.2007.	Irregularities in the implementation of NREGA in Orissa	Forwarded to State Government on 06.6.2007. Reply awaited. First reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Second reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
7.	Shri Giridhar Gamang, MP (LS)	Alleging unfair practice followed by Govt. of Orissa in execution and implementation of NREGS, IAY and PMGSY.	Forwarded to State Government on 04.06.07. A reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
8.	Shri R.C. Khutia, Ex-MP, Secty. AKCC, N. Delhi	False complaint about NREGA among the Public as State Government Scheme	Forwarded to State Government on 24.08.07. A reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
9.	Shri Jayadev Jena, M.L.A. & President, Orissa Pradesh Congress Committee, Bhubaneswar	Alleged Non-issuance of job cards under NREGA in Launa Patuni Village of Chhamaipur GP under Joda Block in Keonjhar district of Orissa	Forwarded to State Government on 19.09.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
10.	Shri Sanatan Bishi, Ex-M.P. (Rajya Sabha), P.O. District Sambalpur, Orissa	Seeking information whether Central representatives have examined the Job cards alongwith Muster Roll at the Panchayat level in KBK districts of Orissa.	Forwarded to State Government on 21.09.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
Rajasthan				
1.	Dr. B.D. Kala, MLA	Corruption and irregularities in the implementation of NREGA	Forwarded to the State government on 08.05.2006 for examination, necessary action and report to this Ministry. Reply from State Govt. awaited. First reminder was sent on 15.9.06. Second reminder was sent on 4.1.2007. Third reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Fourth reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Last reminder sent on 22.08.07	Report received from the State Government after amendment of NREGA, the Scheme has been named NREGS. Rajasthan in place of Rajasthan REGS being used earlier, About other points of complaints it is stated that these are baseless & there are no irregularities in the implementation of NREGA in Rajasthan

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2.	Shri Chander Singh Kothari, Dy. President, Zilla Congress Committee, Udaipur	Corruption and improper implementation of NREGA in Rajasthan	Forwarded to State Government on 1.9.2006 for examination, necessary action and report to this Ministry. Reply from State Govt. awaited. First reminder was sent on 15.9.06. Second reminder was sent on 4.1.2007. Third reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Fourth reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Last reminder sent on 22.08.07.	Out of 8 points, 5 are in appreciation of the Scheme, one of the remaining issue is about providing employment to all tribal families which is not possible as the Scheme is for providing employment to all rural households & not just tribal households. The name of the Scheme has now been given as NREGS, Rajasthan consequent on amendment in the Act.
3.	Shri Rajesh Singhvi, Parishad, DYFI, Jila Committee, Udaipur, Rajasthan	Corruption and improper implementation of NREGA in Rajasthan	Forwarded to State Government on 26.07.07. Reply awaited. A reminder sent on 22.08.07	Wages being earned is below the minimum wage due to non-attainment of piece-rate norms. There is no provision under the Scheme for providing employment to poor families in urban areas
4.	Shri Raghu Raj Singh, President, District Congress Committee, Jhalawar, Rajasthan	Corruption in the implementation of NREGA in Rajasthan	Forwarded to State Government on 26.07.07. Reply awaited. A reminder sent on 22.08.07.	Out of 5 points of complaints, 4 issues do not concern State RD. As regards the fifth point there has been no irregularity.
5.	Shri Charma Ram Meena, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat, Veenwartha, Sirohi, Rajasthan	Payment of Rs. 1,93,600 from MGB Bank vide cheque no. 1408261 without his knowledge by Secretary and Development Officer under NREGA	Forwarded to State Government on 26.07.07. Reply awaited. A reminder sent on 22.08.07	Finally reply is pending for want of reply from DC, Sirohi
6.	Shri Ashok Gahlot, Gen. Secy., AICC	Irregularities under Rashtriya Gramteen Rozgar Guarantee Yojana, Dist. Banawada, Rajasthan	Complaint forwarded to State govt on 10.09.07.	
7.	President, Panchayat Samiti, Navalgarh, Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan	Complaint about the use of inferior/ improper material in the construction of roads in the Gram Panchayat Chirana, Navalgarh, Jhunjhunu district in Rajasthan	Forwarded to State Government on 19.09.07	
Tamil Nadu				
1.	Dr. K. Dhanaraju, MP (LS)	Need to restore the name of Tamil Nadu Government Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme as NREGA in Tamil Nadu	Forwarded to the State government on 23.08.2006 for examination, necessary action and report to this Ministry. A reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Reply from State Govt. still awaited. First reminder was sent on 15.9.06. Second reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Third reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Fourth reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 22.11.07	
2.	Sh. M. Venugopal, vice-president	Misappropriation of NREGA funds	Forwarded to the State government on 14.6.2007. Reply awaited. First reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Second reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 22.11.07	

Uttar Pradesh

1. **Shri Ilyas Azmi, MP (LS)**
Forwarded to the State government on 17.4.2006 for examination, necessary action and report to this Ministry. Fifth Reminder was sent by Secretary to the Chief Secretary on 26.7.2007. Sixth reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.
2. **Shri G.C. Dinkar, MLA**
Forwarded to the State government on 09.06.2006 for examination, necessary action and report to this Ministry. Reply from State Govt. awaited. First reminder was sent on 15.9.06. Second reminder sent on 4.1.2007. Third reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Fourth reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Fifth reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.
3. **Shri Lal Chand Kauf, M.P. (LS)**
Forwarded to the State government on 28.06.2006 for examination, necessary action and report to this Ministry. First Reminder sent on 15.9.06. Second reminder sent on 4.1.2007. Third reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Fourth reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Fifth reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.
4. **Shri Shiyama Charan Gupt, MP (LS)**
Forwarded to the State government for examination. Reply from State Govt. awaited. First reminder was sent on 15.9.06. Second reminder sent on 4.1.2007. Third reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Fourth reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Fifth reminder sent on 22.08.07 last reminder sent on 28.11.07.
5. **Shri Praveen Rashtraipal, MP (RS)**
Forwarded to State Government on 16.11.06. Reply awaited. A reminder sent on 4.1.2007. Second reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Third reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Fourth reminder sent on 22.08.07. Fifth reminder sent on 15.10.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07. NLM Deputed on 24.10.07. His Report Awaited
6. **Shri Ashok Gehlot, General Secretary, AICC,**
Forwarded to State Government on 23.01.07. Reply awaited. First reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Second reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Last reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07. NLM deputed on 24.10.07. His Report Awaited
7. **Shri Ashok Gehlot, General Secretary, AICC,**
Forwarded to State Government on 23.01.07. Reply awaited. First reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Second reminder was sent on 17.7.2007. Last reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07. NLM Deputed on 24.10.07. His Report Awaited
8. **Shri Shailendra Kumar, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha**
Forwarded to State Government on 21.09.07. Reminder sent on 28.11.07.
8. **Shri G.C. Dinkar, MLA, BSP, UP**
Forwarded to State Government on 23.01.07. Reply awaited. First reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Second reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Third reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.
9. **Shri Mahendra Prasad Nishad, MP, (Lok Sabha)**
Forwarded to State Government on 07.09.06. Reply awaited. First reminder was sent on 15.09.2006. Second reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Third reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Fourth reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07. NLM Deputed on 24.10.07. His Report Awaited
10. **Shri G. C. Dinkar, MLA, Bahbu**
Forwarded to State Government on 15.02.07. Reply awaited. First reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Second reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Third reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07. NLM Deputed on 24.10.07. His Report Awaited

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11. Sh. G. C. Dinkar, M.L.A. Banda
Forwarded to State Government on 25.5.2007. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Second reminder sent on 22.08.07 last reminder sent on 28.11.07.
12. Shri Praveen Rashitrapal, MP (RS)
Forwarded to State Government on 06.06.07. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Second reminder sent on 22.08.07. Third reminder sent on 15.10.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.
13. Shri Chitrangad Yadav
Forwarded to the State government on 09.06.2006 for examination, necessary action and report to this Ministry. A reminder sent on 4.1.2007. Second reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Third reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Fourth reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.
14. Miss Rajkumari, Prachan,
Forwarded to the State government on 21.07.2006 for examination, necessary action and report to this Ministry. Reply from State Govt. awaited. First reminder was sent on 15.9.06. Second reminder sent on 4.1.2007. Third reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Fourth reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Fifth reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.
15. Shri Dharminder Dev Pandey,
Forwarded to the State government on 21.07.2006 for examination, necessary action and report to this Ministry. Second reminder sent on 4.1.2007. Third reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Fourth reminder was sent on 11.7.2007. Fifth reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.
16. Shri V. K. Pandey, President, Gram Prachan Sangathan
Forwarded to the State Government on 08.01.2007. Reply awaited. First reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Second reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Third reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.
17. Pradhans of district Barabanki
Forwarded to the State Government on 08.01.2007. Reply awaited. First reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Second reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Third reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.
18. Shri Tej Narayan, and other poor labours of Vikash Khand Shingpur, district Arneethi
Forwarded to State Government on 23.01.07. Reply awaited. First reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Second reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Third reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.
19. Shri Kamallesh Kumar, Banda, UP
Forwarded to State Government on 23.01.07. Reply awaited. First reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Second reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Third reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.
20. Shri Umesh Bahadur Singh, President, BYCC, Raibareli
Forwarded to State Government on 15.02.07. Reply awaited. First reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Second reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Third reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.
21. Sh. Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, President, Gram Prachan Sabha
Forwarded to State Government on 25.5.2007. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Second reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.
22. Sh. Avadhesh Kumar Singh, President, Gram Prachan Sangh
Forwarded to State Government on 25.5.2007. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Second reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.
23. Sh. Ram Ganesh Prajapati, Member UPCC
Forwarded to State Government on 25.5.2007. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Second reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.
24. Shri Pushpender Singh, President, DCC, Chitrakoot, UP
Forwarded to State Government on 15.6.2007. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Second reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.

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25.	Shri Ashok Gahlot, General Secretary, AICC.	Forwarded to State Govt. on 25.05.07. A reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
26.	Shri G. C. Dinkar, MLA, Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha	Forwarded to State Govt. on 25.05.07. A reminder sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
27.	Sh. Shyam Singh Patel, MLA, Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha	Complaint forwarded to State govt. on 05.09.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07. NLM Deputed on 24.10.07. His Report Awaited	
28.	Shri Ashok Gahlot, General Secretary, AICC.	Complaint forwarded to State govt. on 05.09.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
29.	Shri Jaikaran Singh Gaur	Complaint forwarded to State govt. on 05.09.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
30.	Newspaper item in the 'Outlook, dated 23.04.07	Complaint forwarded to State govt. on 05.09.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
31.	Shri Shalendra Kumar, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha	Forwarded to State Government on 21.09.07 Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
32.	Shri Mitrasen Yadav, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha	Forwarded to State Government on 19.10.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
33.	Shri Kunwar Akshaypratap Singh, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha	Forwarded to State Government on 22.10.07. Last reminder sent on 28.11.07.	
Sl.No.	Name of the complainant	Allegations made	Action taken by Ministry Action taken by State Government
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West Bengal			
1.	Ms. Ranjita Khapangi,	Corruption, favouritism and lack of transparency in the implementation of NREGA in Jalpaiguri district. West Bengal	Forwarded to the State government on 24.5.2007. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Second reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 22.11.07.
2	Report appearing in News Line, dated 08.11.06	Panchayats in West Bengal are issuing job cards without any registration dates as result the wage seekers can neither press their claim for job nor claim unemployment allowance.	Forwarded to the State government on 2.2.2007 for examination, necessary action and report to this Ministry. Reply awaited. A reminder was sent on 23.3.2007. Second reminder was sent on 16.7.2007. Third reminder was sent on 22.08.07. Last reminder sent on 22.11.07.
3	Letter dated 08.08.07 of Shri Suravaram Suchakur Reddy, MP, Lok Sabha	Underpayment of wages and Non-allocation of enough work by Parighata Panchayat, Kaligori Block, District Nadia, West Bengal,	Forwarded to State Government on 07.09.07. Reminder sent on 22.11.07.

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4.	Letter dated 21.08.07 of Shri Sarman Pathak, MP, Rajya Sabha	Implementation of NREGA in Darjeeling	Forwarded to State Government on 07.08.07. Reminder sent on 22.11.07.	Reply dated 16.11.07 received from the State Govt. stating that as there is no elected Gram Panchayat and Hill Council in the Hilly areas in Darjeeling district at present, a separate arrangement has been made for operationalisation of NREGA in the hill areas under DGHC (Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council)
5.	Paschimbanga Khet Majoor Samiti, Kolkata	502 Complaints on NREGA in the South 24 Parganas Dist., West Bengal	Complaint dated 12.06.07 forwarded to State government on 10.09.07. Reminder sent on 22.11.07.	
6.	Sh. R. C. Khuntia, Secretary, AICC	Non-implementation of NREGA in 24 South Parganas Distt.	Complaint received on 23.08.07 forwarded to State Govt. on 10.09.07. Reminder sent on 22.11.07.	
7.	Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary, MP, Lok Sabha	Unsatisfactory processing of applications for registration of beneficiaries, non-payment of unemployment allowance and non-allotment of work under NREGA	Forwarded to State government on 10.09.07. Reminder sent on 22.11.07.	
8.	Shri P. R. Dasmunsi, Minister of Information and Broadcasting & Parliamentary Affairs	Manipulation and corruption in the NREGS in Chanchal PS at Bhagwanpur, District Malda, West Bengal.	Forwarded to State Govt. on 05.11.07. Reminder sent on 22.11.07.	
9.	Letter dated 31.08.07 of Shri Aijur Rahman, r/o Vill. Paol, PO Parahapur, PS. Itanar, District Uttar Dinajpur, West Bengal-733143 forwarded by Prime Minister's Office	Non-payment of wages and corrupt practices by the Pradhan, Surun-I Gram Panchayat, District Uttar Dinajpur, West Bengal	Forwarded to State Govt. on 21.11.07. Reminder sent on 22.11.07.	
10.	Letter dated 26.10.07 of Shri A. H. Khan Chowdhary, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha addressed to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India	Slow progress in providing work to job card holders and non-payment of unemployment allowance under NREGS in District Malda, West Bengal and no response to his letters written to the District authorities and the State Government in this regard.	Forwarded to State Govt. on 21.11.07. Reminder sent on 22.11.07.	

Loan to Sugar Mills

3145. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has formulated a policy regarding grant of loans to the sugar mills on easy instalments to bail out the sugar industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Government has created a buffer stock of 20 lakh tons of sugar for a period of one year with effect from May 01, 2007 involving a buffer subsidy of Rs. 378 crore out of Sugar Development Fund. On creation of buffer stock, banks provide additional credit to sugar mills as no margin money is kept in respect of buffer stock. Accordingly, Reserve Bank of India, vide its circular No. DBOD.BP.BC.No.20/08.07.06/2007-08 dated 11th July, 2007, has instructed all scheduled commercial banks for the release of margin money as additional credit to the concerned sugar mills, which is estimated to be Rs. 420 crore.

[English]

Legislation for Protecting the Interest of Depositors

3146. SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have enacted the law to safeguard the interest of the depositors in financial institutions after approval of Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the similar Bill of Government of Rajasthan having same provisions is lying pending for approval with the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefore and the time by which it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, New Delhi, Tamilnadu, Tripura, and Uttaranchal have enacted certain legislation for protection of interests of depositors.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Home Affairs has indicated to the Government of Rajasthan that it would be appropriate if the Rajasthan Protection of Interests of Depositors (In Financial Establishments) Bill, 2005 is examined alongwith the judgement of the Supreme Court in the SLP filed by the Government of Maharashtra on the order of the Maharashtra

High Court holding the Maharashtra Protection of Interest of Depositors (in Financial Establishment) Act, 1999 ultra vires of the Constitution of India.

Involvement of PRIs in NREGS

3147. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Union Government that Panchayati Raj Institutions are being kept out of the implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in certain States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In accordance with Section 13 (1) of the NREG Act, 2005, Panchayats at district, intermediate and village levels shall be the principal authorities for planning and implementation of the Schemes made under the Act. As per Section 16 of the Act, Gram Panchayats have been assigned a pivotal role in the implementation process. They are responsible for planning of works, registering households, issuing job cards, allocating employment, executing at least 50% of the works in terms of cost and monitoring the implementation of the scheme at the village level.

[Translation]

Declining number of Class III & IV Employees

3148. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of class IV and class III employees in the Government Departments in the year 1990 and as on date;

(b) whether the number of class IV and class III employees is gradually declining in the Government departments;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by the Government to check the negative impact of the decreasing number of such employees on the Government Administration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per records, the number of Class IV and Class III Central Government Employees in the year 1990 & in 2005 are as follows:

	Class III	Class IV
As on 31.3.90	17,74,005	16,39,626
As on 1.3.05	19.94,449	8,60,319

(b) The number has declined in the case of Class IV employees only.

(c) and (d) All Ministries/Departments are required to review their vacancies regularly and take necessary steps in the light of such reviews. There is provision for filling up vacancies by Government Departments as per their requirements subject to extant guidelines and rules on the matter.

[English]

Delay in Bangalore Metro Rail Project

3149. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bangalore Metro Railway Corporation (BMRC) plans to construct a terminal and a depot on New Government Electric Factory (NGEF) land;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) whether this plan of the BMRC is delayed inordinately; and

(d) If so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Workshop cum Depot for the East-West Corridor for Bangalore Metro is planned at Baiyyapanahalli at New Government Electric Factory (NGEF) area. The total land of NGEF required for Depot is 53.107 acre.

(c) and (d) BMRC has reported that the plan has been delayed by two months on account of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's status quo order relating to land as on 21st day of August 2007. The matter is now pending before Supreme Court.

[Translation]

Welfare of Scheduled Tribes

3150. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current scheme relating to assistance to be provided to Non-governmental Organisations engaged in the welfare of Scheduled Tribes has recently been reviewed or proposed to be reviewed;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) the benefits accruing out of such review to the Scheduled Tribes;

(d) whether the funds allocated for development of Scheduled Tribes have been diverted for other uses;

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

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tribal Affairs has already taken action for appraisal of the scheme of "Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations working for Welfare of Scheduled Tribes", through Expenditure Finance Committee as per established procedure.

(c) The revised guidelines of the scheme aim at enhancing the reach of welfare schemes of Government and fill the gaps in service deficient tribal areas, in sectors such as education, health, drinking water, agro-horticultural productivity, social security etc. through the efforts of voluntary organizations.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Voting Right

3151. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any requests/memoranda from Malayalee Associations for voting rights of non-resident Keralites residing in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government proposes to give voting rights to Non-Resident Indians (N.R.Is.)/Overseas Indians;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Government has not received any such representation in this regard.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) With a view to enabling citizens of India who are absenting from their place of ordinary residence in India owing to their employment, education, or otherwise, outside India to get their names enrolled in the electoral rolls and

cast their votes when they are in their constituency at the time of polls, the Government introduced the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2006 in Rajya Sabha on the 27th February, 2006. The said Bill was referred to the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice for examination and report. The Committee presented its 16th Report on the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2006 to Rajya Sabha and laid the same in Lok Sabha on the 4th August, 2006. The Government has not taken any decision on the recommendations of the Committee so far.

(f) Does not arise.

Cases of Unauthorised Construction

3152. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) booked many cases of unauthorised constructions but took action in a few cases only;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking action against all unauthorised constructions; and

(c) the action taken against the DDA officials who failed to check unauthorised construction?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) DDA has reported that it has been booking cases of unauthorised constructions as and when noticed and action is taken on regular basis keeping in view the availability of police force.

(c) DDA has been taking action against the guilty officers responsible for unauthorised constructions. During the period 1.4.2002 to 30.9.2007, DDA initiated departmental proceedings against 125 officials and imposed penalty against 14 officials.

[Translation]

Review of Drinking Water Schemes

3153. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR:

SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of villages in various States which do not have safe drinking water available as on date;

(b) the existing and proposed schemes of the Government for making available the safe drinking water to such villages; and

(c) the extent of utilization of the funds under these schemes by the various States during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU):

(a) Status and availability of safe drinking water in villages is a dynamic concept and it varies from season to season and year to year. Nevertheless, based on Habitation Survey-2003 conducted by the States/UTs and subsequent coverage of habitations reported, as on 1.4.2007, there are 1,65,368 Not Covered (NC) and 2,20,615 Partially Covered (PC) rural habitations in the country which inter-alia includes 1,66,693 habitations reported to also have water quality problems. The State and UT-wise details are enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) Water supply is a State subject. As such, State Governments are primarily responsible for providing drinking water to the people in villages. To supplement the efforts of the States, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance through centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), under which State Governments are competent to plan, sanction and implement drinking water schemes/ projects in the respective States.

(c) A statement indicating State-wise utilization of funds in the last three years is enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement-I

Status of habitations as per ARWSP norms as on 1.4.2007 (Based on Survey 2003 and coverage reported by States/UTs)

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of habitations		
		NC	PC	Quality - affected
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,935	23,613	1,330
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,809	1,607	552
3.	Assam	26,707	14,566	26,027
4.	Bihar	18,452	36,813	19,126
5.	Chhattisgarh	3,643	1,848	4,956
6.	Gujarat	1,263	6,286	3,370
7.	Haryana	50	1,806	189
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4,613	5,942	0
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1,867	3,564	114
10.	Jharkhand	12,746	1,923	1,007
11.	Karnataka	22	9,704	19,007

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
12.	Kerala	291	4,916	628	23.	Tamil Nadu	6,519	25,250	725
13.	Madhya Pradesh	6,411	11,326	2,567	24.	Tripura	800	2,212	2,527
14.	Maharashtra	1,826	30,171	10,704	25.	Uttar Pradesh	974	1,722	4,718
15.	Manipur	NA	NA	32	26.	Uttarakhand	382	5,077	0
16.	Meghalaya	1,389	1,826	86	27.	West Bengal	4,851	13,137	17,337
17.	Mizoram	140	57	0	28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	NA	NA	26
18.	Nagaland	0	856	127	29.	Delhi	NA	NA	0
19.	Orissa	11,759	12,049	26,441	30.	Lakshadweep	0	7	0
20.	Punjab	3,151	3,662	1,827	31.	Puducherry	0	0	59
21.	Rajasthan	53,748	0	23,135		Grand Total	1,65,368	2,20,615	1,66,693
22.	Sikkim	0	675	76					

NA: data not available

Statement-II**Funds released and expenditure reported by States under ARWSP**

(Amount Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of State	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		Release	Expenditure	Release	Expenditure	Release	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	37387.51	29668.16	29586.53	16360.05	33732.34	29324.23
2	Arunachal Pradesh	7078.97	7645.94	10696.98	10634.50	13883.01	8921.44
3	Assam	14075.88	9947.42	16573.99	12755.43	15505.69	21664.90
4	Bihar	9671.86	5929.42	17874.98	7081.74	15799.08	17195.69
5	Chhattisgarh	2690.41	1567.20	5192.15	2738.50	7652.50	7566.65
6	Goa	60.61	551.33	189.87	96.08	139.19	161.14
7	Gujarat	11405.69	7530.42	15149.29	12669.97	20763.11	17962.22
8	Haryana	2963.81	2730.27	4953.40	2612.54	6681.95	6452.28
9	Himachal Pradesh	6602.60	5794.03	14373.90	12076.52	16880.03	13195.31
10	Jammu and Kashmir	15021.51	14841.26	26349.76	18278.97	23664.44	27092.31
11	Jharkhand	3166.21	2104.50	7545.89	4334.99	6004.21	4356.78
12	Karnataka	19894.13	14361.16	24660.63	21188.05	38786.11	24762.62
13	Kerala	6324.82	4746.53	7592.30	5316.13	7413.11	6357.35
14	Madhya Pradesh	12027.38	7794.45	18178.81	15600.98	22784.82	18117.73
15	Maharashtra	29367.45	20987.50	40629.67	32286.40	40133.52	33156.87
16	Manipur	2103.00	2506.70	3053.45	845.27	1938.30	2694.82
17	Meghalaya	3085.58	3201.18	3539.49	3280.47	5211.59	4674.67
18	Mizoram	2076.96	1891.72	2936.77	2564.11	4450.87	3552.48
19	Nagaland	2084.83	1583.08	3094.33	1683.81	3110.77	4018.71
20	Orissa	10437.58	7095.62	16734.55	9847.70	11916.72	12185.23
21	Punjab	3532.63	2889.26	4961.17	3823.18	5371.63	2790.10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22	Rajasthan	37078.97	26336.03	55093.15	35903.11	54909.86	72190.18
23	Sikkim	902.59	798.51	1372.44	1191.59	1721.01	1586.01
24	Tamil Nadu	16158.57	10215.33	14990.71	9374.62	13595.74	14591.20
25	Tripura	2443.31	2069.28	3560.15	3255.38	5122.41	4367.05
26	Uttar Pradesh	16992.37	12805.26	33010.95	18176.12	40040.37	35180.21
27	Uttarakhand	4070.57	3961.90	7922.12	5709.21	9193.37	6984.71
28	West Bengal	10304.76	10089.41	17723.45	14323.08	28808.21	22699.93
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2037.00	238.45	1750.37	0.00	3.21	0.00
30	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	52.06	0.00	2.92	0.00	3.33	0.00
31	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	1.97	0.00	2.80	0.00
32	Delhi	0.00	0.00	7.94	0.00	7.84	0.00
33	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	3.78	0.00	2.69	0.00
34	Puducherry	100.00	0.00	3.01	0.00	3.61	0.00
35	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.01	0.00
Total		291199.62	221681.32	409310.86	284008.50	455240.45	423822.81

Cases of Fraud Before Company Law Board

3154. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases of fraud registered by the Company Law Board during the last three years and as on October 31, 2007;

(b) whether any action has been taken against the said companies; and

(c) if so, the company-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI

PREM CHAND-GUPTA): (a) Investigation into affairs of 32 companies has been ordered by the Company Law Board (CLB) for alleged fraud after being satisfied that such investigation was merited, during the last three years and as on October 31, 2007.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Consequent to orders passed by the CLB, investigations into the affairs of companies in question have been taken up under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. The details of investigations ordered and the progress of investigation/ subsequent legal action are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

S. No.	Name of Company	Date of order of Inv.	Present position
1	2	3	4
1.	Rangoli Textdye Pvt. Ltd.	06-08-2004	Investigation Report received and instructions issued to find out status and latest position of appeal against Hon'ble CLB order for investigation, filed by Shri Maheshwari, Managing Director before Hon'ble High Court of Madras.
2.	Triumph International Finance India Ltd.	20.10.2004	Investigation Report received and instructions issued to SFIO to file prosecutions. Prosecutions under the Companies Act, 1956 have been filed and prosecution under IPC wherever applicable are being filed.
3.	N H Securities Ltd.	-do-	-do-
4.	K N P Securities Pvt. Ltd.	-do-	-do-
5.	V N Parakh Securities Pvt Ltd.	-do-	-do-
6.	Panther Fincap and Management Services Ltd.	-do-	-do-

1	2	3	4
7.	Panther Investrade Ltd.	-do-	-do-
8.	Panther Industrial Products Ltd.	-do-	-do-
9.	Saimangal Investrade Ltd.	-do-	-do-
10.	Classic Credit Ltd.	-do-	-do-
11.	Classic Shares & Stock Broking Services Ltd.	-do-	-do-
12.	Luminant Investrade Pvt. Ltd.	-do-	-do-
13.	Goldfish Computers Pvt. Ltd.	-do-	-do-
14.	Triumph Securities Pvt. Ltd.	-do-	-do-
15.	Nakshatra Software Pvt. Ltd.	-do-	-do-
16.	Chitrakoot Computers Pvt. Ltd.	-do-	-do-
17.	Manmandir Estate Development Pvt. Ltd.	-do-	-do-
18.	Shrinath Steels Ltd.	26-12-2004	Investigation Report received and instructions issued.
19.	Soundcraft Industries Ltd.	28.02.2005	Investigation Report received and instructions issued to SFIO to file prosecutions. Prosecutions under the Companies Act, 1956 have been filed and prosecution under IPC wherever applicable are being filed.
20.	Adam Comsof Ltd.	28.02.2005	-do-
21.	Kolar Biotech Ltd.	28.02.2005	-do-
22.	Usha India Ltd.	18.05.2005	-do-
23.	Malvika Steel Ltd.	-do-	-do-
24.	Koshika Telecom Ltd.	-do-	-do-
25.	Information Tech of India Ltd.	14.10.2005	The Allahabad High Court Lucknow Bench has remanded the case to CLB to determine the questions raised in the petition. Hence, the investigation is kept in abeyance. Orders of CLB are awaited.
26.	Snonkh Technologies Ltd.	16.5.2006	Report received and the same is under processing.
27.	Shonkh Technologies International Ltd.	16.5.2006	Pending
28.	Sporting Pashme India Ltd.	21.11.2006	Investigation Report received and instructions issued.
29.	Rajasthan Breweries Ltd.	06.06.2007	As per the order dt. 06.06.2007 of CLB, an inspector has been appointed to investigate the company under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956.
30.	Indglonal Investment and Finance Ltd.	06.06.2007	-do-
31.	SKA Commercial Pvt. Ltd.	06.06.2007	-do-
32.	Texas Brewing Company Ltd.	06.06.2007	-do-

NGO's In Urban Development Schemes

3155. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether NGOs are involved in implementation of schemes under the Ministry;
- (b) if so, whether any 'NGO has been involved in misuse of fund;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken against them?

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

Volatility In the Stock Market

3156. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed the reasons for fluctuations in share market these days;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether making quoting of PAN compulsory in security transactions has not discouraged speculators; and
- (d) if so, the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The volatility is inherent in stock markets. The volatility in securities market is a function of the perception of investors – domestic and overseas, retail and institutional – about the economy, the sector and the company. This perception is influenced by many factors including the macro-economic environment, growth potential of the economy, corporate performance, domestic and international events, and market sentiments.

The authorities normally do not react unless volatility is attributed to manipulation in the market. Exchanges have, however, been directed by SEBI to analyse steep falls and rise in the market to detect untoward patterns or skewed concentrations.

(c) and (d) SEBI has stipulated that PAN would be the sole identification number for all participants in the securities market, irrespective of the amount of transaction with effect from July 02, 2007. The objective of the said requirement is to strengthen the 'Know Your Client' (KYC) norms through a single identification number for all participants in the

securities market thereby facilitating sound audit trail of all transactions.

[English]

Flourosis Mitigation Centre

3157. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Flourosis Mitigation Centre established in the State of Andhra Pradesh to address the Flourosis problem has been able to achieve the desired result;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) So far, Government of India has not established any Fluorosis Mitigation Centre in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

- (b) Does not arise
- (c) Detailed proposal from the State has not been received.

[Translation]

Construction in Violation of Court Order

3158. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether construction work in Farm houses in Delhi is still going in violation of the court's order in connivance with Police and MCD officials;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) MCD has reported that there is no Court order restraining construction of farm houses. However, as and when any violation of Building Bye Laws comes to notice, action against such violation is taken as per the provisions of Delhi Municipal Corporation Act. DDA has reported that no violation of the Court orders has been noticed in the development areas of DDA.

General Insurance by SBI

3159. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether SBI has roped in Ernst & Young to chart out its plan to enter into the General Insurance business;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the time by which SBI will sort out the proposed joint venture and start their new business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. State Bank of India (SBI) has engaged Ernst & Young Pvt. Ltd. as consultants to assist the Bank in the process of entering General Insurance business. The assistance will include drawing up a Business Plan, working out entry strategy, determining desirability of a Joint Venture partner and, if need be, finding a suitable joint venture partner, obtaining regulatory approvals, etc. However, the start of the new business is dependent upon business plan of the Bank, completion of various processes, obtaining regulatory and other requisite approvals, etc.

Policy on Renewal Energy

3160. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the new draft policy for the development of renewable energy sources is under the consideration of the Government;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has approved the same;
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR):

(a) and (b) An Expert Committee constituted by the Planning Commission has prepared an Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) covering all sources of energy including renewable energy sources. This report has highlighted the need to maximally develop domestic supply options and diversify energy sources. It has also projected that renewables may account for 5 to 6 per cent of India's energy mix by 2031-32 and has observed that the distributed nature of renewables can provide many socio-economic benefits for the country, specially in remote and rural areas.

(c) to (e) The recommendations of the IEPR are yet to be accepted by the Government. No time frame for their acceptance can be fixed as it depends on the merits thereof vis-a-vis national strategic concerns and priorities.

[English]

Biomass Co-generation Power Projects

3161. DR. M. JAGANNATH:

SHRI AJIT JOGI:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the targets fixed for energy generation through biomass and bagasse during the Five Year Plan;
- (b) the regions, identified which have potential for Biomass and bagasse based energy generation State-wise; and
- (c) the various incentives announced by the Government for encouraging private parties to set up biomass and cogeneration power projects in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR):

(a) A target for addition of 1,700 MW capacity, consisting of 500 MW of bagasse power projects and 1,200 MW of bagasse cogeneration projects has been proposed during XIth plan period i.e. upto 2012.

(b) As per the National Biomass Resource Atlas prepared by Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, under a project sponsored by the Ministry, a cumulative biomass power potential of about 18,000 MWe from the surplus agro residues have been estimated in the country. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are having potential for setting up biomass based power projects of 100 MW or above. The biomass power potential in the identified districts of the above States ranges from 10 MW to 100 MW. Sugar mills having crushing capacity of 2500 Tonnes of cane crushed per day in the States of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana have an estimated potential of about 5000 MW surplus power generation through optimum bagasse based cogeneration.

(c) The Government is providing incentives for setting up of power generation projects based on biomass and bagasse cogeneration in the form of capital subsidy and fiscal incentives such as accelerated depreciation, relief from taxes and duties, term loans from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). This apart, policies have been introduced in potential states for wheeling, banking and buy-back of electricity generated from commercial biomass power and bagasse cogeneration projects.

Population Growth and Slum

3162. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any report on population growth ratio between the Urban and Rural sectors during last two years;

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

(c) the details of sanitation, pure drinking water and basic amenities being provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) There is no report on population growth ratio between the urban and rural sector for the last two years. However, the Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India has projected the rural and urban population for various years based on the 2001 census and trends prior to that. State-wise details are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) Urban development is a State subject. Basic services like sanitation, drinking water are provided to the urban residents by the concerned urban local bodies and State Governments.

Statement**Total Urban and Rural Population in 2005 & 2006**

(Population in Million)

States/UTs	2005			2006		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
All India	1097.14	314.06	783.08	1114.2	321.23	792.97
Andhra Pradesh	79.5	21.58	57.92	80.43	21.85	58.58
Arunachal Pradesh	1.16	0.28	0.88	1.17	0.3	0.87
Assam	28.54	3.83	24.71	29.01	3.95	25.06
Bihar	69.32	9.38	79.94	90.83	9.54	81.29
Chhattisgarh	22.44	4.77	17.67	22.86	4.92	17.94
Goa	1.49	0.8	0.69	1.54	0.83	0.71
Gujarat	54.01	20.8	33.21	54.81	21.28	33.53
Haryana	22.67	7	15.67	23.04	7.22	15.82
Himachal Pradesh	6.36	0.65	5.71	6.43	0.67	5.76
Jammu and Kashmir	11.26	2.9	8.36	11.6	3.01	8.59
Jharkhand	28.74	6.52	22.22	29.17	6.42	22.75
Karnataka	55.49	19.56	35.93	56.14	19.97	36.17
Kerala	33.22	8.56	24.66	33.57	8.65	24.92
Madhya Pradesh	65.53	17.85	47.68	66.8	18.29	48.51
Maharashtra	102.69	45.08	57.61	104.1	46.1	58
Manipur	2.53	0.57	1.96	2.56	0.57	1.99
Meghalaya	2.44	0.49	1.95	2.47	0.5	1.97
Mizoram	0.94	0.48	0.46	0.96	0.49	0.47

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nagaland	2.11	0.38	1.73	2.13	0.38	1.75
Orissa	38.6	6.05	32.55	39.05	6.18	32.87
Punjab	25.66	9.19	16.47	25.98	9.42	16.56
Rajasthan	61.29	14.46	46.83	62.43	14.76	47.67
Sikkim	0.57	0.07	0.5	0.58	0.07	0.51
Tamil Nadu	64.65	31.01	33.64	65.26	31.95	33.31
Tripura	3.38	0.6	2.78	3.42	0.61	2.81
Uttar Pradesh	180.32	38.31	142.01	183.86	39.27	144.59
Uttaranchal	9.07	2.42	6.65	9.22	2.48	6.74
West Bengal	84.7	23.93	60.77	85.78	24.29	61.49
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.39	0.14	0.25	0.39	0.14	0.25
Chandigarh	0.99	0.89	0.1	1.01	0.91	0.1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.24	0.08	0.16	0.25	0.09	0.16
Daman & Diu	0.17	0.06	0.11	0.18	0.06	0.12
Delhi	15.59	14.65	0.94	16.07	15.13	0.94
Lakshadweep	0.07	0.03	0.04	0.07	0.03	0.04
Pondicherry	1.03	0.69	0.34	1.04	0.71	0.33

Benches of High Court in Bihar

3163. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

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

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has requested to set up Benches of High Court at Muzaffarpur, Gopalganj, Bhagalpur, Darbhanga and Katihar in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Tax Evasion by Export Oriented Units

3164. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export oriented units are cheating the Government in payment of taxes;

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

(c) the amount of taxes paid and the amount of taxes outstanding till date from them during the same period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) There have been instances where export oriented units (EOUs) have attempted to evade duty of excise including illegal clearances into Domestic Tariff Area (DTA). The duty evaded for the last three years is as follows:

	(Rs. in lakhs)
2004-05	71981.10
2005-06	32011.66
2006-07	34176.47

Information in respect of EOUs is not centrally maintained in case of Direct Taxes.

(c) The duty paid out of duty evaded by the defaulting

EOUs during the last three years is Rs.4744.62 lakhs and the duty outstanding is Rs.133424.61 lakhs against the defaulting EOUs.

(d) In the cases of excise duty evasion, show cause notices have been issued against defaulting EOUs demanding duty and imposing penalty. The proceedings have been completed or are under process. Action for duty recovery has also been initiated under section 142 of Customs Act, 1962 wherever legally feasible.

Apart from the statutory steps being taken for recovery of outstanding tax dues as prescribed under the Income Tax Act (including attachment of bank account, debtors etc., attachment and sale of immovable property etc.) the following special measures are also being taken to expedite recovery of direct tax arrears:

- i) Monitoring of recovery of arrears in large cases by a Task Force.
- ii) Identification of cases involving substantial amount of arrears pending before Commissioners (Appeals) and ITAT and requesting these authorities to dispose of such appeals early so that the demand can be collected during the current financial year itself.
- iii) Requesting the President of ITAT not to allow stay of demand beyond 180 days as prescribed in section 254 (2A) of the Income Tax Act.
- iv) Requesting Settlement Commission to dispose of high demand cases expeditiously.

Land Auction by DDA at Low Rates

3165. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has auctioned land at rates below the prevailing market rates during the last two years and has suffered a loss of rupees twenty thousand crores as a result thereof;

(b) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir. DDA has reported that commercial land, institutional land and residential land have been auctioned only after fixing the reserve price based on average auction rates of previous year. The question of loss does not therefore arise.

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

[English]

Development of Primitive Tribal Groups

3166. SHRI MOHAN JENA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a primitive tribal group Mankidia or Makidia in Jaipur district of Orissa is struggling to survive; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) As informed by Government of Orissa, there is no Jaipur District in Orissa. However, as per base line survey conducted by the State Government in 2007, Mankirdia primitive tribes mainly inhabit Jashipur area of Mayurbanj District and its population is showing an increasing trend.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Motor Vehicle Insurance Claims Settlement

3167. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of motor vehicle insurance claims settled during the last three years, company-wise, zone-wise;

(b) whether some officers have been found guilty of dereliction of duty under the provisions of Conduct Discipline and Appeal (CDA) Rules;

(c) if so, the details thereof, company-wise, zone-wise;

(d) the number of officers suspended out of the above and number of officers still in service on the same responsibility; and

(e) further action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Solar Energy

3168. SHRI VASANTRAO MORE:
SHRI BHAILAL:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is lack of Research and Developmental activities in the area of New and Renewable Energy particularly in solar energy in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the funds allocated and expenditure incurred on Research and Development of New and Renewable Energy particularly in the area of solar energy during the 10th Five year plan;

(d) the details of funds allocated in the 11th Five year plan;

(e) the details of the R&D centres set up in various states so far; and

(f) the details of the steps taken by the Government to promote solar energy in the country in the 11th plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR):

(a) No, Sir. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy supports Research, Design and Development activities in various areas of Renewable Energy including solar energy in the country. In this regard, more than 550 projects in the aforesaid technology areas have been financially supported.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) During the 10th Five Year Plan period an expenditure of Rs. 72.65 crore has been incurred on Research and Development in the area of New and Renewable Energy which includes Rs. 13.15 crore on solar energy.

(d) An amount of Rs. 1500 crore has been proposed for Research, Design and Development in New and Renewable Energy for the 11th Five Year Plan.

(e) The Ministry supports Research, Design and Development in New and Renewable energy at various universities, institutions and industry in the country. In addition, following specialized Centres have been set up/supported by the Ministry specializing in the area of solar energy, wind energy, small hydro power and biomass energy:-

- i) Solar Energy Centre, Gwalpahari, Gurgaon (Haryana),
- ii) Centre for Wind Energy Technology (C-WET), Chennai (Tamil Nadu)
- iii) Alternate Hydro Energy Centre (AHEC), IIT Roorkee (Uttaranchal), and
- iv) Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Renewable Energy (SSSNIRE), Kapurthala (Punjab) - in the process of establishment.

(f) The Ministry has identified Research and Development thrust areas for solar and other Renewable Energy technologies for the 11th Five Year Plan period. Guidelines for supporting and accelerating pace of Research, Design and Development leading to eventual manufacture and deployment of various Renewable Energy Systems

including solar energy have been put in place. In addition, during the 11th Plan Period various types of fiscal and financial incentives are proposed to continue to be provided for promoting various solar energy systems and devices in the country.

[English]

Fraudulent Withdrawal of Money through ATM

3169. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware about the cases of fraudulent withdrawal of money from various banks through ATM;

(b) if so, the details of such cases noticed during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to safeguard the interest of customers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that a few instances of fraudulent withdrawal of money through ATMs/debit cards have been reported by the banks to RBI. During the year 2006-2007 (April to March), banks had reported 238 such fraud cases involving an amount of Rs. 188.17 lakh and during 2007-2008 (upto September, 2007), the number of such incidents and amount involved therein was 80 and Rs. 161.43 lakh respectively. State-wise data of such incidents and data pertaining to earlier years is not available with RBI.

(c) to (e) As a part of its supervisory responsibility, RBI has been advising banks from time to time about the common fraud prone areas and the measures to be taken by them to prevent/reduce the incidents of frauds in banks. RBI had issued a circular to banks, on June 26, 2006, advising them to take various preventive measures to combat frauds, relating to skimming of ATM/debit/credit cards resulting in fraudulent withdrawals. Banks were advised to educate the customers through hand-outs, e-mails, display at ATM terminals, website etc. Operational/security measures to be taken at ATM centres were also elaborated by RBI in the said circular.

[Translation]

Opening of Branches of Cooperative Banks

3170. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has agreed to allow foreign banks to open 20 branches a year in the country as against 12 now;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government is not allowing even to strong cooperative banks to open a single branch;

(d) if so, whether any restriction has been imposed in this regard; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) In the "Road Map for presence of foreign banks in India" issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 28.02.2005, it is proposed to go beyond the existing World Trade Organisation (WTO) commitment of 12 branches in a year for new and existing foreign banks and to follow a more liberal policy for under-banked areas. However, the applications of foreign banks for opening of their branches/offices in India are considered by RBI/Government on merit under the applicable laws, regulations, norms and procedures.

(c) to (e) Applications of the State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) for opening of branches in terms of provisions of Section 23 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 are examined by RBI depending upon the merits of the case. As regards District Central Co-operative banks, the power to allow opening of branches rests with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies of the respective States.

Further, in view of the regulatory co-ordination brought about through signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between RBI and the respective State Governments, and based on the positive experience of the Task Force for Co-operative Urban Banks, RBI has announced in the Annual Policy Statement for the year 2007-08 to consider granting of branch licences to well managed and financially sound Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) in such States, on fulfilling certain parameters. Accordingly, RBI has issued a Circular on 4th July, 2007 relaxing the branch licensing policy for UCBs. The circular is available at RBI website www.rbi.org.in

[English]

Direction to Locker Holders

3171. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Banks have directed the locker holders to declare the items and their value before keeping them in lockers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir. Reserve Bank of India has also reported that they have not

issued any instruction to banks advising them to direct the locker holders to declare items and their value before keeping them in lockers.

(b) Does not arise.

Cash Reserve Ratio

3172. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether this recent increase in the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) will adversely impact the health of rural cooperative banks which are already under strain due to income tax imposed on them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has considered their demand for exemption from income tax;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, whether the Government proposes some relief for them so that the rural cooperative banks may continue to help the farmers without eroding their financial health; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) As announced by the Reserve Bank in the Mid-term Review of annual Policy Statement on Monetary Policy for the year 2007-08, it was decided to increase Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) of scheduled State Co-operative Banks (SCBs) by 50 basis points to 7.50% of their demand and time liabilities with effect from the fortnight beginning November 10, 2007. The above increase affects only 16 scheduled SCBs. As almost all of the SCBs have high positive net worth, this increase in CRR is unlikely to have an adverse financial impact. Further, this increase in CRR does not apply to the District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs).

(c) and (d) The demand for exemption of Cooperative Banks from income tax under Section 80 of the Income Tax Act was considered by the Government. However, the same has not been found to be acceptable.

The imposition of income Tax is in consonance with the objective of the Government to expand the tax base by phasing out exemptions that are considered economically inefficient and inadequate. Income Tax is levied on profits and there is no rationale for exempting profit making Cooperative Banks from payment of Income Tax. There is no justification of providing a special dispensation to cooperative banks, which have grown into full-fledged commercial entities earning substantial profits from their banking activities.

(e) and (f) The Government of India (GoI) has approved a revival package to strengthen Short Term Rural Cooperative

Credit Structure (STCCS). The States willing to implement the package are required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Central Government and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for carrying out certain legal and institutional reforms.

Financial assistance for STCCS under the package is available for cleansing of Balance Sheet as on 31st March, 2004 and increasing the capital to a specified minimum level subject to legal and institutional reforms. In order to ensure that STCCS continues on sound financial, managerial and governance norms, technical assistance is to be provided to upgrade institutional and human resources of STCCS, computerization and setting up proper internal control and accounting systems.

ECB Norms for Infrastructure Projects

3173. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a High-level Committee on External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) has agreed 'in principle' to relax ECB norms for infrastructure projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Government is likely to relax the ECB norms?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The issue of relaxation of External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) norms is considered whenever the policy is reviewed by the Government from time to time in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), keeping in view the current, macro economic situation, changing market conditions, sectoral requirements, challenges faced in the external sector management and experience gained so far in administering the ECB policy.

[Translation]

Civic Facilities to Urban Poor

3174. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that according to National Sample Survey Organization that about seven crore poor people in the cities all over the country are living in inhuman conditions;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government formulated any effective scheme to provide housing and other civic facilities to these urban poor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Based on National Sample Survey 61st Round data, the Planning Commission has brought out the figures of number of people living below poverty line in the urban areas. The Planning Commission has used two methods – Uniform Recall Period method and Mixed Recall Period method. According to Uniform Recall Period method, the estimated number of urban residents below poverty line is 8.08 million. According to Mixed Recall Period method, the estimate is 6.82 million in 2004-05.

(c) and (d) The Government has launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) to address the issues of provision of Housing and other civic facilities for the urban poor in 63 cities in the country under the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) Programme. Other cities/towns are covered under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). Both BSUP and IHSDP are under implementation since December 3, 2005. The Mission period is 2005-2012.

[English]

Losses of PSUs

3175. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any public sector undertakings under the Ministry is running in losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question do not arise.

Promotion of Tribal Art Forms and Sports

3176. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing any special scheme for preservation and promotion of tribal art forms and sports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has set up any National level establishment to coordinate these activities; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tribal Affairs is not implementing any special scheme for preservation and promotion of tribal art forms and sports. However, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Ministry of Culture are implementing schemes for preservation and promotion of Sports and Tribal Art forms respectively. The details given by the respective Ministries on their schemes are given in enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Only Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports provides financial assistance to National Sports Federations recognized for the promotion of indigenous games. The details of the list of National Sports Federation provided by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports through Sports Authority of India is promoting indigenous games and martial arts in the country including tribal areas. With a view to promoting these games in rural and semi urban areas and scouting of talent in these games for nurturing in modern sports, 27 schools have been adopted till date; The schools adopted are given an annual grant of Rs 25,000/- for organizing competitions in addition to an annual grant of Rs 20,000/- given for purchase of equipments. The selected trainees are provided sports kit, competition exposure and stipend as applicable to other trainees selected in the Jawhar Navodya Vidyalaya Adopted School under National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) Scheme. In addition to this, the schools are provided the services of experts for imparting training to the inmates;

Ministry of Culture is implementing scheme of financial assistance for promotion and disseminating of tribal/folk art & culture and provides financial assistance to individual/ organization from different states.

Statement-II

S.No.	Name of the Federation/Address
1	2
1.	Indian Olympic Association
2.	Archery Association of India
3.	Amateur Athletic Federation of India
4.	Indian Women Hockey Federation
5.	Judo Federation of India
6.	Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India

1	2
7	Indian Weightlifting Federation
8	Wrestling Federation of India Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi
9	Yachting Association of India
10	Indian Hockey Federation
11	Swimming Federation of India
12	Bridge Federation of India
13	Tug-of-War Federation of India
14	Cycling Federation of India
15	All India Football Federation Football House
16	All India Karate Do Federation
17	Mallakhamb Malkhamb Federation of India
18	Volleyball Federation of India
19	Winter Games Federation
20	Wrestling (Indian Style), Indian style Wrestling Federation.

Minority Cell in Nationalised Banks

3177. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to open minority cells in nationalized banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its Master Circular dated 5th July 2007; (available at RBI website www.rbi.org.in) has advised all scheduled commercial banks to create a Special Cell to ensure smooth flow of credit to the Minority Communities. So far, out of 28 Public Sector Banks, 26 have opened such Cells.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Misappropriation of Funds in NTPC Power Projects

3178. SHRI MANIK SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding misappropriation of funds provided for

the developmental work of Vindhya Nagar and Shakti Nagar Power Projects of NTPC;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of the reply at (a) above.

[English]

Propagation of Scientific Temper

3179. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any scheme by which it intends to propagate the scientific temper among the people and students community; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Since the past twenty five years, the Government has addressed the issue of scientific temper with a series of initiatives using both traditional and modern means of communication. Extensive campaigns have been undertaken in partnership with voluntary organizations and gains have been consolidated through intensive follow up action. The need of students and teachers are addressed through special programmes including radio serials, television programmes, science magazines and field activities. There has been a perceptible improvement in the level of public understanding of science through such efforts.

Sale of Gold Coins

3180. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether gold coins of various denomination was sold by various Indian / International banks particularly during the festival seasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any guidelines was issued by the Government in this regard;

(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) to (e) Under the liberalized policy for import, Government has permitted

import of gold by certain nominated agencies viz. Mineral and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC), The Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Ltd. (HHEC), State Trading Corporation (STC), State Bank of India (SBI) and other agencies authorized by Reserve Bank of India for sale to jewellery manufacturers, exporters, Non-resident Indians (NRIs), holders of Special Import licences and domestic users. Under this policy, RBI has so far authorized 20 banks to import gold which includes import of gold coins also. The concerned banks take their own decisions to buy, sell or deal in bullion, including gold coins, as per their business strategy.

Irregularities in DDA Flats

3181. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any irregularity/corruption has come to the notice of the Government in giving possession of DDA flats; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to check corruption in DDA?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Information is being collected.

(b) In order to check corruption in the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), the three pronged strategy, formulated by the Department of Personnel & Training viz. preventive, surveillance & detection and deterrent punitive action is followed. The review of anti-corruption machinery is conducted from time to time. Corruption cases are dealt with firmly. Criminal cases and disciplinary proceedings are instituted, wherever found necessary. A number of measures have also been taken for improving transparency in functioning, preventing corruption and reducing any scope for irregularities or corruption in DDA. Facilitation counters have been established for helping citizens in their interaction with DDA; senior DDA officers are accessible to the public through public hearings for attending to their grievances; schemes, rules, procedures, application forms, etc. have been put on the web site; draw of lots for allotment of houses has been computerized; posting of tender notice on the web site has been introduced, disposal of commercial plots is done through well publicized public auction and various other measures have been taken to eliminate discretionary power and bring in objectivity and transparency in functioning of DDA.

Trading of Electricity

3182. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Forward Markets Commission (F.M.C.) has notified electricity to be included in the rest of commodities permitted for the future trading;

(b) if so, the fact therein; and

(c) the effect of this on the electricity tariff?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the information made available by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Electricity has been notified for futures trading under section 15(1) of the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952. However, futures trading has so far not been started in any Commodity Exchanges.

(c) In view of reply to part (b) above does not arise.

Unauthorised Construction in Government Colonies

3183. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of unauthorised additional room construction in Government colonies located in NDMC areas detected during the last three years; and

(b) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

Improving Customer Service In Banks

3184. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a review mechanism in banks for customer's dissatisfaction;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is planning to make changes in existing mechanism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Indian Banks' Association has advised all the member Banks to ensure that:

(i) A suitable mechanism is set up for receiving and addressing complaints from its customers/constituents with specific emphasis on resolving such complaints

fairly and expeditiously regardless of the source of the complaints.

(ii) A time frame is fixed for resolving the complaints received at different levels.

(iii) To enhance the effectiveness of the redressal machinery, the names of the officials who can be contacted for redressal of complaints be prominently displayed at the branches, together with their direct telephone number, fax number, complete address (not Post Box No.) and e-mail address etc. for proper and timely contact by the customers.

(iv) Banks give wide publicity to the grievance redressal machinery through advertisements and also by placing them on their web sites.

(v) Redressal of complaints emanating from rural areas and those relating to financial assistance to Priority Sector and Government Poverty Alleviation Programmes should also form part of the above process.

Further, in order to encourage a formal channel of communication between the customers and the bank at the 'branch level', banks have been advised to take necessary steps for strengthening the branch level customer service committees with greater involvement of customers.

Banking Ombudsman Scheme is in operation since 1995. Banking Ombudsman is an independent body with powers to settle disputes quickly and inexpensively. Any customer whose grievance relating to certain services rendered by the bank has not been resolved by bank to his satisfaction can approach the concerned Banking Ombudsman.

The Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2002 provided appeal option (termed as 'review') to banks against the decisions of Banking Ombudsmen. However, the option was also extended to the complainants in the Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006. As per the subsequent amendment made to the Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006 on May 24, 2007, the bank customers can also appeal against the decision of the Banking Ombudsman where he has rejected customer's complaint for the reasons referred to in the amended clause (13) of the Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006.

[Translation]

Township Development and Fake Companies

3185. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that various fake companies are running in the name of 'Township Development' in Delhi and NCR;

(b) whether many such fake companies have disappeared with lacs and crores of rupees of people;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to bring law for monitoring of such fake companies;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (f) Land is a subject in List II - State List in 7th Schedule of the Constitution of India. Some development authorities located in NCR have informed that on the basis of certain complaints of illegal pre-launching of housing/commercial schemes by private builders, the authorities have issued public notices advising people not to get misled by such advertisements.

As far as National Capital Territory of Delhi is concerned, development of township by private dealers is not authorized. With respect of National Capital Territory of Delhi, legislative measure for regulation of real estate is one of the options. The proposal is at draft stage.

Loan for Builders/Developers

3186. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of the loans taken by the various Builders/Developers etc. and other companies/firms operating in the National Capital Region of Delhi from the Nationalised Banks during the last three years; bank-wise, year-wise;

(b) the total number of the companies/firms in the defaulters list out of it; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Fake orders in the Name of Courts

3187. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the reports of fake orders being issued in the name of courts; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Health Insurance Scheme

3188. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received the Sastry Committee Report on Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government proposes to reduce the senior citizen age from 65 to 60 for health insurance purposes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that it had appointed the Sastry Committee on Health Insurance for Senior Citizens. The said Committee has submitted its report on 26.11.2007 to IRDA which is under its examination.

Exemption from Cost Audits

3189. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to exempt some of the industries including cement and petrochemicals in the manufacturing sector from the mandatory cost audits; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Reduction in Allocation of Funds to States for RD Schemes

3190. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to cut the financial allocation to the States for various rural development schemes with effect from current financial year;

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

(c) the reaction of the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development is not contemplating to cut the financial allocation to the States for various rural development schemes with effect from current financial year.

(b) and (c) Question do not arise.

New Housing Policy

3191. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKR: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalized New Housing Policy with participation of private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the changing socio-economic parameters of the urban area and growing requirement of shelter and related infrastructure, a new National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy, 2007 has been formulated.

This policy intends to promote sustainable development of habitat in the country with a view to ensuring equitable supply of land, shelter and services at affordable prices to all sections of society. Given the magnitude of the housing shortage and budgetary constraints of both the Central and State Governments, the National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy, 2007 focuses the spotlight on multiple stake-holders namely, the Private Sector, the Cooperative Sector, the Industrial Sector for labour housing and the Services/ Institutional Sector for employee housing. In this manner, the Policy will seek to promote various types of public-private partnerships for realizing the goal of "Affordable Housing for All".

Categorization of Cities

3192. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the norms adopted for categorization of cities, A.B.C. etc. in the country;

(b) whether some of the cities have been upgraded in the last two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the privileges/facilities entitled to the cities on upgradation?

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

Shortage of Land In Delhi for Residential Purposes

3193. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of land in NCT of Delhi for residential purposes; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide residential land in a planned manner?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that in Master Plan of Delhi-2021 (MPD 2021), it has been estimated to accommodate 230 lakhs of projected population by 2021 for which the additional requirement of urban extension would be 20,000 to 22,000 ha. of urbanisable land within development time-frame of 15-16 years.

The MPD 2021 recommends a three-pronged strategy to accommodate the projected population of 230 lakhs by 2021 namely:-

- (i) To encourage the population to deflect in the NCR towns;
- (ii) To increase the population holding capacity of the area within existing urban limits through redevelopment; and
- (iii) Extension of the present urban limits to the extent necessary.

Strikes in Banks

3194. SHRI M.APPADURAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of Nationalised Banks have informed the Government regarding their proposed indefinite strike;

(b) if so, the details of the demand raised by the bank employees; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Demolition In Lutyen's Bungalows Zone

3195. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to demolish some buildings in Lutyen's Bungalow Zone (LBZ) in New Delhi;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of houses comprise in the LBZ, the number of houses likely to be demolished and the number of houses to be constructed in their place;
- (d) whether the opinion of conservationists, architects and NGOs has been obtained in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government for the rehabilitation of the occupants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Government has not decided to demolish some buildings in Lutyen's Bungalow Zone (LBZ), New Delhi.

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

Urban Services for Poor in Andhra Pradesh

3196. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any proposal of the Andhra Pradesh Government is pending with the Union Government for extension of Andhra Pradesh Urban Services for the Poor (APUSP) by one more year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has taken any decision in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No, Sir. Department for International Development (DFID, UK) have not agreed to the extension of Andhra Pradesh Urban Services for the Poor (APUSP) by one more year.

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

People Living in Unauthorized Colonies in Delhi

3197. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the approximate number of people living in the unauthorized colonies of the National Capital Territory of Delhi as on date; and
- (b) the action being taken by the Government for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Government of NCT of Delhi has reported that it has not conducted any survey in this regard. The estimates range from 35 to 40 lakhs.

(b) The process of regularisation of unauthorised colonies has been initiated.

Regularisation of Daily Wagers

3198. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has sought information from Andaman and Nicobar Administration regarding regularization of services of daily wagers working in Electricity Department there; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof with the progress made in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Andaman & Nicobar Administration has been asked by the Ministry of Power in October, 2007 to furnish the following information with respect to the Administration's proposal for creation of 677 posts of Mazdoor (Group 'D') in the Electricity Department of A&N Islands:-

- (i) Complete seniority list of all 677 persons vis-a-vis the seniority of those persons who have been regularized earlier;
- (ii) Functional justification for creation of new posts.
- (iii) Present deployment of the Mazdoors project wise.

The A&N Administration has so far only furnished information relating to project wise present deployment of the Mazdoors.

Appreciation of Rupee

3199. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian rupee has appreciated much against dollar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Minister of Finance had a meeting with the representatives of Federation of Indian Export Promotion Council in this regard recently;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) the implications of appreciation of rupee against

US dollar on import and export in various sectors including textile;

(f) whether the Government is aware that job opportunities are decreasing as a result thereof; and

(g) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Rupee appreciated by 6.67 percent against U.S. Dollar from April 2007 to October 2007.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, the Finance Minister had a meeting with representatives of the Textiles and handicrafts export associations on 15th November 2007. Subsequent to the meeting, Government announced additional measures which includes, among others, additional subvention of 2% (in addition to the 2% already offered earlier) in pre-shipment and post-shipment credit; to all categories of textiles under the existing scheme including RMG and carpets but excluding man made fibre, Leather and Leather Manufactures, Marine products and Handicrafts sectors. Basic customs duty was reduced on many items relating to textile sector and the number of services for refund of service tax paid by exporters on taxable services linked to exports has been increased.

(e) to (g) There is no one to one relationship between appreciation and exports as exports depend on many other factors as well. Despite the appreciation of the Rupee, exports in April-October 2007, grew by 20.9% in dollar terms over the corresponding period of the previous year. In October 2007 export growth rate was 35.6% in dollar terms over October 2006.

Import growth in April-October 2007 in dollar terms was 25.3% over corresponding period of previous year. While appreciation of the Rupee makes imports cheaper, even the effect of appreciation on exports depends on the import intensity of exports. While sectors like Gems and Jewellery, Engineering goods, POL products have registered growth rates of 20 percent and above, sectors like Textiles, Handicrafts, Carpets etc, have registered low or negative growth in April-June 2007 over corresponding period.

As there was widespread concern on possible lagged adverse impact of rupee appreciation on export growth and employment in export sector, Government has announced relief packages to exporters comprising of reduction in Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) premium, release of Rs. 600 crore for clearing all arrears of terminal excise duties, Central Sales Tax reimbursement, enhancement of Duty Drawback Rates, enhanced Duty Entitlement Passbook (DEPB) rates for 9 sectors which include labour intensive sectors, reduction in interest rates on pre and post shipment credit for the 9 sectors and to all exporters from the small and medium enterprises sector, etc.

FDI Guidelines

3200. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign investors are not following the norms and guidelines prescribed for FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) in the country;

(b) if so, the details of cases detected so far;

(c) whether Government has any plan to put up proper mechanisms to make them comply with the norms and guidelines in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Water Supply to Delhi

3201. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 140 MGD unfiltered water released by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to Delhi is going waste in Yamuna in the absence of reservoir here;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for failure to construct the reservoir;

(c) the percentage of water, received from Uttar Pradesh being actually utilized by the Government of Delhi;

(d) whether the construction of a Master Balancing Reservoir (MBR) in Greater Kallash Area could not be completed in time; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Delhi Jal Board has reported that full quantum is being used.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The work of construction of Master Balancing Reservoir, one of the 5 reservoirs, was awarded to a Consortium under single contract. As per the agreement, the work was scheduled to be completed by 09.01.2005. The Consortium as on date has completed one UGR and commissioned it. The 2nd UGR is likely to be commissioned

in December, 2007. The remaining 3 UGRs including the work under question are about 80% complete and shall take another 2-3 months for completion.

Mobile Learning Resource Vans

3202. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received funds from the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) for educating street children using Mobile Learning Resource Vans in each State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the amount spent by each State Government and voluntary organizations on the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Prices of Petrol and Diesel

3203. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR:

SHRI K.VIRUPAKSHAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to withdraw import duty on Petrol and Diesel in order to control the prices of such commodities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time for withdrawal of such duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Domestic price of petrol and high speed diesel (HSD) depends upon number of factors including taxes. At present, there is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to effect changes in the customs duty rates of petrol and HSD.

Compensation Package regarding Bangalore Metro Rail

3204. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared the compensation package for the displaced/the land loser for BMRC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether cheques have been handed over to the affected parties; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the time by which the compensation is likely to be distributed finally?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) BMRC has reported that it has prepared the compensation package for the displaced/the land losers.

The compensation package consists of the following:

1. Fair Market Value of the land:- As recommended by Sri. P.S.S. Thomas Committee plus 30% Solatium Plus an amount u/s 23(1A) of Land Acquisition Act, 1894 from the date of issue of preliminary notification to the date of possession or award, whichever is earlier.
2. Replacement Value of the Building would be given. Additionally, solatium and amount under section 23(1A) of the Land Acquisition Act 1894 would be given.
3. Rehabilitation package for the project affected persons – This consists of:-
 - Shifting Allowance
 - Inconvenience Allowance
 - Right to Salvage Materials
 - Transitional Allowance
 - Rental Income Loss Compensation
 - Business premises re-establishment allowance

(c) and (d) As reported by BMRC, disbursement of compensation has already commenced and a cheque for Rs.2,38,82,075.00 (after deducting Rs.30,51,585.00 towards income tax) has been handed over to Sri S. Venkatesh, Resident of 100 feet Road, Indiranagar during November, 2007 for acquiring his property measuring 2009 sq.ft. situated at 100 feet Road, Indiranagar.

Payment of compensation for all the remaining land/property losers is expected to be completed by April, 2008.

Women Reservation Bill

3205. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing percentage of women representation in the Indian Parliament is far below in comparison with all other neighbouring countries and their population in the country;

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

(c) the number of women representatives in the various State legislative assemblies and the three-tier system

of Local Self Governments in the country State-wise/Union Territory-wise; and

(d) the present status of proposed Women Reservation Bill?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The information asked for is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The Government is making all-out efforts to arrive at a consensus on the provisions of the Women Reservation Bill before the said Bill is introduced in the Parliament.

Constitution of Nyaya Panchayats

3206. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:

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

(a) whether the Government has completed the formalities for constitution of Nyaya Panchayats; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The proposal to set up Gram Nyayalayas is under consideration of the Government.

Non-functional Pay Scales in CSIR

3207. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to USQ No. 3635 of 27.4.2007 and to state:

(a) whether the non-functional scale of Rs. 8000-13500 of Section Officers of CSS had been given to Section Officers of CSIR;

(b) if so, the date from which it is applicable;

(c) whether the non-functional scale of Rs. 8000-13,500 of Private Secretaries of CSS has not been given to Private Secretaries of CSIR;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes madam, the non-functional scale of Rs. 8000-13500 of Section Officers of CSS had been given to Section Officers of CSIR. w.e.f. 03.10.2003.

(c) to (e) It has not yet been implemented for Private Secretaries of CSIR. The matter was considered by the Governing Body in its 169th meeting held on 22.6.2007. The draft proceedings of the meeting were sent to the competent authority for approval. The competent authority has advised to re-submit the proposal after interministerial consultations.

ATM Facility

3208. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:

SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar where ATM facility has been provided by different banks, bank-wise; and

(b) the plans for installing new ATM facility during the current and the next financial year in the above States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Under the liberalized Branch Authorisation Policy, the choice of the centre/location of the branch/Off-site ATM, is left to the discretion of banks, which the banks decide based on the business potential, commercial viability, availability of infrastructure etc. It has been provided in the policy that Banks may approach RBI for any urgent proposal regarding opening of branches/ATMs especially in rural/under-banked areas, anytime during the year, in addition to the approvals given under the Annual Plan. It is also pertinent to add that all proposals for opening of Off-site ATMs by banks are generally considered favorably by the RBI. The total number of ATMs installed bank-wise in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Bank-wise Deployment of ATMs in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (As on September, 2007)

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Total No. of ATMs deployed	
		Uttar Pradesh	Bihar
1	2	3	4
Nationalised Banks			
1.	Allahabad Bank	63	8
2.	Andhra Bank	3	0
3.	Bank of Baroda	136	10
4.	Bank of India	14	10
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	16	0
6.	Canara Bank	91	26
7.	Central Bank of India	41	11
8.	Corporation Bank	56	4
9.	Dena Bank	15	1
10.	Indian Bank	9	2
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	23	2

1	2	3	4
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	78	2
13.	Punjab & Sind Bank	0	0
14.	Punjab National Bank	154	27
15.	Syndicate Bank	72	6
16.	UCO Bank	13	2
17.	Union Bank of India	79	10
18.	United Bank of India	7	2
19.	Vijaya Bank	8	0
State Bank Group			
20.	State Bank of India	443	200
21.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	3	2
22.	State Bank of Hyderabad	0	0
23.	State Bank of Indore	5	0
24.	State Bank of Mysore	1	0
25.	State Bank of Patiala	17	1
26.	State Bank of Saurashtra	3	0
27.	State Bank of Travancore	2	0
Other Public Sector Banks			
28.	Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI)	29	5
Total		1381	331

[Translation]

Ultra Mega Power Projects

3209. SHRI KIREN RIJIJU:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set right the process for putting the generation capacity addition on fast track of Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs) through the execution of a slew of these 4,000 MW projects;

(b) if so, whether the Government has also added another UMPP in the list of proposed 4,000 MW projects already being executed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The bidding process for the Ultra Mega Power

Projects (UMPPs) is carried out inter alia on the basis of the Standard Bid Documents (SBDs), based on which project specific bidding documents are prepared. The SBDs have been amended six times since their issuance on 31st March, 2006. These amendments were issued on 18th May, 2006, 21st August, 2006, 22nd September, 2006, 31st January, 2007, 21st September, 2007 and on 12th November, 2007, keeping in view the feed back received from various stake holders and the experience gained during the course of implementation of the first set of the UMPPs.

(b) and (c) Under the UMPP initiative launched by the Ministry of Power, the Central Electricity Authority had identified nine sites in different States for setting up the UMPPs. Taking up of projects is inter alia dependent upon the suitability of the site and requisite clearances being made available by the concerned State Governments. While clearances are awaited for the initially identified sites in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, recently requests have been received from these States for examining the possibility of setting up of an additional UMPP each in these States.

[English]

Rural Self Employment Scheme in the Eleventh Plan

3210. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI G. M. SIDDESWARA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme in the 11th Plan to provide self employment in rural areas of the country;

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

(c) the details of funds earmarked for implementing such scheme during the 11th Plan; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for effective implementation of such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), is conceived as a holistic programme of micro - enterprises covering all aspects of self-employment viz., organization of the rural poor into Self-Help Groups (SHGs) through the process of social mobilization and their capacity building, planning of activity clusters, infrastructure build up, technology, credit and marketing. In the 11th Plan SGSY is being continued for achieving the objective of providing self employment to the rural BPL families.

(c) Planning Commission has projected Rs.17,523 crores at current prices for the SGSY Programme during 11th plan.

(d) For full utilization of funds, the SGSY is monitored from the Central level down to the grass root level. At the Central level, Central Level Co-ordination Committee (CLCC) monitors and reviews the implementation of the programme and lays down Policy Guidelines for all aspects related to credit linkages for the SGSY. The Performance Review Committee of the Department of Rural Development also reviews the implementation of the SGSY. At the State level, a State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC) monitors the programme. At the district level and block level, the programme is monitored by District Level SGSY Committee and Block Level SGSY Committees. In addition, the progress under the SGSY is monitored periodically through Reports and Returns submitted by DRDAs/States. Issues related to implementation of the Programme are discussed in Project Directors' Workshops and periodic Meetings with the State Secretaries with the objective to bring out improvement in implementation of the programme at Block/DRDA level. At the Block/DRDA level, monitoring is done through field visits and physical verification of assets. All the DRDAs of the country are within online networks for smooth flow of information from the Districts to the Centre and the States/UTs. In addition, the programme is also monitored through other monitoring mechanism of the Ministry like Area Officers Scheme, District Level Monitoring, National Level Monitoring, Impact Assessment & Evaluation studies.

Inclusion into the List of Scheduled Tribes

3211. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received request of the Kerala Government for inclusion of certain communities particularly Karimpalan, Mavilan, Vedan and Vettuvan into the list of Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Karimpalan and Mavilan communities have been notified as Scheduled Tribes in the State of Kerala vide Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 2002 (No. 10 of 2003) dated 7-1-2003. The proposals of Vedan and Vettuvan communities have been processed, as per the modalities approved in June, 1999 for deciding the claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in the Orders specifying Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lists.

Raid by Central Excise Intelligence on Gutka Manufacturers

3212. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence has recently raided Gutka (Pan Masala) manufacturers and unearthed tax evasion of several crores of rupees in the past few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take further action against the manufacturers of Gutka; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes Sir. The Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence has recently raided some Gutka (Pan Masala) manufacturers and unearthed tax evasion of several crores.

(b) The details of the cases booked in the current financial year 2007-08 (upto November, 2007) are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) On completion of the investigations, action as per the provisions of Central Excise Act, 1944 shall be taken against such manufacturers of Gutka who have been found evading central excise duty.

Statement

Year 2007-08 (Up to November 2007)

Sl. No.	Name of the Manufacturer	Amount of evasion detected (Rs. in crore)	Current Status
1	2	3	4
1	M/s. K.P. Pouches, Delhi	0.04	Case under Investigation.
2	M/s. S.P. Flavours Private Limited, Bangalore	0.50	Case under Investigation. Rs. 50 lakh has been voluntarily deposited by the party towards duty liability

1	2	3	4
3	M/s. Shree Raj Pan Masala, Jodhpur	0.50	Case under Investigation.
4	M/s. Sunrise Food Products, New Delhi	3 50	Case under Investigation. Rs. 50 lakh has been voluntarily deposited by the party towards duty liability
5	M/s. Kurele Pan Product Private Limited, Ghaziabad	118.00	Case under Investigation. One person has been arrested. Rs. 5 crore has been voluntarily deposited by the party towards duty liability
6	M/s. Kurele Fragrances Private Limited, Kanpur	38.00	Case under Investigation.

Cities covered under E-Governance Programme

3213. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched National Mission on e-Governance Programme in urban local bodies;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith its features thereof;
- (c) the names of the cities identified for the Programme, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to extend the same throughout the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise in view of reply made to part (a) above.

LTC to North-East Regions

3214. DR. H.T. SANGLIANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has received a proposal from Department of North Eastern Region for allowing all Central Government employees to avail All India Leave Travel Concession by air to visit North East Region as has been in the case of Jammu & Kashmir and Andaman & Nicobar Islands;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by Government thereon?

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

proposal from the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region to allow Group A and B employees of Central Government, to travel by air to visit North Eastern Region, in relaxation of Leave Travel Concession Rules, to promote tourism in North Eastern Region was examined and was not agreed to.

Leave Travel Concession to Group 'A' and 'B' Central Government, employees between New Delhi and Srinagar by air by economy class was allowed for a limited period of two years w.e.f. 16/6/2004. No further extension has been granted. Similarly Leave Travel Concession to all Group 'A' and 'B' Central Government employees to visit Andaman & Nicobar Islands instead of Home town or on All India Leave Travel Concession by air in economy class from Kolkata/Chennai to Port Blair and back was allowed for a limited period of six months w.e.f. 25/5/2005; and no further extension has been granted.

Dual Tax Rates

3215. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is dual tax rates for domestic and for foreign companies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for this dual tax policy;
- (c) whether some foreign countries have objected to this while negotiating investment in India;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and;
- (e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE: (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, sir. Foreign companies are taxed at a higher rate of 40 per cent, vis-a-vis 30 per cent, in the case of domestic companies. However, the rate of surcharge for foreign companies is lower

at 2.5% as against 10% for domestic companies. The differential rate of taxation is due to the fact that the dividends distributed by foreign companies are not liable to tax in India both at the corporate level and at the shareholder level.

(c) No foreign country has objected to the dual tax rates for domestic and foreign companies while negotiating Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements with India.

(d) and (e) In view of (c) above, does not arise.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Funds under Watershed Development Programmes

3216. SHRI SUBASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds released to various States/UTs under Watershed Development Programmes, area-wise;

(b) whether the State Governments have made full utilization of funds allocated thereunder;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) The Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing three area development programmes i.e. Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) on watershed basis. Details of the funds released to various States/Union Territories under these programmes from their inception upto 30.11.2007 are given in a statement enclosed.

The watershed projects are sanctioned for a period of five years and the total project cost is released in five instalments. There is an inbuilt mechanism to monitor the fund utilization, under which the next instalment of Central share is released only when more than 50% of the Central and State Share released earlier, has been utilized.

Various measures involving the State Rural Development Departments have been taken to monitor the performance of the projects. Meeting of the State Nodal Officers is convened regularly to review the performance of each State. A web-based online system has been launched for monitoring the physical and financial progress. The Department has also modified the proforma of Utilization Certificate, which has necessitated the implementing agency to furnish the details

of outputs and outcomes as incorporated in the outcome budget.

Statement

Details of the funds released to various States/UTs under Watershed Development Programmes since inception upto 30.11.2007

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	State/UT	IWDP	DPAP	DDP
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	225.01	475.52	150.15
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	57.30	-	-
3.	Assam	155.61	-	-
4.	Bihar	29.40	32.50	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	99.02	87.65	-
6.	Goa	1.07	-	-
7.	Gujarat	132.74	226.82	366.54
8.	Haryana	30.18	-	146.68
9.	Himachal Pradesh	122.92	36.17	61.29
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	39.38	28.85	91.91
11.	Jharkhand	12.84	64.35	-
12.	Karnataka	157.82	234.36	160.60
13.	Kerala	20.69	-	-
14.	Manipur	50.15	-	-
15.	Meghalaya	29.29	-	-
16.	Mizoram	67.50	-	-
17.	Maharashtra	103.15	277.79	-
18.	Madhya Pradesh	235.22	413.36	-
19.	Nagaland	143.79	-	-
20.	Orissa	122.34	101.91	-
21.	Punjab	11.79	-	-
22.	Rajasthan	163.86	139.80	980.29
23.	Sikkim	22.96	-	-
24.	Tripura	14.25	-	-
25.	Tamil Nadu	140.24	178.97	-
26.	Uttar Pradesh	224.05	195.63	-

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Uttarakhand	64.85	50.46	-
28	West Bengal	14.28	24.32	-
29.	Others	12.50	11.36	-
Total		2504.20	2579.82	1957.46

Contractual System

3217. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether contractual system has been in vogue at large scale in several agencies under his ministry;

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

(c) whether any irregularities have been noticed in the works of some departments;

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

(e) whether the Government proposes to minimise the contractual work and entrust responsibility to the governmental agencies; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Outsourcing & engaging on contract is confined only to activities that Government does not possess the in-house expertise. It is therefore, not resorted to on a large scale.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Mega City Programme

3218. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds allocated, released and utilised under Mega City Programme so far;

(b) the facilities created/proposed to be created therefrom; and

(c) further future programme for mega cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Total funds allocated, released and utilised under Mega City Programme so far were as under:

Allocated	-	Rs. 1449.80 crore
Released	-	Rs. 1753.84 crore
Utilized	-	Rs. 1639.28 crore

(b) The mega city scheme has contributed significantly to augmenting funds for infrastructure development in the eligible cities thereby leading to improved levels of infrastructure and services. Most of the projects implemented as part of the mega city scheme are citywide infrastructure projects. These projects particularly roads, water supply and sewerage have significantly improved the quality of life of citizens.

(c) The Scheme has been subsumed in Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in December 2005 and formally closed w.e.f. 1.4.2007.

[English]

Nutrition for Children

3219. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any recommendation from the National Commission for Protection of child Rights for bringing legislation to ensure nutrition for children upto six years of age group; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Recovery of Loan by ICICI Bank

3220. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the private sector banks are using musclemen and goonda's to recover loans;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that most of such complaints have been registered against the ICICI bank;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against such complaints and banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken up with banks, for appropriate action, the media reports in respect of the banks engaging musclemen and harassing the defaulting customers for recovery of loans. It has been observed by RBI that most of such reported cases of alleged harassment of defaulting customers involved ICICI Bank Ltd. In many such instances, the excesses were alleged to have been committed by the recovery agents of the respective banks.

(e) In view of the alleged harassment of customers by ICICI Bank's recovery agents, and the judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court, on an appeal (No. 267 of 2007) filed by ICICI Bank Ltd. against the order of the Allahabad High Court in respect of a case filed by one of the borrowers of the bank, Smt. Prakash Kaur, the bank was advised by RBI in August 2007 to investigate and take action against the recovery agents involved, review at the highest levels the system of appointing/reviewing performance of recovery agents, undertake comprehensive review of customer complaints, etc. The bank was advised by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in October, 2007 that if such incidents recur in future, RBI would be constrained to take stern action. In the Mid-Term Review of Annual Policy Statement (dated October 30, 2007), RBI has observed that in view of the rise in the number of litigations against banks for engaging recovery agents in the recent past, it is felt that the adverse publicity could result in serious reputational risk for the banking sector as a whole. RBI has urged banks to follow prescribed specific considerations while engaging recovery agents and has clarified that complaints received regarding abusive practices followed by a bank's recovery agent would invite serious supervisory disapproval. RBI would consider imposing a temporary ban (or even a permanent ban in case of persistent abusive practices) for engaging recovery agents on those banks where strictures have been passed/penalties have been imposed by a High Court/Supreme Court or against its Directors/Officers with regard to the abusive practices followed by their recovery agents.

RBI has also placed on its website on 30th November, 2007, draft Guidelines for Banks engaging Recovery Agents. These guidelines cover various operational issues concerning engagement of recovery agents by the banks, methods to be followed by them for recovery of dues, training for the recovery agents, procedure for taking possession of property mortgaged/hypothecated to the banks, etc. The banks have also been advised to strictly abide by the codes pertaining to collection of dues.

Export Duty on Coconut

3221. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rates of duty imposed on export of coconut from the various States of the country vary;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the reasons therefor; and
- (d) steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No Sir. There is no export duty of customs on coconuts.

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

Relaxing Norms for Health Insurance

3222. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to relax norms to allow hospitals and other healthcare institutions to offer insurance packages to expand health coverage to larger section of population;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to amend the existing laws and give new specific definition, to health insurance to ensure creation of a separate capital structure for health insurance segment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) As per existing provisions of the law, only companies registered with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority in terms of the relevant provisions of the Insurance Act, 1938 and Regulations thereof may offer health insurance policies. Section 3 (2AA) of the Insurance Act, 1938 (as amended in 1999) states that 'The Authority shall give preference to register the applicant and grant him a certificate of registration if such applicant agrees, in the form and manner as may be specified by the regulations made by the Authority, to carry on the life insurance business or general insurance business for providing health cover to individuals or group of individuals. Hence, no company other than a life or general insurance company duly registered with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority may offer any insurance.

(c) and (d) The proposed amendment in this regard is contained in the Insurance Laws Amendment Bill, 2006 which is under consideration of a Group of Ministers (GOM).

[Translation]

Opening of Bank Account

3223. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of bank accounts in the country, bank-wise;

(b) whether the Government is aware that a large number of persons do not prefer to open bank account;

(c) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome of the said survey;

(e) whether the Government has prepared any scheme to encourage people to open bank accounts; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Bank-wise details of numbers of deposits and credit accounts of Scheduled Commercial Banks, as on March 31, 2006 enclosed as Statement.

(b) to (d) The Government has not conducted such a survey.

(e) and (f) In order to promote financial inclusion by facilitating opening of new bank accounts, the specific initiatives taken by the Government, inter-alia, include: introduction of 'zero balance' or 'no frills' accounts; simplified know your customer (KYC) procedures for certain category of accounts; pilot projects for utilizing smart cards/mobile technology to increase banks' outreach; biometric methods for uniquely identifying customers; pilot projects to identify at least one district in each State/Union Territory for achieving 100 per cent financial inclusion; permission given to banks to utilize the services of Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)/Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) (other than Non-banking Financial Companies) and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as intermediaries in providing financial and banking services; policy initiatives to facilitate diversification of business operation of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) into new areas; agreements between banks and postal authorities for using Post Office's as Business Correspondents; several initiatives for improving delivery of customer services; and constitution of State-specific Working Groups to explore possibilities of greater financial inclusion.

Statement

Bank-wise details of Number of Deposits and Credit Accounts of Scheduled Commercial Banks (As on March 31, 2006)

Sl.No.	Bank	Number of Deposits Accounts	Number of Credit Accounts
1	2	3	4
1	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	5957410	842666
2	State Bank of Hyderabad	6434542	1237833
3	State Bank of India	74788407	11735504
4	State Bank of Indore	2930338	489416

1	2	3	4
5	State Bank of Mysore	3532314	564268
6	State Bank of Patiala	5007758	636087
7	State Bank of Saurashtra	3186762	542053
8	State Bank of Travancore	7129171	2831831
9	Allahabad Bank	15606521	1601874
10	Andhra Bank	11454075	2211985
11	Bank of Baroda	24021389	1798128
12	Bank of India	20873457	2297532
13	Bank of Maharashtra	9040761	756485
14	Canara Bank	22818202	4100319
15	Central Bank of India	19972023	1937458
16	Corporation Bank	6387752	520052
17	Dena Bank	7254435	437285
18	Indian Bank	12625149	1932918
19	Indian Overseas Bank	10417205	2117677
20	Oriental Bank of Commerce	7498215	737950
21	Punjab and Sind Bank	4930249	359670
22	Punjab National Bank	30638736	3390690
23	Syndicate Bank	14037505	2608572
24	Uco Bank	11401309	1383316
25	Union Bank of India	14888749	1710539
26	United Bank of India	10122567	952499
27	Vijaya Bank	5592548	723711
28	I.D.B.I. Ltd.	1098421	134978
29	ABN Amro Bank N.V.	471515	604159
30	Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank Ltd.	21549	396
31	American Express Bank Ltd.	27607	463272
32	Antwerp Diamond Bank NV	82	74
33	Arab Bangladesh Bank Limited	383	25
34	Bank Internasional Indonesia	322	11
35	Bank of America N.T. and S.A.	6168	301
36	Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait B.S.C.	13376	1813
37	Bank of Ceylon	3032	125

1	2	3	4
38	Bank of Nova Scotia	10297	538
39	Barclays Bank PLC	11561	358
40	BNP Paribas	5214	1120
41	Calyon Bank	1144	8
42	Chinatrust Commercial Bank	806	61
43	Cho Hung Bank	194	44
44	Citibank N.A	939970	5814987
45	DBS Bank Ltd.	516	85
46	Deutsche Bank (Asia)	25481	1307
47	Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corpn. Ltd.	811964	572294
48	Jpmorgan Chase Bank National Association	130	0
49	Krung Thai Bank Public Company Limited	7624	10
50	Mashreq Bank PSC	496	2
51	Mizuho Corporate Bank Ltd.	214	77
52	Oman International Bank S.A.O.G.	15314	72
53	Societe Generale	407	139
54	Sonali Bank	2044	91
55	Standard Chartered Bank	910810	2452927
56	State Bank of Mauritius Ltd.	33021	181
57	The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ Ltd.	9363	640
58	Adhiyaman Grama Bank	102685	74761
59	Alaknanda Gramin Bank	98373	12816
60	Aligarh Gramin Bank	474425	108631
61	Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank	1723772	353216
62	Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank	54024	7083
63	Assam Gramin Vikash Bank	2230297	278898
64	Aurangabad Jalna Gramin Bank	277256	55634
65	Avadh Gramin Bank	673432	162171
66	Baitarani Gramya Bank	385173	125292
67	Balla Kshetriya Gramin Bank	454259	52635

1	2	3	4
68	Bara Banki Gramin Bank	504342	114948
69	Bardhaman Gramin Bank	412924	97622
70	Baroda Eastern Uttar Pradesh Gramin Bank	3591115	203887
71	Baroda Gujarat Gramin Bank	591994	100755
72	Baroda Rajasthan Gramin Bank	844381	174686
73	Baroda Western Uttar Pradesh Gramin Bank	602686	84292
74	Bastar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	176847	44353
75	Bhandara Gramin Bank	182552	33971
76	Bihar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	477838	95445
77	Bikaner Kshetriya Gramin Bank	54757	10329
78	Bilaspur-Raipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	351218	84472
79	Bolangir Anchalk Gramya Bank	613019	152493
80	Bundelkhand Kshetriya Gramin Bank	214872	86138
81	Cauvery Grameena Bank	387330	104131
82	Chaitanya Godavari Grameena Bank	356093	163026
83	Chambal Kshetriya Gramin Bank	112794	14129
84	Chandrapur Gadchiroli Gramin Bank	185740	33704
85	Chhindwara Seoni Kshetriya Gramin Bank	156231	35443
86	Chickmagalur-Kodagu Grameena Bank	98749	24618
87	Damoh Panna Sagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	202535	51454
88	Deccan Grameena Bank	590761	300696
89	Dena Gujarat Gramin Bank	536442	73153
90	Devipatan Kshetriya Gramin Bank	450055	62724
91	Dewas-Shajapur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	174232	35650

1	2	3	4
92	Dhenkanal Gramya Bank	192739	79920
93	Durg Rajnandgaon Gramin Bank	348623	57639
94	Ellaquai Dehati Bank	110652	9245
95	Etah Gramin Bank	251597	47933
96	Etawah Kshetriya Gramin Bank	183496	33242
97	Faridkot-Bathinoa Kshetriya Gramin Bank	59629	10925
98	Farrukhabad Gramin Bank	379816	82895
99	Ganga Yamuna Gramin Bank	89678	15685
100	Gaur Gramin Bank	697808	224085
101	Giridh Kshetriya Gramin Bank	101677	22305
102	Gurgaon Gramin Bank	594044	106692
103	Gwalior Datia Kshetriya Gramin Bank	73248	17301
104	Hadoti Kshetriya Gramin Bank	210697	44187
105	Haryana Gramin Bank	492399	128659
106	Hazaribagh Kshetriya Gramin Bank	104339	29081
107	Himachal Gramin Bank	394391	49760
108	Howrah Gramin Bank	328604	46715
109	Indore Ujjain Kshetriya Gramin Bank	80660	15134
110	Jaipur Thar Gramin Bank	585365	117875
111	Jammu Rural Bank	378546	30048
112	Jamuna Gramin Bank	214601	38634
113	Jhabua-Dhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	229840	43955
114	KA Bank Nongkyndong Ri Khasi Jaintia	128773	27833
115	Kalahandi Anchalik Gramya Bank	177038	72954
116	Kalinga Gramya Bank	811347	223486
117	Kalpatheru Grammeena Bank	255963	76802
118	Kamraz Rural Bank	210497	11812
119	Kanakadurga Grammeena Bank	101754	50151

1	2	3	4
120	Karnataka Vikas Grammeena Bank	1936326	417330
121	Kashi Gomti Samyut Gramin Bank	2376000	273926
122	Kisan Gramin Bank, Budaun	187617	53403
123	Koraput-Panchabati Gramya Bank	265833	128541
124	Kosi Kshetriya Gramin Bank	417624	154621
125	Krishna Grammeena Bank	304642	203599
126	Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hoshangabad	226544	58254
127	Kshetriya Kisan Gramin Bank, Mainpuri	288193	59436
128	Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank	102799	16904
129	Lucknow Kshetriya Gramin Bank	1521346	217064
130	Madhya Bihar Gramin Bank	1606287	429731
131	Mahakaushal Kshetriya Gramin Bank	88950	17590
132	Mallabhum Gramin Bank	971599	24304
133	Malwa Gramin Bank	88029	25440
134	Mandla Balaghat Kshetriya Gramin Bank	132385	35462
135	Manipur Rural Bank	41451	11461
136	Marathwada Gramin Bank	857313	134306
137	Marwar Gramin Bank	488105	81719
138	Mayurakshi Gramin Bank	419567	107232
139	Mewar Anchalik Gramin Bank	136589	16916
140	Mizoram Rural Bank	78505	16867
141	Murshidabad Gramin Bank	193780	39250
142	Nadia Gramin Bank	274870	74664
143	Nagaland Rural Bank	7446	2572
144	Nainital Almora Kshetriya Gramin Bank	157255	25824
145	Nimar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	181800	45357
146	North Malabar Gramin Bank	1014211	318316

1	2	3	4
147	Palamau Kshetriya Gramin Bank	238594	58906
148	Pandyan Grama Bank	526628	519809
149	Parvatiya Gramin Bank	67215	11447
150	Pinakini Grameena Bank	470221	208254
151	Pithoragarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank	76184	14378
152	Pragathi Gramin Bank	1439092	9501
153	Prathama Bank	1043281	270170
154	Punjab Gramin Bank	460433	55578
155	Puri Gramya Bank	354462	161203
156	Purvanchal Gramin Bank	1965802	281010
157	Raigarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank	184263	35147
158	Rajasthan Gramin Bank	575861	129806
159	Rajgarh Sehore Kshetriya Gramin Bank	131310	29195
160	Ranchi Kshetriya Gramin Bank	250919	43823
161	Rani Lakshmi Bai Kshetriya Gramin Bank	130501	43213
162	Ratlam Mandasaur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	132873	24217
163	Ratnagiri Sindhudurg Gramin Bank	115248	23166
164	Rayalaseema Grameena Bank	990092	370084
165	Rewa-Sidhi Gramin Bank	318225	31505
166	Rushikulya Gramya Bank	291925	96704
167	Sagar Gramin Bank	585793	113979
168	Samastipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	164472	48343
169	Santhal Parganas Gramin Bank	280958	117381
170	Saurashtra Gramin Bank	293888	118049
171	Shahdol Kshetriya Gramin Bank	135725	23908
172	Sharda Gramin Bank	202552	33474

1	2	3	4
173	Shivpuri Guna Kshetriya Gramin Bank	165915	33216
174	Shri Venkateswara Grameena Bank	322423	211370
175	Singhbhum Kshetriya Gramin Bank	219725	67942
176	Solapur Gramin Bank	140370	12643
177	South Malabar Gramin Bank	1316856	623136
178	Sree Anantha Grameena Bank	590589	206375
179	Sriganganagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	97578	21459
180	Surguja Kshetriya Gramin Bank	268620	59886
181	Thane Gramin Bank	69345	6482
182	Tripura Gramin Bank	494562	151431
183	Triveni Kshetriya Gramin Bank	729670	65056
184	Uttar Banga Kshetriya Gramin Bank	521256	139483
185	Uttar Bihar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	2122279	413875
186	Uttar Pradesh Gramin Bank	316351	680
187	Vallalar Grama Bank	72967	57029
188	Vidharbha Kshetriya Gramin Bank	271407	73598
189	Vidisha-Bhopal Kshetriya Gramin Bank	50452	10601
190	Visveshvaraya Grameena Bank	97703	29559
191	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	2053850	107736
192	Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	395022	25089
193	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	1444852	267251
194	Centurion Bank of Punjab Ltd.	1490344	366904
195	City Union Bank Limited	715665	101747
196	Development Credit Bank Ltd.	438859	71040
197	Federal Bank Ltd.	3325518	625689
198	Ganesh Bank of Kurundwad Ltd.	167991	10046

1	2	3	4
199	HDFC Bank Ltd.	6325703	2307060
200	ICICI Bank Limited	12745709	4392323
201	Indusind Bank Ltd.	544593	500404
202	ING Vysya Bank Ltd.	1544642	248702
203	Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.	3570473	326748
204	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	2582381	216395
205	Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	1839218	336925
206	Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.	154290	135838
207	Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	1113448	244964
208	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	330614	21804
209	Nainital Bank Ltd.	314436	31086
210	Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	407638	27920
211	Sangli Bank Ltd.	750145	30742
212	SBI Commercial & International Bank Ltd.	10709	739
213	South Indian Bank Ltd.	1707126	476069
214	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.	1535886	273946
215	The Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.	753816	128061
216	United Western Bank Ltd.	1685600	137470
217	UTI Bank Ltd.	4292542	319588
218	Yes Bank Ltd.	89450	803
Total		485097771	85435381

Source: Basic Statistical Returns (BSR) 1 & 2 March 2008 Survey

[English]

Fixing Rate structure of IT

3224. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to revise scientifically and realistically the present rate structure of income tax; and

(b) If not, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE: (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The rates of income-tax are reviewed annually as part of the Union Budget exercise. The changes, if any, are reflected in the

Finance Bill. Therefore, no comments regarding the future income-tax rates can be made at this stage.

[Translation]

Sanitation Facility for Houses under IAY

3225. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to make Sanitation Facilities essential in dwelling units under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) in rural and backward areas in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU):

(a) and (b) Under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), financial assistance of Rs.25,000/- in plain areas and Rs.27,500/- for hilly/difficult areas is provided to a household living below the poverty line in rural areas, for construction of a dwelling unit. Construction of sanitary latrine and a smokeless chulha are integral part of an IAY house. In addition, an amount of Rs.1200/- per unit can also be dovetailed from 'Total Sanitation Campaign' Programme and provided to those beneficiaries who construct a sanitary latrine along with the IAY house.

[English]

Gas Based Power Project

3226. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to generate power by using LNG and CNG in the country;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) the quantum of natural gas available for power generation in the country; and

(e) the details of advantages/disadvantages of use of Natural Gas as a fuel over other fuels for power generation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Projects for generating power using Natural Gas (NG) and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as fuels have been included in the 11th Five-Year Plan. Only those gas/LNG projects have been considered for benefits during 11th Plan where the gas supply has been tied up or the projects are under construction. The proposed capacity addition programme of 78,577 MW during 11th Plan includes 4,266 MW Gas/LNG based projects as per the assessment of

Central Electricity Authority (CEA). The details are given as Statement-I enclosed. The Public and Private sector companies implementing the gas based projects normally undertake studies relating to feasibility, technical and financial viability and fuel supply security in respect of such projects before arriving at investment decisions.

(d) The quantum of average gas supply during the period April-October, 2007 has been 35.82 Million Standard Cubic Meter Per Day (MMSCMD). The station-wise details are enclosed as Statement-II.

(e) The cost of generation for gas based power

projects, at the current price of gas, works out to be higher than that of coal based power projects. However, gas based projects have the following advantages vis-a-vis other fuels:-

- Projects can be set up near load centres with gas transported through pipe line.
- Transmission losses are minimum since projects are located near load centre.
- Fixed cost of generation is low.
- Reduced requirement of land, water, O&M personnel, reduced gestation period, reduced emission.

Statement-I

S.No.	Plant Name	State	Status	Capacity (MW)	Likely year of Benefit
1	Ratnagiri JV	Maharashtra	Commissioned	740	2007-08
2	Tripura Gas ILFS	Tripura	Letter of Award (LOA) to be placed	750	2011-12
3	Dholpur GT2	Rajasthan	Commissioned	110	2007-08
4	Dholpur ST	Rajasthan	Under Construction	110	2007-08
5	Dhuvran	Gujarat	Commissioned	40	2007-08
6	Utran*	Gujarat	Under Construction	350	2009-10
7	Valuthur Ext	Tamilnadu	-do-	92	2007-08
8	Lakwa WH	Assam	-do-	37.2	2008-09
9	Sugen Torrent	Gujarat	-do-	1128	2008-09
10	Konaseema	Andhra Pradesh	-do-	445	2008-09
11	Gautami	Andhra Pradesh	-do-	464	2008-09
Total GAS/LNG based				4266	

* LOA placed for 374 MW

Statement-II

Station-wise Gas requirement at 90% PLF (As on 31.10.2007)

S.No.	Name of Power Station	Installed Capacity (MW)	Located in the State	Gas requirement* (MMSCMD)	Average gas supply during April-Oct. 2007 (MMSCMD)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Central Sector					
1	Faridabad CCGT	430.00	Haryana	2.06	1.48
2	Anta CCGT	413.00	Rajasthan	1.98	1.55
3	Auraiya CCGT	652.00	U.P.	3.13	2.54
4	Dadri CCGT	817.00	U.P.	3.92	2.93

1	2	3	4	5	6
5	Kawas CCGT	644.00	Gujarat	3.09	1.91
6	Gandhar CCGT	648.00	Gujarat	3.11	2.33
7	Kathalguri CCGT (AGBPP)	291.00	Assam	1.40	1.33
8	Agartala GT	84.00	Tripura	0.58	0.72
9	Ratnagiri CCGT @	2220.00	Maharashtra	10.66	0.65
Sub Total (CS)		6199.00		29.94	15.44
State Sector					
1	I.P. CCGT	282.00	Delhi	1.35	1.12
2	Pragati CCGT	330.40	Delhi	1.59	1.45
3	Ramgarh CCGT	113.80	Rajasthan	1.18	0.59
4	Dholpur GT#	220.00	Rajasthan	1.53	0.46
5	Utran CCGT	144.00	Gujarat	0.69	0.49
6	Hazira CCPP - (GSEG)	156.10	Gujarat	0.75	0.61
7	Dhuvaran CCPP (GSECL)	106.62	Gujarat	0.51	0.33
8	Dhuvaran CCPP (GSEL) Extn. \$	112.00	Gujarat	0.54	0.12
9	Uran CCGT	912.00	Maharashtra	4.38	2.33
10	Vijeeswaram CCGT	272.00	A.P.	1.31	0.14
11	Karaikal CCGT	32.50	Pondicherry	0.16	0.18
12	Narimanam GT	10.00	Tamil Nadu	Not in operation	
13	Kovilkalappal Thirumakkottai) CCGT	107.00	Tamil Nadu	0.51	0.39
14	Valuthur CCGT	94.00	Tamil Nadu	0.45	0.37
15	Kuttalam CCGT	100.00	Tamil Nadu	0.48	unit under major overhaul
16	Namrup CCGT	133.50	Assam	0.64	0.49
17	Lakwa GT	120.00	Assam	0.84	0.55
18	Mobile GT	21.00	Assam	Not in operation	
19	Baramura GT	37.50	Tripura	0.26	0.17
20	Rokhia GT	90.00	Tripura	0.63	0.36
Sub Total (SS)		3394.42		17.79	10.15
Private Sector (Licences)					
1	Vatwa CCGT (AEC)	100.00	Gujarat	0.48	0.37
2	Trombay CCGT	180.00	Maharashtra	0.86	0.75
Sub Total (PS)		280.00		1.34	1.12

1	2	3	4	5	6
Private Utilities (IPPs)					
1	GPEC Puguthan CCGT	655.00	Gujarat	3.14	1.98
2	GIPCL-Stage-II CCGT	160.00	Gujarat	0.77	0.67
3	Essar IMP CCGT	515.00	Gujarat	2.47	2.10
4	Godavari CCGT (Spectrum)	208.00	A.P.	1.00	0.84
5	Kondapalli CCGT	350.00	A.P.	1.68	1.21
6	Jegurupadu CCGT (GVK)	235.40	A.P.	1.13	0.70
7	Jegurupadu CCGT (GVK) Ext.	220.00	A.P.	1.06	0.00
8	Samkot CCGP/ Peddapuram	220.00	A.P.	1.06	0.65
9	Vemagiri CCGP	370.00	A.P.	1.78	Gas supply is discontinued from 22.9.06
10	P. Nallur CCGT	330.50	Tamil Nadu	1.59	0.26
11	Karuppur CCGT	119.80	Tamil Nadu	0.58	0.47
12	Valanthuravai CCGP	52.80	Tamil Nadu	0.25	0.13
13	DLF Pvt. CCGT	24.50	Assam	0.12	0.10
Sub Total (IPPs)		3461.00		16.61	9.11
Total		13334.42		65.69	35.82

* Normative gas requirement taking GCV of gas = 9000 K.Cal/SCM (except for Ramgarh CCGT for which GCV is 4150 K.Cal/SCM), station heat rate-2900 K.Cal/kWh for open cycle and 2000 K.Cal kWh for combined cycle.

GT -2 (110 MW) Commissioned on 16.6.2007 \$ ST (40 MW) Commissioned on 13.8.2007

@ Block-3 (740 MW) Commissioned on 28.10.2007

MMSCMD Meter	Million Metric Standard Cubic	CCGT	Combined Cycle Gas Turbine
GT	Gas Turbine		
CCPP	Combined Cycle Power Plant		
GCV	Gross Calorific Value		
K.Cal/kWh	Kilo Calori per Kilo Watt Hour		

[Translation]

Use of Nano-Technology to Filter the Polluted Water

3227. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the technique of nano-technology to purify and filter the polluted water is available in India;

(b) If so, whether the Government proposes to extend this technology within the reach of common man for the purpose of purifying the polluted water; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL):

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Nano-technology has been successfully employed by Indian scientists to develop appropriate technologies for filtering contaminated water for drinking purposes. For example, water filters using nanosilver and nanogold particles have been developed by scientists at International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), Hyderabad and Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai. These filters have

been field tested and are commercially available in the country. The Government has recently launched a Mission on Nano Science and Technology (Nano Mission) to promote research and development in the field of Nano Science and Technology with an allocation Rs. 1000 crore for 5 years. Pure drinking water is an identified priority area for the Nano Mission. In addition, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has launched a new Water Technology Initiative in the 11th Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs. 50 crores, to support development, field trials, pilot scale demonstration and replication on limited scale of indigenously developed technologies focusing on low-cost and simple-to-use household systems for providing safe drinking water.

[English]

Modernization of Government of India Presses

3228. SHRI MOHAN JENA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to modernise some Government of India Presses; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken for modernisation of remaining presses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India has decided to modernize the following Government of India Presses:

1. Government of India Press, Minto Road, New Delhi
2. Government of India Press, Ring Road, New Delhi
3. Government of India Press, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi
4. Government of India Press, Faridabad, Haryana
5. Government of India Press, Nilokheri, Haryana
6. Government of India Press, Aligarh,
7 Government of India Press, Nashik.
8. Government of India Press, Coimbatore.
9. Government of India Press, Koratty.
10. Government of India Press, Santragachi, Howrah.
11. Government of India Press, Temple Street, Kolkata.
12. Government of India Press, Shimla (to be converted into a Production-cum-Training Centre).

The remaining 3 Text Book Presses at Bhubaneswar, Mysore and Chandigarh are under privatization and Government of India Press, Gangtok is under the process of transfer to State Government of Sikkim.

Time and Motion Studies under NREGS

3229. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the Central guidelines of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the States have to conduct time and motion studies;

(b) if so, whether the States have conducted such studies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Para 6.3.3 of the Operational Guidelines, 2006 of NREGA provides that the State Governments should undertake comprehensive Work, Time and Motion Studies. Such studies have been conducted by the governments of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Gujarat, Orissa and West Bengal and Schedule of Rates have been revised by them in accordance with these studies.

[Translation]

Fake Auto Finance Companies

3230. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fake auto finance companies duped the people of Rs. 300 crore as reported in the Lokmat Samachar dated August 29, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) action taken for recovery in this regard;

(d) whether the Government has taken any decision to bring any changes in the rules and regulations to regulate Leasing and Finance companies to avoid such incidents; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (c) As per reports appearing in the Lokmat Samachar dated August 29, 2007, Maharashtra Police at Thane, has raided premises of certain Companies acting as Auto Finance Companies, allegedly for duping the people of large sums of money. On the reported action taken by the Maharashtra State Police, relevant follow up legal action, including recovery, if any, of the amounts in question, would need to be taken by the Maharashtra Police in the relevant court of law.

(d) and (e) Activities of leasing and finance companies are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India. Such regulation

is in addition to criminal liability as may arise from violation of any provisions of Indian Penal Code. As at present, there is no decision to bring any changes in the existing rules and regulations on the subject.

[English]

Revenue from Carbon Credits

3231. SHRI P.C. THOMAS. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Industry favours treating revenue earned from Carbon credits as export earnings;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is a demand for regulatory framework conducive to promote Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;
- (e) whether India is earning from Carbon credits; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Government has not received any formal request in this regard.

(c) and (d) The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is operated under the rules and regulations approved by the Conference of Parties (Countries) serving as Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Till date, 295 companies from India have completed the process of registration with the CDM Executive Board and 32 million Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) have been issued to Indian companies. One CER is equivalent to one metric tonne of carbon dioxide abated. The earnings of Indian companies on sale of such CERs is not available with the Government.

Fire In IT Department Building

3232. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether due to fire in a building that houses IT department at Delhi, a large number of records of tax defaulters were destroyed recently;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has asked CFSL to collect samples from the spot and establish the exact causes of fire;

- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any responsibility has been fixed for such fire; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) A fire broke out in Income Tax Office in Mayur Bhawan at New Delhi on 06-10-2007, in which some income tax records, administrative records, office furniture and equipments have been destroyed. The fire was put out by the Delhi Fire Service.

(c) and (d) FIR has been lodged with Delhi Police on 06-10-2007. Enquiries are being conducted by the Delhi Police. The Union Government has as such not requisitioned the services of CFSL for the enquiry.

(e) and (f) The outcome of the investigation by the Delhi Police with regard to cause of fire is awaited. Action, as appropriate, will be taken thereafter. The Delhi Fire Service, CPWD and NDMC have been requested to take all safety measures to prevent such occurrences in the future.

Land Losers of Mejia Thermal Power Station

3233. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether at the time of acquisition of land for installation of Power Plant at Bankura district in West Bengal by DVC the State Government of West Bengal and the management of DVC made an agreement to provide job to the families of land losers of Mejia Thermal Power Station;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether after commissioning of fourth unit 240 families are out of job;
- (d) if so, the reasons behind it; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir. The Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) has reported that no agreement has been signed by DVC with the State Government of West Bengal to provide jobs to the families of land losers of Mejia Thermal Power Station (MTPS).

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) DVC has informed that as per the "Recruitment Policy for Unskilled and Manual Posts at MTPS for displaced persons on rehabilitation grounds" framed in 1996, they have already absorbed in phases, 280 persons out of 500 listed

displaced persons, in regular Group 'D' posts. Further, absorption of the balance persons in the panel depends on the actual requirement of manpower at MTPS.

In view of the fact that the Man-Megawatt ratio in DVC thermal power stations is quite high in comparison to the national norms, DVC has formulated a policy to offer a lump sum amount of Rs.3 lakhs each to the listed displaced persons as on-time settlement in lieu of employment over and above the compensation already paid against the acquired land.

[Translation]

Lapse of LIC Policies

3234. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of policies cancelled by the Life Insurance Corporation during the last ten years due to non-payment of premium by policy-holders year-wise; and

(b) the amount of funds deposited under the said policies with sums assured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has reported that 6,64,38,280 policies lapsed without acquiring paid up value from April, 1997 onwards. The year-wise detail of the number of policies, total sum assured and premium paid, are as under:

Year of Lapsation	No. of Policies	Total Sum Assured (Amount Rs. in crore)	Total Premium paid (Amount Rs. in crore)
1997-98	4394572	17215	601
1998-99	4809115	19338	715
1999-00	4985303	23023	837
2000-01	5963359	27629	930
2001-02	6668256	33905	1217
2002-03	7348807	54750	1436
2003-04	8172839	50432	1611
2004-05	8511165	52918	2045
2005-06	7751102	52252	2294
2006-07	7833762	58855	2716

[English]

Mega Power Plant Status

3235. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to extend mega power plant status to power plants with over 1000 MW capacity and grant fiscal incentives;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the fiscal incentives will be extended to small power plants also; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) As per the existing mega power policy of the Government, operational since 1995 and last modified in April, 2006, fiscal concessions/benefits are available to mega power projects. Details are enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is under consideration as the intent of the policy is to provide impetus to the development of large size power projects in the country to derive benefits from economies of scale.

Statement

Mega Power Project: Revised Policy Guidelines

The following conditions are required to be fulfilled by the developer for grant of mega project status:-

- an inter-state thermal power plant of a capacity of 700 MW or more, located in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura; or
- an inter-state thermal power plant of a capacity of 1000 MW or more, located in States other than those specified in clause (a) above; or
- an inter-state hydel power plant of a capacity of 350 MW or more, located in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura; or
- an inter-state hydel power plant of a capacity of 500 MW or more, located in States other than those specified in clause (c) above.

Fiscal concessions/benefits available to the Mega Power Projects

Zero Customs Duty: In terms of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) No.21/2002-Customs dated 1st March, 2002 read together with No.49/2006-Customs dated 26th May, 2006, the import of capital equipment would be free of customs duty for these projects.

Deemed Export Benefits: Under Chapter 8(f) of the Foreign Trade Policy, Deemed Export Benefits is available to domestic bidders for projects both under public and private sector on following the stipulations prescribed therein.

Pre-conditions for availing the benefits: Goods required for setting up of any mega power project, qualify for the above fiscal benefits after it is certified by an officer not below the rank of a Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India in the Ministry of Power that-

- (i) the power purchasing States have constituted the Regulatory Commissions with full powers to fix tariffs;
- (ii) the power purchasing States undertakes, in principle, to privatize distribution in all cities, in that State, each of which has a population of more than one million, within a period to be fixed by the Ministry of Power.

Price preference to domestic PSUs bidders: In order to ensure that domestic bidders are not adversely affected, price preference of 15% would be given for the projects under public sector. The domestic bidders would be allowed to quote in US Dollars or any other foreign currency of their choice.

Income Tax benefits: In addition, the income-tax holiday regime as per Section 80-IA of the Income Tax Act 1961 can also be availed.

Tsunami

3236. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Australian geologist has warned that powerful earthquakes could rock the Bay of Bengal, triggering tsunamis that would inundate Myanmar, Bangladesh and possibly India;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL):

(a) Yes Sir. Dr. Phil R. Cummins, a Seismologist at the National Geoscience, an Australian agency in Canberra, published an article in Nature (Vol. No. 449, pp75-78 dated 6th September, 2007) on "The potential for giant tsunamigenic earthquakes in the northern Bay of Bengal".

(b) According to this publication, large magnitude tsunamigenic earthquakes probably can occur off the coast of Myanmar. The study, however, does not indicate any time or magnitude of the postulated earthquake. The indicators used in the study include the tectonic environment, which is similar to other subduction zones that experience giant megathrust earthquakes, stress and crustal strain observations and historical earthquake activity. The author refers to the historical reports of the 2nd April, 1762 Arakan earthquake, descriptions of which were recorded during a survey in 1841 by the British ship 'Childers'.

Further, the author also mentions that it may be over 200 years before a similar event of 1762 occurs according to GPS (Global Positioning System) observations. The conclusions of the study is based on a worst-case scenario model prediction, which are open to scrutiny, as per the author himself.

According to the reactions/news received on this article from across the globe, including the author himself, these ideas need confirmation before 'policy makers start doing anything'. It may also be mentioned here that there is no scientific technique available anywhere in the world to predict occurrence of earthquakes.

(c) Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India has already set up an Early Warning System for tsunamis at the Indian National Center for Ocean Information Service (INCOIS), Hyderabad, which is working on a 24X7 basis. On detection of earthquakes of Tsunamigenic potential, the system would issue watch/alert/warning as appropriate about Tsunamis possibly affecting the coastal areas.

Other steps by the coastal states with regard to safe relocation of vulnerable sections of the coastal population, safe shelter, livelihood protection, awareness raising, emergency-response etc. have been launched in a big way following Tsunami of December, 2004.

Traffic in Metropolitan Cities

3237. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s Wilbur Smith Associates Pvt. Ltd. has submitted its report on traffic and transportation policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, the draft final report of the study on Traffic & Transport Policies and strategies in Urban Areas has been submitted by M/s Wilbur Smith Associates Pvt. Ltd. The draft final report has been reviewed in the meeting of the Advisory Committee on 23.11.2007 and certain modifications have been suggested for incorporation in the final report.

[Translation]

Rural Livelihood Projects

3238. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals on the lines of the Andhra Pradesh Rural Livelihood Project (APRLP) and the Western Orissa Rural Livelihoods Projects (WORLP) from States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU):

(a) and (b) In March, 2007, a proposal was received from Government of Madhya Pradesh for initiating Phase-II of the Madhya Pradesh Rural Livelihoods Project (MPRLP). The project is to address the livelihoods needs of the poorest people living in eight districts of Madhya Pradesh. Funds are to be provided to support specific livelihoods enhancing activities, which include livestock and crop support, soil and water conservation, improved management of key natural resources, financial services and support for the development of sustainable rural enterprises.

After signing of the Project Memorandum between the Government of Madhya Pradesh and Department for International Development (DFID) of Government of U.K., Phase-II of MPRLP has been started in July, 2007 for a period of 5 years. The DFID will provide Pound 45 million as financial assistance for Phase-II.

Special Court under Electricity Act

3239. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether special courts have been set up by the Government under the Electricity Act;

(b) whether only private power distribution companies have been authorized to appeal in such special courts;

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

(d) whether these private power distribution companies are sharing the establishment cost of these special courts; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Evasion of Customs Duty

3240. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD METHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a complaint of evasion of customs duty amounting to hundreds of crores of rupees by a group of Port Trust of India and Bokaro Steel City has come to the notice of the Government;

(b) whether the case was referred to Central Bureau of Investigation in May, 2006;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the names of the employees of both the companies found guilty of evasion of Customs duty and the details thereof;

(e) whether some money and smuggled goods have been recovered in this regard; and

(f) whether any action has been taken against the employees of Bokaro Steel and port Trust of India found involved in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir. No such complaint of evasion of Customs duty amounting to hundreds of crores of rupees by group of Port Trust of India and Bokaro Steel City has come to the notice of this Ministry.

(b) to (f) Nil in view of (a) above.

[English]

Development and Societal Target for Corporate Sector

3241. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the corporate sector succeeded in implementing developmental and societal objectives as suggested by the Narsimahan report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has fixed any target for the corporate sector in the 11th Five Year Plan to achieve these objectives; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Withdrawal of Amount by Cheques

3242. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to ban the withdrawal of an amount less than rupees fifteen thousand from bank counters; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No such proposal is presently under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Construction work on Yamuna River Bed

3243. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of Yamuna in square kilometres in National Capital Region;

(b) the total areas utilized for construction along with area allotted to Commonwealth Games Village and Metro Rail etc. out of the said area;

(c) whether the Government proposes to construct residential flats, five star hotels and air-strip on river bed area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) DDA has reported that the area of zone 'O' (River Yamuna/River front) in National Capital Territory of Delhi is about 97 Square Kilometers.

(b) 11.00 ha for residential purpose, 21 ha for temporary overlay, athletic track, fitness centre, swimming pool, 5.5 ha. for temporary parking and 117.34 ha by DMRC.

(c) and (d) Residential flats on 11 ha of land are being constructed for Commonwealth Games Village. No hotel or Air-strip is being constructed by DDA at present.

Old Age Pension Scheme

3244. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to raise the amount of pension to beneficiaries under National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of old age people covered/being covered under the scheme, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The amount of Central Assistance for pension was raised only last year from Rs.75 to Rs. 200/- per month per beneficiary.

(c) The number of beneficiaries covered under NOAPS state-wise during 2006-07 is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	States/UTs	No. of Beneficiaries reported by the States/UTs under NOAPS during 2006-07
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	466000
2	Bihar	904916

1	2	3
3	Chhattisgarh	198906
4	Goa	3409
5	Gujarat	40117
6	Haryana	95800
7	Himachal Pradesh	41342
8	Jammu and Kashmir	66038
9	Jharkhand	366236
10	Karnataka	533334
11	Kerala	134409
12	Madhya Pradesh	453620
13	Maharashtra	742561
14	Orissa	643400
15	Punjab	45853
16	Rajasthan	418566
17	Tamilnadu	494996
18	Uttar Pradesh	1576481
19	Uttarakhand	65752
20	West Bengal	467846
21	Arunachal Pradesh	12923
22	Assam	628949
23	Manipur	43619
24	Meghalaya	33446
25	Mizoram	10525
26	Nagaland	28053
27	Sikkim	14869
28	Tripura	83972
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	702
30	Chandigarh	4350
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1132
32	Daman and Diu	246
33	NCT Delhi	84000
34	Lakshadweep	36
35	Pondicherry	Not Reported
Total		8706404

[English]

Investment in Infrastructure Development

3245. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country needs investments worth 492 billion dollars till 2012 for infrastructure Development; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) In a recent discussion paper Planning Commission has estimated the Public and private investment in each infrastructure sector during the Eleventh Plan based on a detailed review of sector trends, including historic evolution of Plan expenditures. This 'bottom-up' exercise yields total investment in infrastructure during the Eleventh Plan (2007-2012) of Rs. 23,84,905 crore or US\$ 581.68 billion (at Rs. 41/US\$). Assuming conservatively that 15 per cent of the investment projected on the basis of detailed sectoral analysis will spill over to the Twelfth Plan (2012-2017), it is estimated that total investment in infrastructure during the Eleventh Plan period (2007-2012) would amount to Rs. 20,27,169 crore (or US\$ 494.43 billion). The sectoral break-up is given in the table below.

Sector	Investment Projection during 2007-12 at 2006-07 prices in Rs. crore
Electricity	616,526
Roads	311,816
Telecom	267,001
Railways	258,001
Irrigation	223,131
Water Supply and Sanitation	199,127
Ports	73,941
Airports	34,748
Storage	22,378
Gas	20,500
Total Investment	2027,169
Total (US \$ billion)	494.43

Schemes Regarding Clear Land Titles and Records

3246. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government proposes any scheme for establishing a foolproof mechanism to have clear land titles and records;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Governments have been consulted; and

(d) if so, the response received from various State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) Maintenance of land records is a State subject. However, States and cities which have accessed funds under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) have agreed to introduce Property Title Certification System within the Mission period of 7 years in respect of identified cities under the Mission. Proposal regarding introduction of such a system is to be submitted by respective State Governments. The Mission Directorate under JNNURM has not so far received any proposal.

However, it is not a scheme launched by the Union Government; it is a part of the reforms under JNNURM.

Target and Achievements of Rural Credit

3247. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of target and achievements of rural credit during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of borrowers availed of rural credit, State-wise;

(c) whether private banks have to open one-fourth of their total branches in rural and semi-urban areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the branches and kiosks setup by private banks and PSBs in rural areas in these years, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) As per guidelines of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) there are no separate targets/sub-targets for rural areas. Banks are required to lend 18% of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) or credit equivalent amount of Off-Balance Sheet Exposure, whichever is higher, to agriculture and allied sector. Targets and achievements regarding agricultural advances by commercial banks (public sector and private sector), regional rural banks (RRBs) and cooperative banks since 2004-05 is as under:

	(Rs. in crore)			
Years	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Target	105000	1,41,000	1,175,000	2,25,000
Achievement	1,25,300	1,80,486	2,03,296	*1,01,022

* (upto September 2007)

(c) to (e) As per RBI guidelines, the new generation private banks are required to open 25% of their branches in semi-urban and rural centers on an ongoing basis. However, this condition is not stipulated on old private sector banks as they already have a substantial net work of branches in rural and semi-urban areas. State-wise and Bank Group-wise details on number of branches opened in rural areas during the last three years are being compiled.

The new generation Private Sector Banks have altogether 26.88% branches in rural and semi-urban areas. Some of these banks at present are not complying with the stipulation of 25% branches in rural and semi-urban areas. In terms of Section 23 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, banks are required to obtain prior approval of RBI for opening a new place of business. Such approvals are granted on discretionary basis, depending on the thrust of Branch Authorisation Policy and directions issued in this regard. Banks are encouraged to open branches in under banked and rural areas and as such requests for opening in rural and under banked areas are considered favourably by RBI.

Pollution on Sea Coasts in Indian Sub-continent

3248. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the huge quantities of plastic wastes are flowing into the sea from various parts of the country thereby endangering the lives of precious creatures in water;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study to find out the level of pollution of various sea coasts in Indian sub-continent;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has carried out an ambitious plan to check and to clean the sea shores in the country;

(f) if so the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No scientific study has been done so far to estimate the quantity of plastic waste flowing into the sea.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Earth Sciences has been implementing a coordinated research programme on "Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System (COMAPS)" to assess the water quality along the east and west coasts of India including Island territories. Systematic data on 25 parameters at 76 transects upto 10 km. offshore is being

collected along the Indian coast. The sea approximately beyond 2 km along the coastline of India except off Mumbai is clean and conforms to quality of clean waters. In Mumbai, the sea beyond 5 km. is clean.

(e) and (f) The observations made under COMAPS programme are periodically reviewed by the Steering Committee, chaired by the Chairman Central Pollution Control Board wherein all the Member Secretaries of all the Coastal State and Union Territories are the Members. The COMAPS reports facilitate the concerned coastal State Authorities to take remedial measures.

(g) Doesn't arise.

Protection of Shareholders

3249. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government ensures that Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) do not withdraw their share capital without prior notice; and

(b) If so, the details of the measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) Investment in India are regulated under the SEBI (FII) Regulations, 1995 and Notification No.FEMA.20/2000-RB dated 3rd May, 2000. In term of these regulations FII can withdraw their investments at any time, subject to payment of tax, Securities Transaction Tax (STT) etc., as applicable. In some cases, FII investment is subject to lock-in stipulations as applicable to other investors investing under FDI Scheme.

Creation of SEZ in A & N Islands

3250. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to create a Special Economic Zone in Andaman and Nicobar Islands for industrialization, employment generation and technology transfer; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Water Crisis in Reservoirs

3251. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether water crisis in some reservoirs has also affected power generation;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is monitoring 26 major reservoir based power stations. As informed by CEA, the generation at only one reservoir based power station at Rihand Hydro Power Station is reported to be affected on account of lower water inflow due to less rainfall this monsoon in its catchment area. The generation at Rihand upto November, 2007 was 299.40 MU against the target of 450 MU.

(c) The power generation from hydro power station depends on the inflow of water due to rainfall in the catchment area and snowmelt in Himalayan rivers. Any shortage in hydro power generation is compensated by increasing generation from thermal power stations.

Rural Infrastructure Development Fund

3252. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has opened a separate window under RIDF through amendment in the Central Road Fund Act for rural roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount spent from such corpus of funds during the current financial year so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) The Central Road Fund (Amendment) Act, 2007, an Act further to amend the Central Road Fund Act, 2000, has been published on 4.6.2007 in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section I, as Act No.28 of 2007. After the said amendment, a Memorandum of Agreement among Government of India (Ministry of Rural Development), National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been signed on 27th September, 2007. NABARD has agreed to provide a loan of Rs.16,000 crore through a separate window under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for funding Rural Roads component of Bharat Nirman. From this RIDF Window of NABARD, a sum of Rs.1001.90 crore has been drawn upto 30.11.2007.

[Translation]

World Bank Sponsored Nutrition Projects

3253. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received

requests from the State Governments to sanction World Bank sponsored nutrition projects under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme which is pending with the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) the reasons for the delay in according sanction by the Union Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Ministry has received requests from some States for their inclusion in the proposed World Bank assisted Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) IV Project. On the basis of a study conducted by the World Bank viz., 'Mapping and Profile of "Target" Districts-India ICDS Program' for identification of "Highest ICDS Need Districts" and best practices experience of the States, 8 states have been identified for coverage under the proposed Project. The Ministry is presently in the process of taking steps essential for preparation of the project such as Project Implementation Plans (PIPs).

(c) There is no delay in the sanction of the proposed Project. The Project is presently at the preparation stage and needs processing at various levels before its final approval by the Competent Authority in the Government of India and the World Bank.

(d) Although no fixed time frame can be projected at this stage, the implementation of the project is likely to commence during the financial year 2008-2009.

Special Rural Development Projects

3254. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals from Government of Chhattisgarh regarding Special Rural Development Projects are lying pending with the Union Government;

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

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Since inception of the scheme, 21 proposals for Special Projects under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) have been received by the Ministry of Rural Development from the Government of Chhattisgarh. Out of

21 proposals, 6 projects have been sanctioned/approved so far, 6 project proposals have been returned to the concerned State Governments or other sponsoring agencies for various reasons and 9 project proposals are with the Government at various stages of processing including proposals cleared by Project Screening Committee but yet to go to Project Approval Committee etc.

A large number of special project proposals under SGSY are received from State Governments and other Agencies for sanction. Since they are large livelihoods projects whose cost can go up to a maximum of Rs. 15 crore, such proposals are first scrutinized for their compliance with the guidelines of Special Projects under SGSY. Projects that do not fulfil these requirements are returned to the concerned State Governments. The State Governments keep on revising, restructuring and resubmitting such proposals. The project proposals which comply with the basic parameters of the guidelines are then appraised through two Inter-Ministerial Committees for screening and approval: These Committees are Project Screening Committee (PSC) and Project Approval Committee. Receipt of project proposals, their revision by the sponsoring State Governments and their appraisal and approval through the above two tier Inter Ministerial Committees is a continuous process. It is also proposed to revise the existing guidelines of special projects under SGSY to bring them in line with present priorities. Since appraisal and approval/clearance of proposals is a continuous process and depend on various factors like their fulfilling the prescribed guidelines, economic viability of the proposals, BPL focus of projects, etc., no time frame can be indicated for final clearance of such project proposals.

[English]

Child Protection

3255. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item regarding setting aside a minimal budget for child protection and education as reported in *The Asian Age* dated September 12, 2007;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to enhance the allocation for the said purposes; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

- (b) to (d) The Government makes efforts to increase the

allocation for all children related schemes and programmes including education and child protection. An allocation of Rs.71,000 crore has been indicated by Planning Commission for Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan for the Eleventh Plan Period. The Ministry of Women and Child Development propose to implement a new Integrated Child Protection Scheme in the Eleventh Plan.

Schemes for Women and Child Development

3256. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI P.C. GADDIGODAR:

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

- (a) whether the funds allocated for various Government Sponsored Schemes of Women and Child Development in the last three years and current year have been properly utilized;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise during the above period;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to revamp the said schemes; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The details are available in the Ministry's Website namely www.wcd.nic.in and also in the Annual Reports (2002-2003 to 2006-2007), which are available in the Library of Lok Sabha.

- (d) and (e) Does not arise.

Share in Central Taxes and Grant-in-Aid

3257. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria fixed for distribution of share in Central Taxes and Grant-in-aid to States;
- (b) whether the shares of some States are being reduced every year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The criteria for distribution of share in Central Taxes and Grant-in-aid to States are determined by Finance commissions. The Twelfth

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	Assam	0.00	13.64	0.00	13.64	0.00	5.09	5.20	10.29
4	Bihar	0.00	36.43	3.15	39.58	0.00	8.96	15.42	24.38
5	Chhattisgarh	0.00	24.47	0.00	24.47	0.00	31.26	29.74	61.00
6	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Gujarat	24.44	60.03	1.13	85.60	0.00	18.00	23.38	41.38
8	Harayana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	49.61	41.87	91.48
9	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	3.57	3.92	7.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	101.00	27.24	128.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Karnataka	0.00	82.17	15.01	97.18	0.00	14.93	14.97	29.90
13	Kerala	0.00	33.63	31.28	64.91	0.00	21.46	18.19	39.65
14	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	75.55	3.44	78.99	0.00	45.77	25.38	71.15
15	Maharashtra	0.00	117.75	73.12	190.87	0.00	55.80	32.47	88.27
16	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.63	12.44	22.07
20	Orissa	0.00	22.34	14.35	36.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.58	3.58
22	Rajasthan	13.84	43.01	2.14	58.99	0.00	39.26	30.54	69.80
23	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	Tamil Nadu	0.00	121.69	28.79	150.48	0.00	43.37	31.92	75.29
25	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	205.34	37.31	242.65	0.00	11.05	0.00	11.05
27	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	West Bengal	0.00	52.67	25.08	77.75	0.00	55.08	29.83	84.91
29	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	87.48	1248.97	501.42	1837.87	0.00	492.60	355.76	848.36

*[English]***Child Adoption**

3260. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up State Adoption Resource Agencies on the lines of Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) for adopting children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce an online annual feedback form which is to be filled up by the parents willing for adopting children; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Women and Child Development has formulated a new centrally sponsored scheme namely "Integrated Child Protection Scheme" [ICPS] for implementation during 11th Plan period under which there is provision for setting up of State Adoption Resource Agency in every State/Union Territory for promoting/coordinating and monitoring in-country adoption and regulating inter-country adoption.

(c) and (d) No, Sir and does not arise.

*[Translation]***Payment of Insurance Amount**

3261. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to make payment of insurance amount transparent and speedy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has notified the Insurance and Development Authority (Protection of Policyholders' Interest) Regulations, 2002. These Regulations stipulate the duties and obligations of the insurers and policyholders in respect of an insurance contract, both at the point of sale and in the event of a claim, and setting up of in-house grievance redressal mechanism in the insurance companies. The regulations provide that upon receipt of documents completed in all respects by the insured, the insurer shall make the payment of the amount within stipulated period. In the case of delay in the payment, the insurer shall be liable to pay interest which is at the rate of 2% above the bank rate prevalent at the beginning of the financial year in which the claim is reviewed by it.

*[English]***Urban Academies**

3262. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the rapid urbanization and township in the country, his Ministry proposes to set up the Urban Academies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such academies likely to be opened along with their location?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir.

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

Gender Gap

3263. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the World Economic Forum's latest report highlights the dismal performance of India in the empowerment of women as reported in The Times of India dated November 11, 2007;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to bridge the gender gap; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Global Gender Gap Report 2007 brought out by the World Economic Forum, Geneva, an independent international organization, has come to the notice of the Government but the Government has not reviewed the Report. The Report ranks India at 114 among 128 countries in the overall Global Gender Gap Index 2007.

(c) and (d) Women's empowerment is a mandate of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Ministry has taken up Gender Budgeting as a tool to achieve gender equality. Annual Report 2006-2007 of Ministry of Women and Child Development, (Chapter 6) relating to Gender Budgeting - Budgeting for Gender Equity, refers in this regard. The same is available on the Ministry's Website www.wcd.nic.in.

Credit Facility to Agriculture Sector

3264. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Private Sector banks in India provides adequate credit facility to agriculture and other priority sectors as stipulated in the Reserve Bank of India's guidelines;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, bank-wise; and
 (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under Priority Sector lending all domestic scheduled commercial banks are required to ensure that priority sector advances (which include the micro and small enterprises sector) constitute 40% of Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) or credit equivalent amount of Off-Balance Sheet Exposure, whichever is higher. Out of which 18% of ANBC or credit equivalent amount of Off-Balance Sheet Exposure, whichever is higher is for agriculture advances and the balance 22% is for small enterprises and others. Bank-wise data on Agriculture Credit and SSI Sector is enclosed as Statement.

- (c) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of Credit extended to Agriculture and other priority sectors by Private Sector Banks during 2006-07 (Bank-wise)

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	Agriculture Sector	Small Scale Industry Sector
1	2	3	4
1.	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	530.43	181.88
2.	Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	55.72	286.92
3.	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	274.47	315.54
4.	Centurion Bank of Punjab	736.60	138.07
5.	City Union Bank Ltd.	105.58	702.61
6.	Dev Credit Bank Ltd.	519.69	160.14
7.	Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.	132.20	180.62
8.	Federal Bank Ltd.	929.30	1173.93
9.	Ganesh Bank of Kurundwad	-	-
10.	HDFC Bank Ltd.	9607.90	1848.05
11.	ICICI Bank Ltd.	18224.71	322.23
12.	Indusind Bank Ltd.	1136.38	222.26
13.	Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.	1173.01	628.13
14.	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	390.84	1217.74
15.	Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	1023.23	654.87
16.	Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.	1806.24	44.46
17.	Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	667.31	447.00

1	2	3	4
18.	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	36.96	99.89
19.	Nainital Bank Ltd.	49.07	83.63
20.	Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	66.12	69.17
21.	Sangli Bank Ltd.	14.14	24.52
22.	South Indian Bank Ltd.	1191.21	602.89
23.	Tamilnad Merc. Bank Ltd.	827.08	610.09
24.	United Western Bank Ltd.	-	-
25.	UTI Bank Ltd.	3451.83	2134.32
26.	ING Vysya Bank Ltd.	751.01	885.84
27.	Yes Bank Ltd.	1341.90	28.26
Total		44042.93	13063.06

[Translation]

Rural Development Schemes

3265. SHRI SUBASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the landless/homeless farmers/labourers in the country as on date, state-wise;
 (b) the details of the programmes being implemented to ameliorate their condition and the funds allocated therefor during the last three years, State-wise;
 (c) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of these programmes;
 (d) if so, the details thereof; and
 (e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) The Registrar General of India have estimated housing shortage of 148.25 lakh houses as per 2001 Population Census. The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a number of schemes for poverty alleviation, employment generation and basic amenities like shelter to the homeless living Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, rural connectivity, safe drinking water and sanitation etc. in rural areas of the country. State-wise Central funds allocated under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) during last 3 years viz. 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 and housing shortage are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Rural Development has developed a comprehensive system of monitoring the implementation of the Programmes including utilization of

funds, through Periodical Progress Reports, Performance Review Committee meetings, Area Officer's Scheme, National Level Monitors, District Level Monitoring and Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at the State/District Level. Besides, the States have been advised to adopt a five-pronged strategy consisting of (i) creation of awareness, (ii) transparency, (iii)

people's participation, (iv) accountability/social audit and (v) strict vigilance and monitoring at all levels. These measures are to help in maximum utilization of funds under the rural development schemes and to improve the living condition of poor in rural areas.

Statement

Housing shortage and Central Allocation under Rural Housing scheme during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07

(Rs in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the States/UTs	Housing shortage in Rural Areas as per 2001 Census	Central Allocation		
			2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	1350282	17981.83	24399.42	25939.14
2	Arunachal Pradesh	105728	825.98	949.43	1018.68
3	Assam	2241230	18584.99	20994.23	22525.46
4	Bihar	4210293	48846.34	72020.72	76565.57
5	Chhattisgarh	115528	3074.96	3773.17	4011.28
6	Goa	6422	116.18	150.28	159.77
7	Gujarat	674354	5167.82	11966.03	12721.14
8	Haryana	55572	1747.40	1680.04	1766.06
9	Himachal Pradesh	15928	773.06	592.56	629.95
10	Jammu and Kashmir	92923	924.74	1840.52	1956.67
11	Jharkhand	105867	14351.50	6423.93	6829.31
12	Karnataka	436638	9301.41	9400.43	9993.64
13	Kerala	261347	5783.87	5227.51	5557.39
14	Madhya Pradesh	207744	10730.71	7504.14	7977.69
15	Maharashtra	612441	16503.47	14714.56	15643.12
16	Manipur	69062	984.83	824.15	884.26
17	Meghalaya	148657	1308.47	1435.38	1540.07
18	Mizoram	30250	314.12	305.89	328.20
19	Nagaland	97157	844.67	949.84	1019.11
20	Orissa	655617	14476.04	14149.75	15042.66
21	Punjab	75374	1157.56	2077.71	2208.63
22	Rajasthan	258634	4876.10	6013.11	6392.56
23	Sikkim	11944	226.45	181.66	194.91

1	2	3	4	5	6
24	Tamil Nadu	431010	9030.00	9768.97	10385.44
25	Tripura	174835	1910.49	1849.42	1984.31
26	Uttar Pradesh	1324028	32923.88	32348.75	34390.12
27	Uttaranchal	53521	3419.68	1621.77	1724.11
28	West Bengal	974479	19407.12	19518.40	20750.10
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	17890	218.73	309.46	328.99
30	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1926	114.78	51.56	54.82
31	Daman and Diu	787	47.51	23.07	24.52
32	Lakshdweep	190	3.72	20.00	21.26
33	Pondicherry	7778	108.59	154.14	163.86
Total		14825436	246067.00	273240.00	290753.00

[English]

Shortcomings under PMGSY

3266. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set a goal to provide connectivity to all villages with all weather roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

(b) if so, whether this ambitious plan has met only one-fifth of the target fixed by the Planning Commission;

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

(d) whether some State Governments have not yet submitted the detailed project reports to the Union Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to accelerate the implementation of PMGSY?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the objective of providing connectivity by way of all-weather road to all unconnected habitations with a population of 500 persons and above in plain areas, and population of 250 persons and above in case of Hill, Desert and Tribal areas,

(b) to (e) As per the latest estimates, about 1.79 lakh unconnected habitations are eligible to be covered under PMGSY. Upto the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan 37,487 habitations have been provided connectivity under the scheme. Since inception of PMGSY, State Governments were

required to submit the project proposals upto Phase-VII. A list, indicating the States which have either not submitted the project proposals upto Phase-VII or the States who have submitted their project proposals but not yet cleared, is enclosed as Statement.

(f) Steps have been taken to accelerate the pace of implementation of the programme through enhanced allocation of funds, augmentation of contracting capacity, through modifications in Standard Bidding Document, provision of interest free advance to the contractors for procurement of plant and machinery, training of field staff including contractor's personnel, continuous and regular monitoring of the programme etc. States have been advised to increase the number of programme implementing units, wherever necessary and also ensure timely completion of the process of tendering and award of projects.

Statement

States where project proposals upto Phase-VII has not been received	States where project proposals for Phase-VII has been received not yet cleared
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	Karnataka
Arunachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh
Bihar	
Goa	
Jammu and Kashmir	
Jharkhand	

1	2
Kerala	
Maharashtra	
Manipur	
Meghalaya	
Mizoram	
Nagaland	
Punjab	
Sikkim	
Tamil Nadu	
Tripura	
Uttar Pradesh	
Uttarakhand	
West Bengal	

Swayamsidha Scheme

3267. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- whether the first phase of Swayamsidha Scheme has been completed;
- if so, whether any study has been conducted by the Government to assess its performance;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether the Government proposes to launch second phase of the said scheme; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir. The Scheme comes to an end on 31st March, 2008.

(b) and (c) The Scheme of Swayamsidha was evaluated by an external agency in 2005-2006. The evaluation report indicates that the scheme has by and large achieved its objectives of social, political & economic empowerment of women in the project area.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to launch the second phase of the Swayamsidha Scheme from the next financial year with a country wide coverage based on experience from similar schemes implemented by the Ministry.

Earning of Delhi Metro Rail

3268. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- the average earnings per day of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation in Delhi during the current financial year; and
- the status of repayment of loans to different agencies annually and for Research & Development and welfare of commuters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Ltd. has reported that the average earnings per day of DMRC in Delhi during the current financial year are Rs. 67.63 lakh.

(b) DMRC has fulfilled all its loan repayment commitments till date aggregating to Rs. 268.72 crore.

Efforts are being made by DMRC to substitute some items of sophisticated equipment like automatic fare control system, signaling and telecommunication under the overall programme of indigenization.

Drinking water, toilet facilities, etc. have been provided at stations for the welfare of the commuters. Recently, feeder buses have been introduced to carry passengers to and from Metro stations.

[Translation]

Proposal from Rajasthan under IHSDP

3269. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- the names of cities in Rajasthan for which proposals have been received by the Union Government under IHSDP;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) 38 Proposals from 37 cities/towns in Rajasthan have been received by the Central Government under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). The details of cities are enclosed as Statement-I.

(c) Against these 38 projects, Government has approved 24 projects for 24 cities with a total project cost of Rs.205.59 Crore for construction/upgradation of 15,090 Dwelling Units as also for providing civic amenities in these cities. The details are enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement-I		1	2
Sl. No.	Name of City/Town		
1	2		
1.	Chittorgarh	19.	Nimbakheda
2.	Tonk	20.	Nokha
3.	Niwai	21.	Sumerpur
4.	Deoli	22.	Bali
5.	Uniara	23.	Falana
6.	Bikaner	24.	Rani
7.	Dungarpur	25.	Sadari
8.	Deshnok	26.	Sojat (Pali)
9.	Mangrol	27.	Amta
10.	Sikar	28.	Baran (Kota)
11.	Neem ka Thana	29.	Chhabra
12.	Bharatpur	30.	Jhalawar
13.	Gulubpura	31.	Hanumangarh
14.	Bhilwara	32.	Kota
15.	Pali	33.	Sawai Madhopur
16.	Bhawani Mandi	34.	Pratapgarh
17.	Jhalarpatan	35.	Jaisalmer Phase-I
18.	Asind	36.	Jaisalmer Phase-II
		37.	Gangapur City
		38.	Alwar City

Statement-II*Integrated Housing Slums Development Programme (IHSDP)**Total Projects Approved*

(Rupees in crores)

Name of the State	Name of Town/ULB/ Municipality	No. of Projects Approved	Total Project Cost Approved	Total no. of new dwelling units approved for construction	Total no. of dwelling units for up-gradation (New + Up-gradation)	Total no. of dwelling units	Total Central Share Approved	Total State Share Approved	1st instalment (50% of Central Share approved)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Rajasthan	Asind	1	5.08	227	467	694	3.91	1.18	1.95
Rajasthan	Bali Nagar	1	3.30	110	191	301	2.64	0.66	1.32
Rajasthan	Bhawani Mandi	1	1.82	97	17	114	1.43	0.38	0.72
Rajasthan	Chhabra	1	4.47	210	102	312	3.58	0.99	1.79
Rajasthan	Chittorgarh	1	6.70	176	364	540	5.12	1.58	2.58

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Rajasthan	Falna	1	4.46	290	71	361	3.52	0.95	1.76
Rajasthan	Jhalarpatan	1	4.21	200	213	413	3.16	1.05	1.58
Rajasthan	Rani Nagar	1	0.79	19	0	19	0.63	0.16	0.32
Rajasthan	Sadri	1	1.29	36	10	46	1.03	0.26	0.52
Rajasthan	Sikar	1	5.44	556	0	556	4.35	1.09	2.18
Rajasthan	Sojat	1	3.16	48	148	196	2.53	0.63	1.27
Rajasthan	Baran	1	9.70	270	137	407	7.37	2.33	3.68
Rajasthan	Gulabpura	1	1.24	0	0	0	1.00	0.25	0.50
Rajasthan	Bikaner	1	3.32	0	0	0	2.66	0.66	1.33
Rajasthan	Tonk	1	4.46	0	136	136	3.57	0.89	1.78
Rajasthan	Jhalawara	1	4.58	245	0	245	3.48	1.10	1.74
Rajasthan	Hanumangarh	1	22.25	440	211	651	17.54	4.71	8.77
Rajasthan	Kota	1	21.62	1478	0	1478	17.04	4.58	8.52
Rajasthan	Pali	1	22.06	1643	1079	2722	17.64	4.41	8.82
Rajasthan	Bhilwara	1	19.13	652	1052	1704	15.10	4.03	7.55
Rajasthan	Pratapgarh	1	11.20	590	121	711	7.20	4.00	3.60
Rajasthan	Jaisalmer	1	16.76	941	101	1042	12.64	4.12	6.32
Rajasthan	Gangapur	1	8.82	666	0	666	6.33	2.50	3.16
Rajasthan	Alwar	1	19.71	1776	0	1776	14.60	5.11	7.30
Rajasthan		24	205.59	10670	4420	15090	158.06	47.53	79.03

[English]

**Privatisation of Government of India
Text Book Presses**

3270. SHRI MOHAN JENA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to privatize the Government of India Text Book Presses at Mysore, Chandigarh and Bhubaneshwar; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India in its review decision dated 1.2.2006 has decided to privatize Govt. of India Text Book Presses at Mysore, Chandigarh and Bhubaneshwar. Government of India Text Book Presses were established for printing of Text Books of the State Governments. As the State Governments were not able to provide adequate jobs to these

Presses, the Government has decided to privatize the Government of India Text Books Presses at Mysore, Chandigarh and Bhubaneshwar.

Facilities at Work Sites under NREGS

3271. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether facilities like safe drinking water, shade for children and periods of rest, first-aid box are being provided at the work site under the National rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Para 27 of schedule II of NREG Act, 2005 provides, that worksite facilities such as safe drinking water, shade for children and periods of rest and first-aid box with adequate material for emergency treatment shall be provided at the work site. The facilities are generally provided at work sites as per the requirements.

Additional Condition for Education Loan

3272. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Banks have made additional conditions for grant of Educational Loans apart from guidelines and policies of Model Education Loan Scheme, 2004; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) According to information furnished by major Public Sector Banks (PSBs), education loans granted by them are in line with the Model Education Loan Scheme circulated by the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) in 2004. These banks have not stipulated any additional conditions other than those recommended by the IBA.

(b) Does not arise.

Coal Linkage for Farakka and Kahalgaon Power Plants

3273. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has not been able to secure coal linkage for Farakka and Kahalgaon stage I and II super thermal power plants;

(b) if so, whether the plan targets for power generation is likely to be scaled down due to shortage of coal and gas;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation is getting adequate coal supply to its power plants; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to augment coal supply?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Farakka and Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Projects Stage I and II of NTPC Ltd. have been granted long-term coal linkage by Ministry of Coal as per details given below:

Name of Thermal Power Stations (TPS)	Capacity (MW)	Linked (MTPA)**	Linked Quantity Source
1	2	3	4
Farakka St-I	600 (3x200)	11	ECL \$
Farakka St-II	1000 (2x500)		

1	2	3	4
Kahalgaon St-I	840 (4x210)	5.80	ECL
Kahalgaon St-II	1500 (3x500)*	8.82	ECL

*Units 6 and 7 of Kahalgaon St-II are under construction

** Million Tonnes Per Annum

\$ Eastern Coalfields Limited

(b) and (c) Presently, there is no proposal to scale down the targets for power generation due to shortage of coal and gas.

(d) NTPC power stations during the period April to October 2007 were not able to get coal supply as per linkage due to less production of coal at the linked mines.

(e) The coal supply position to thermal power stations in the country has been reviewed by the Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of power as well as the Infrastructure Constraints Review Committee in the Cabinet Secretariat. A contingency plan for improving the stock of coal in the power stations having critical stock has been chalked out by way of redistribution of coal supply from the domestic sources. The need for expediting import of coal has also been impressed upon the States/Power Utilities. NTPC has been advised to import coal through the Western Coast to ease the port congestion at Haldia and Paradip ports and to overcome constraints in transportation of coal by the Railways from these ports on the Eastern Coast.

Strengthening Balance Sheet of Regional Rural Banks

3274. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has done any study regarding strengthening the balance sheets of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has from time to time set up Committees to make recommendations on various issues relating to Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), with a view to improve their performance. Some of the Committees constituted by RBI in the recent past are Dr. K.G. Karmakar Committee in July, 2007 to make recommendations on empowering RRB Boards for operational efficiency, Committee on Financial Sector Plan for North Eastern Region in July, 2005 to study the problems specific to RRBs in North

Eastern Region and suggest measures to improve their performance and Report of the Internal Working Group on RRBs in May, 2005 on the restructuring of RRBs.

(c) Government of India/Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have taken a number of measures to improve the financial condition of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) such as:-

- (i) Amalgamation of RRBs for business consolidation, expansion etc. As a result of this 196 RRBs have been reduced to 92, as on date. The amalgamated RRBs will provide better customer service due to better infrastructure, computerization of branches, pooling of experienced work force, common publicity and marketing efforts etc. They will also reap benefits of a large area of operation and enhanced credit exposure limits.
- (ii) Government has announced in the budget proposals for 2007-08 that RRBs having negative net worth will be recapitalized by the stakeholders as a measure to strengthen the RRBs, financially.
- (iii) RRBs have been advised to cover the Uncovered Districts and aggressively undertake Branch expansion.
- (iv) Enhancement of credit to Non-Priority Sector.
- (v) Expansion of non-fund based business activities such as sale of insurance policies, disbursement of pension, salaries etc. and handling of government business to increase income generation.
- (vi) Extension of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (SARFAESI) to RRBs with a view to improve their recoveries.
- (vii) Permitting RRBs to accept Foreign Currency Non-Residents (FCNR) Deposits.
- (viii) Allowing consortium lending to RRBs.

[Translation]

Anganwadi Centres

3275. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a provision of reservation for appointment as workers at the Anganwadi centres;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme envisages Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Helpers to be 'honorary workers' from the Local Community. Consequently, no reservation of SCs/STs and OBCs in their selection has been provided under the Scheme as they are not deemed to be 'Government employees'.

Compulsory Registration of Pregnancy

3276. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to make registration of pregnancy compulsory immediately after conception in order to check female foeticide;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to come in to force; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) As per information received from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, currently there is no provision in the "Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994" (PC & PNDT Act, 1994) and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder for compulsory registration of pregnant women immediately after conception.

[English]

Revival Package for Cooperatives

3277. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether this Union Government has finalized the revival package for long term cooperative credit by incorporating the suggestions made by various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The Government of India (GoI) is considering a revival package to strengthen Long Term Cooperative Credit Structure (LTCCS) in consultation with the concerned State Governments. In this regard, an interactive meeting was convened on 10th October 2007 with the Finance/Cooperative Ministers of the State Governments to arrive at an implementable action plan. However, finalisation of the package depends on the comments of the State Governments.

Items Under VAT

3278. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to put items of petroleum and natural gas under the VAT;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government had discussed the issue with States/Union Territories;
- (d) if so, the response received from them;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the present items under the VAT in each State/ Union Territory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) The State Governments have been levying tax on sale or purchase of petroleum products and natural gas within a State, by virtue of Entry 54 of State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. An Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (EC) has been constituted to deliberate, inter-alia, upon matters concerning Sales Tax and to make recommendations to the States in matters concerning Sales Tax/VAT. As per the EC recommendations, Petrol, Diesel, Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) and other motor spirits are subject to 20% tax as a floor rate and have been kept outside VAT. Natural gas is already included in VAT and has been put in the category of 12.5% rate (i.e. the general VAT rate). Since Sales Tax/VAT is a State subject, any change in the current taxation regime can be effected by the State Governments alone. As of now, the EC or the State Governments have not taken any decision to bring petroleum products under VAT.

(f) As per the agreement at EC of State Finance Ministers, in general, all the goods, are covered under VAT; with the exception of only a few goods which are outside VAT viz., liquor, petrol, diesel, ATF and other motor spirit since their prices are not fully market determined. These continue to be taxed under the respective State Sales Tax Act or any other State Act or even by making special provisions in the VAT Act itself, and with uniform floor rates decided by the Empowered Committee. It may further be mentioned that for some of the goods under VAT in States, the tax rate is 0%. These are thus exempt from tax, although included under State VAT system.

Garbage Disposal

3279. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaints about the improper waste management system prevailing in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, whether the Government has reviewed the present system of Garbage disposal in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

- (c) if so, the details 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]**Livelihood from Integrated Forest Activities**

3280. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from various States regarding earning livelihood from Integrated Forest Activities in rural areas particularly in Chhattisgarh;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir.

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

Government Quarters

3281. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Type I, II, III, IV, V and VI quarters of the Union Government in the NCT of Delhi, type-wise at present;

(b) the number of quarters lying vacant as on date, category-wise and location-wise;

- (c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to construct more quarters under the said categories in Delhi for its employees;

- (e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which these are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Type-wise number of general pool quarters are as under:

Type of Quarters	No. of units
1	2
I	16,908
II	23,810
III	11,900

1	2
IV	5,467
IV (Spl)	796
VA (D-II)	1,535
VB (D-I)	869
VIA (C-II)	572
VIB (C-I)	212

- (b) The details are given in the Statement-I enclosed.
- (c) The quarters are lying vacant due to various reasons such as under offer, temporary repairs, declared unsafe, pending electricity dues etc.
- (d) Yes, Sir.
- (e) Details are given in the Statement-II enclosed.
- (f) The new schemes under approval for construction of General Pool Residential Accommodation at Delhi are likely to provide accommodation by July, 2009.

Statement-I**Details of Accommodations Lying Vacant**

Sl.No.	Location	Types of Accommodations								
		I	II	III	IV	IV (Spl)	VA (D-II)	VB (D-I)	VIA (C-II)	VIB (C-I)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Akbar Road	2								
2.	Ali Ganj	1								
3.	Andrews Ganj	15	12				2			
4.	Andrews Ganj Extn.					4				
5.	Aram Bagh	6	17	4						
6.	DIZ Area	9	13	16						
7.	Guard Barracks	2								
8.	Jaisalmer House	9								
9.	Jam Nagar House	20								
10.	Janpath	23								
11.	Kali Bari Marg	2	8							
12.	Kasturba Nagar	86								
13.	Kidwai Nagar East	9	2				6			
14.	Kidwai Nagar West						9			
15.	Lancer Road	4	2	1						
16.	M.B. Raod	34	234	40	13	2	23			
17.	Maya Puri Press Colony	3	2							
18.	Maya Puri				13					
19.	Minto Road Area	2	1	6						
20.	Mohammed Pur	3								
21.	Moti Bagh	2	7				1		1	3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
22.	North West Moti Bagh		1	1	5					
23.	Netaji Nagar	6	4	2	2		3			
24.	Panchkuian Road	3								
25.	Prem Nagar	17								
26.	Prithvi Raj Lane	5								
27.	Pusha Road	23								
28.	R.K. Puram	20	23	11	58	4	7	7	6	
29.	Sadiq Nagar	1	8	9	4					
30.	Srinivas Puri	49	4							
31.	Sarojini Nagar			72	5					
32.	Sujan Singh Park	2								
33.	Sundar Nursery	10								
34.	Timar Pur	15	64	7	1					
35.	Vasant Vihar	1	1	1						
36.	Windsor Place	1								
37.	Albert Square		4							
38.	Baba Khadak Singh Marg		5	10						
39.	Hanuman Road		2							
40.	Laxmi Bai Nagar		13		16					
41.	Lodi Colony		12	13	1					
42.	Lodi Road Complex		16	1			2			
43.	Nanak Pura		11	2	11		2			
44.	Chitra Gupta Road			9						
45.	Narauji Nagar		5	3	3					
46.	Probyn Road			8						
47.	UDP Nehru Nagar			3						
48.	College Road				1					
49.	HUDCO Place				4				1	
50.	HUDCO Place Extn.					6		17		
51.	Kalibari Apartments				1					
52.	Mall Road				1					
53.	Minto Road (MS Flats)				2					
54.	P.S. Krishna Nagar				2					

Statement-II**Details of GPRA in Delhi under Construction**

Sl.No.	Name of Work	Location	Type-I	Type-II	Type-III	Type-IV	Type-V	Type-VI	Total
1.	C/o 36 Nos qtrs in Block III Sch. President Estate	New Delhi			36				36
2.	C/o 36 Nos qtrs in Block IV & 18 Nos qtrs in Block II Sch. President Estate	New Delhi			54				54

Details of GPRA in Delhi sanctioned works to be started

Sl.No.	Name of Work	Head of Account	Location	No. of Units	11th Plan Proposed Outlay	Annual Plan 2007-08 proposed outlay	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Construction of 140 Type-V & 104 Type-VI Flats in Pocket-6, DDU Marg, New Delhi	4216 UD (P)	DDU Marg	244	80.6	37.7	
2.	C/o 340 Type-IV Qtrs, in pocket-I, DDU Marg, New Delhi.	4216 UD (P)	DDU Marg	340	0.0	0.0	This works is being taken up in PPP mode after approval by 31.3.2007
3.	C/o 108 Type V & 24 Nos. Type-VI Qtrs., General Poor Residential Accommodation at Vasant Vihar, New Delhi.		New Delhi	132	43.3	3.0	
4.	C/o 450 Ty-II qtrs. at Dev Nagar, New Delhi	4216 UD(P)	New Delhi	450	18.3	0.5	
5.	C/o Ty-III-400 Qtrs at Dev Nagar.	4216 UD (P)	New Delhi	400	50.9	0.5	
6.	C/o Ty-IV-18-0 Qtrs at Dev Nagar	4216 UD (P)	New Delhi	180	25.4	0.5	
7.	Re-Development of Aliganj Area, Aliganj. Sh: C/o Ty-II/300 Nos.)	4216	New Delhi	300	21.4	1.0	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	C/o 36 Nos qtrs in Block 5 Sch. President Estate		New Delhi	36			
9.	C/o 40 Nos Qtrs in Block 7 Sch. President Estate		New Delhi	40			
10.	C/o 40 Nos. qtrs in Block 12 Sch. President Estate		New Delhi	40			
11.	C/o 16 Nos Ty-II qtrs in Block-10 & 28 Nos Ty-II qtrs in Block No. 11 Sch-'B' President Estate		New Delhi	44			

[English]

Traffic in Major Cities

3282. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to:

- (a) whether the Government has evolved any mechanism or plan of action to tackle the ever-increasing traffic in both major and minor cities of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the efforts so far taken or proposed to be taken to tackle the increasing traffic in the major cities during the peak hours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) Urban Transport is a State Subject, as such, the plan of action to tackle the ever-increasing traffic lies with the concerned States/UTs. However, realizing the seriousness of rapidly growing problem of urban congestion. Government has formulated National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP) in April, 2006. The Policy provides guidelines and incentives to the States/cities to design their urban transport strategies. The Government is providing Central financial assistance for urban transport planning and for taking up urban transport projects through various schemes like Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Scheme of Ministry of Finance for financial support to Public Private Partnership in Infrastructure and budgetary support, etc. to provide better public transport and ease congestion.

Rural Electrification

3283. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR:
PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has envisaged a special package for speedy rural electrification in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the funds allocated and utilized for the said purpose during 2006-07 and 2007-08, State-wise;
- (d) whether some private companies are engaged in the implementation of Rural Electrification Programme; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. For speedy rural electrification, the Government of India in April 2005 introduced Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) for providing access of electricity to all rural households by 2009 in the country. The scheme aims at electrification of about one lakh villages and providing access of electricity to 7.8 crore rural households including 2.34 crore BPL households. Ninety per cent capital subsidy is provided towards overall cost of the projects under the scheme. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) is the nodal agency for the scheme.

(b) State-wise details of RGGVY projects received, sanctioned, approved in principle and under process are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(c) Funds under RGGVY are released in instalments commensurate with the progress reported by the implementing states. State-wise amount disbursed during 2006-07 and 2007-08 are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(d) and (e) RGGVY projects are being implemented by State Power Utilities and four Central Power Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) namely, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.(PGCIL), National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), National Hydro-electric Power Corporation Ltd.

(NHPC) & Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC). Thirteen of twenty seven implementing states have assigned implementation of RGGVY works in 139 districts to these CPSUs. State-wise and CPSU-wise details of which are given in the Statement-III enclosed.

Statement-I

State-wise no. of RGGVY DPRs sanctioned, approved in principle and under process

(As on 23.11.07)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Sanctioned & under execution (Nos.)	Sanctioned but kept on hold (Nos.)	Approved in-principle (Nos.)	Under process (Nos.)	Total (Nos.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	17	-	5	4	26
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2	-	14	0	16
3	Assam	3	4	8	8	23
4	Bihar	26	3	9	6	44
5	Chhattisgarh	3	2	-	11	16
6	Gujarat	3	6	16	0	25
7	Haryana	4	2	12	0	18
8	Himachal Pradesh	1	-	3	8	12
9	Jammu and Kashmir	3	1	6	4	14
10	Jharkhand	13	-	5	4	22
11	Karnataka	17	9	-	1	27
12	Kerala	1	6	7	0	14
13	Madhya Pradesh	8	8	5	27	48
14	Maharashtra	4	13	-	17	34
15	Manipur	2	1	1	0	4
16	Meghalaya	2	1	-	4	7
17	Mizoram	2	6	-	0	8
18	Nagaland	2	1	2	6	11
19	Orissa	4	2	3	22	31
20	Punjab	-	1	16	0	17
21	Rajasthan	25	2	12	2	41
22	Sikkim	2	2	-	0	4
23	Tamil Nadu	-	16	13	0	29

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	Tripura	1	-	1	2	4
25	Uttar Pradesh	64	-	2	5	71
26	Uttaranchal	13	-	-	0	13
27	West Bengal	13	-	-	19	32
Total		235	86	140	150	611

Statement-II

State-wise and Year-wise Amount Disbursed under RGGVY as on 23.11.2007

(Rs. In Crore)

Sl. No.	State	During 2006-07	During 2007-08 (as on 23.11.07)
1	Andhra Pradesh	94.35	191.36
2	Assam	39.22	
3	Bihar	470.14	398.97
4	Chhattisgarh	36.18	12.34
5	Gujarat	13.36	12.15
6	Haryana	12.33	12.34
7	Himáchal Pradesh	7.48	
8	Jharkhand	285.24	136.47
9	Jammu and Kashmir	19.59	
10	Karnataka	87.36	92.58
11	Kerala	5.13	
12	Madhya Pradesh	104.66	60.08
13	Maharashtra	10.02	
14	Manipur	13.53	
15	Méghalaya		12.73
16	Nagaland	4.23	0.26
17	Orissa	63.67	52.17
18	Rajasthan	87.19	86.56
19	Uttar Pradesh	1544.41	95.02
19	Uttarakhand	278.28	17.89
20	West Bengal	204.76	26.33
Total		3381.13	1207.25

Statement-III

State-wise and CPSU-wise allocation of districts under RGGVY

Sl. No.	State	District(s) allocated to CPSU				
		PGCIL	NTPC	NHPC	DVC	Total
		Nos.	Nos.	Nos.	Nos.	Nos.
1	Assam	7				7
2	Bihar	24		6		30
3	Chhattisgarh	4	5	7		16
4	Gujarat	2				2
5	Jharkhand		8		8	16
6	Jammu and Kashmir			7		7
7	Kerala		6			6
8	Madhya Pradesh		4			4
9	Orissa	12	12	6		30
10	Rajasthan	7				7
11	Tripura	2				2
12	Uttar Pradesh	8				8
13	West Bengal	2		1	1	4
Total		68	35	27	9	139

Pending IT Refunds

3284. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount of Income Tax (IT) refunds are pending with the Government for the financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07;

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

(c) the reasons for delay in refund of such amount so far; and

(d) the time by which all such pending IT refunds are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Granting of refund or raising of demand, consequent to assessment in accordance with the statutory provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961, is a continuous process of the Income Tax Department.

(b) Data in respect of amount of pending refunds is not maintained separately as the amount of refunds can be determined only after processing of the returns.

(c) Some delay is caused due to shortage of manpower. In some cases, verification of taxes paid or deducted is required causing delay in issuing of the refund till verification process is over. In some cases, refunds are delayed due to reasons attributable to assessee like -

- (i) Non-quoting/wrong quoting of PAN by the assessee.
- (ii) Non-furnishing of bank account details by the assessee.
- (iii) Pending de-duplication of PAN.

(d) According to the CBDT guidelines, the processing of returns is to be done within four months of receipt of the returns. The time-limit to process returns received in Financial Year 2006-07 is 31-03-2008.

[Translation]

Girl Child Day

3285. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Girl Child Day could not be observed this year despite getting the approval of various Ministries on the proposal to observe it; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) There is at present no formal date specified for declaring National Day for the Girl Child.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Non-Government Financing Companies

3286. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of provision of loans from non-Government companies;

(b) whether the number of such companies is increasing in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the manner in which the Government is regulating these companies;

(e) whether the Government has received complaints against these companies during the above period;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details of action taken against these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The existing management information system of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate the desired information. However, at the end of March 2007 the total amount of loans and advances given by Deposit-taking Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) outstanding Rs. 10,602 crore and the total outstanding secured/unsecured loans given by systematically important Non-Deposit taking NBFCs were Rs. 1,84,507 crore.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Chapters III-B, III-C & V of RBI Act, 1934 were amended in 1997 vesting considerable powers with RBI for effective supervision over deposit taking NBFCs. RBI has developed and put in place a comprehensive four-pronged mechanism to effectively supervise the NBFCs and monitor the compliance by the companies with provisions of RBI Act and Directions issued thereunder. This involves (a) onsite inspection of NBFCs; (b) off-site monitoring of NBFCs through periodic control returns using state of art information technology system; (c) an effective market intelligence network and (d) a system of submission of exception reports by auditors of NBFCs. RBI also closely monitors delinquent/errant companies through special returns or by appointing Observers, wherever necessary, for overseeing functioning of the companies.

(e) to (g) RBI has received complaints against several NBFCs which have defaulted in repayment of deposits. RBI has been taking action against NBFCs which have not complied with the provisions, of RBI Act and the directions thereunder or have shown weaknesses in the financial position. Such action includes prohibiting the companies from carrying on non-banking financial activity, acceptance of deposits and alienation of assets. Wherever the default is persistent in nature, RBI initiates winding up proceedings and also files criminal complaint against the Directors of the

NBFC. So far, RBI has filed winding up petitions against 84 NBFCs and criminal proceedings in 70 cases.

[Translation]

Check on Excess Expenditure in Election

3287. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal to make amendments in the Representation of the People Act in order to check the excess expenditure incurred by the candidates during the elections; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The provisions of sections 77 and 78 read with section 10A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 relating to election expenses by candidates provide for maintaining correct account in the prescribed manner which is not to exceed the prescribed limit and that account is to be lodged with the district election officer within thirty days of elections. While rule 90 of Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 prescribes maximum limit of election expenses, the other rules of Part VIII of Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, regarding "Election Expenses" along with above said provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 are the present set of provisions of law to check any excess expenditure incurred by the candidates during the elections. There is no proposal to amend the abovesaid provisions of the Act or rules.

However, there is a proposal from the Election Commission to bring elections to the Legislative Councils from the Teachers' and Graduates' Constituencies within the ambit of existing provisions, to check any excess expenditure incurred by candidate, which are at present applicable only to the Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assembly of a State.

Non-functional Benches of High Courts

3288. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Benches of some of the High Courts are non-functional;

(b) if so, the details thereof, as on date, Court-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Exorbitant Rate of Interest on Credit Card Transaction

3289. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that in some cases banks are charging more than 30% interest from credit-card holders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to rationalize this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) As per Master Circular on Credit Card operations dated 2nd July, 2007 issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), credit card dues are in the nature of non-priority sector personal loans and as such banks are free to determine the rate of interest on credit card dues without reference to their Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) and regardless of the size. However, RBI has advised the banks that the annualized percentage rate (APR), the method of calculation of APR, late payment charges including the method of calculation, the manner in which the outstanding unpaid amount is to be included for calculation of interest, etc. on credit card dues should be indicated by card issuing banks in the 'Welcome Kit' and monthly statement. Banks have also been advised not to levy any charge that was not explicitly indicated to the cardholder at the time of issue of card and getting his/her consent. Further, credit card scenario is being constantly monitored and instructions to banks on their credit card operations are issued by the RBI, on an ongoing basis.

[Translation]

Change in the Shape of the Earth

3290. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that on the basis of data of satellite Laser Ranging, NASA has revealed that size of the earth is changing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NASA has come to any conclusion regarding Indian sub-continent; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL):

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The study, carried out by Minkang Cheng and Byron D. Tapley, of the Center for Space Research, University of Texas at Austin and published in June, 2005 issue of the *Journal of Geophysical Research-Solid Earth*, suggests that significant variations in the shape of the Earth, defined by the Earth's gravity field, or geoid, during the past 28 years might be partially linked to climate events.

The study examined Earth's oblateness, how much its rounded shape flattens at the poles and widens at the equator. Scientists measured the distance from ground stations to satellites by using Satellite Laser Ranging (SLR) data that are accurate within one millimeter.

The data reflected mass changes as water redistributed in oceans, atmosphere, and in soil due to changes in earth's climate system. As per the study, the redistribution resulted in slight changes of the Earth's gravity field, detectable with geodetic satellites, which study the size and shape of the Earth. Although, the study tries to relate earth's oblateness with SLR data, it says that the cause of a variation in the Earth's mass over the 21-year period between 1978 and 2001, however, still remains a mystery. Hence, they propose for more studies to rely on the SLR technology support for monitoring the variations in the shape of the earth.

However, as per another school of thought, satellite laser ranging technique is a positional technology similar to Global Positioning System (GPS) for obtaining instantaneous position on the surface of the earth or for measuring baseline very accurately and hence such technologies can not be used in isolation for determining the size and shape of the earth.

(c) No Sir.

(d) In view of the above, does not arise.

[English]

Researchers in Science and Technology

3291. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has less than 3 lakh researchers in Science and Technology whereas China has more than 9 lakh researchers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken being taken by the Government to increase researchers in Science and Technology?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL):
(a) to (c) According to the available official statistics, the number of researchers in Science and Technology in India

and China are 1,15,936 and 8,05,176 respectively. The Indian Government have taken various steps to increase and retain researchers in Science & Technology. Some of these measures include:

- Induction of new and attractive fellowships for young and performing scientists
- Creation of new Scientific Departments/Organisations
- Setting up of centres of excellence/advanced studies/incubation centres in the universities, academic institutions and laboratories
- Creation of core groups of professionals with necessary modern facilities required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science
- Increase in the outlay for science and technology sector in successive Five Year Plan
- Provision of sharing the external earnings with the scientists or innovator and its periodic revision in terms of IPR, Contract Research & Consultancy
- S&T based training for entrepreneurial development
- Contact programmes to attract and motivate brilliant young scientists to take up R&D as a career
- Early Faculty Induction Programme, which aims at attracting bright and young under-graduate students in Engineering and Technology/Pharmacy/Architecture, etc. to take up research as their career.
- Fast Track Scheme for young scientists
- Financial assistance given to scientists/young researchers to participate in international conferences and training programmes abroad
- Better Opportunities for Young Scientists in Chosen Areas of Science and Technology (BOYSCAST) fellowship to visit international laboratories and institutions
- Invitation to distinguished men and women of Indian origin settled abroad for short term technical assignments to assist in frontier and emerging areas of S&T

Pollution by NTPC Power Plants

3292. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an International organization has identified that the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is the third most pollution making organization in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) It has been recently reported in some newspapers that a Washington based organization namely, Center for Global Development, has ranked NTPC Ltd. as the third most polluting power firm in the world. However, the data base on which this conclusion is based, has not been validated or authenticated.

(c) As per the United Nations Human Development Report of 2007-08, the per capita Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission in India is 1.2 tonnes/year as against World average of 4.5 tonnes/year in the year 2004. Another publication of International Energy Agency, 'Key World Energy Statistics' - 2007, has estimated that per capita CO₂ emission in India at 1.05 tones is amongst the lowest in the world. In comparison, per capita carbon emission by USA has been 19.61 tonnes and that of China has been 3.88 tonnes. However, Government have taken the following steps for development of clean and efficient energy sources:

- Enactment of Energy Conservation Act, 2001 and establishment of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency.
- Enactment of Electricity Act, 2003, which stipulates that distribution companies must buy part of their electricity purchases from renewable sources.
- Launching of Energy labeling programme for major energy consuming equipment and Energy Conservation Building Code.
- Promotion of Super Critical Units for thermal generation.
- Priority to development of hydro potential in the country and launching hydro power initiative of 50,000 MW in 2003.
- Participation in Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) programme and Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum (CSLF).
- Partnership in the Future Gen Project of the United States to develop an emission free coal fired power plant.

NTPC Ltd. has also undertaken the following steps for emission reductions in CO₂:

1. Massive afforestation has been undertaken at all NTPC Ltd. sites, which acts as sink for CO₂. Till date, 1.8 crore trees have been planted.
2. NTPC Ltd. is adopting super critical technology in its upcoming power projects with unit sizes of 660 MW and above. Super critical units have higher efficiency (about 2.5%) and consequently result in lower CO₂

emissions (about 0.5-1 million tonnes per annum for 3x660 MW project). Even in sub-critical units, the reheat temperature of steam is being increased to improve efficiency and consequently reduce CO₂ emissions (about 10,000-15,000 tonnes per annum for 500 MW unit).

3. NTPC Ltd. has diversified into hydro sector and several hydro power projects are under implementation/various stages of development. Implementation of hydro projects will reduce average carbon intensity of the company.
4. NTPC Ltd. is also venturing into the area of renewable energy sources. NTPC Ltd. has formulated its business plan of capacity addition of about 1,000 MW through renewable sources by 2017.
5. NTPC Ltd. is undertaking Renovation and Modernization (R&M) of old power plants to improve their efficiency and to reduce carbon intensity.

Collection of Income Tax From Metros

3293. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the break-up of Income Tax collected from metros during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of amount allotted and released to them to spend on civic amenities during the same period;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has asked for more allocation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The income-tax collected from the four Metros during the last three years is as under:

	(Rs in Crores)		
Metros	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Delhi	20047	26158	38388
Chennai	8307	10716	14818
Kolkata	5686	7548	9806
Mumbai	42136	52656	76096

(b) Central Government releases funds to the State Governments under the State Annual Plans, including funds for civic amenities, and not separately to the Metros.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Single Voter List

3294. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the separate voter lists are used for conducting the election of Gram Panchayats, as well as Assembly/Parliamentary election throughout the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is an urgent need to use single list of voters for conducting the election of Gram Panchayat/ Assembly and Parliament;

(d) the hurdles coming in the way; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to have single voter list for conducting election in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Election Commission of India maintains voters' list for elections to the House of the People and States' Legislative Assemblies. Most of the States, however, have their separate voter lists for their local bodies' elections as presently there is no provision in the Constitution/laws for a common voter list for all these elections.

(c) to (e) The Government has received suggestions for a common voter list for all these elections, which is, however, possible to implement only if all the State Governments agree for it and make suitable amendments in their respective State laws.

Tax Related Benefits to Farm Sector

3295. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to encourage farming sector through more tax benefits;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Since agricultural income is already exempt from tax under the Income-tax Act, 1961, there is no question of providing further tax benefits to the farming sector.

(c) Does not arise.

Tax Benefits to Exporters

3296. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment in regard to payment of interest on delay in refund to Central Sales Tax and terminal excise duty benefits to the exporters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Government has made an assessment in regard to payment of interest on the delayed refund of Terminal Excise Duty (TED), DBK and Central Sales Tax (CST), on the basis of information received from different regional authorities under the DGFT and from the office of Development Commissioners in charge of EOUs. The total amount on this account is assessed to be about Rs.12.50 Crores on the delayed refund of TED/DBK/CST pertaining to the year 2006-2007.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of Employees Affected by Sealing of Industrial Units

3297. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has directed NCR Board for preparing a scheme to deal with the situation arising out of sealing of industrial units in residential area of national capital and for rehabilitation of employees affected thereby;

(b) if so, whether NCR Board has prepared any scheme to rehabilitate employees affected by sealing of said industrial units;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be given final shape and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of answer at (a) above.

[English]

Implementation of SGRY

3298. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the criteria fixed to create durable socio-economic assets like village concrete roads, market complexes and water bodies, etc. in rural areas of the country under Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY);

(b) the manner in which individuals are benefited under 22.5 percent reserved fund intended to benefit the poor SC/ST under the SGRY guidelines; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the misutilization of funds under SGRY?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) is an allocation-based Programme. Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are required to independently prepare and approve an Annual Action Plan as per Programme guidelines. The guidelines provide that emphasis should be given on labour intensive works.

(b) According to SGRY guidelines, 22.5% of annual allocation to the District and Intermediate Panchayats shall be earmarked for individual/ group works for SCs/STs below poverty line (BPL).

(c) In order to check the misutilization of funds, a comprehensive system of monitoring the implementation of SGRY has been developed through Monthly Progress Reports, Performance Review Committee meetings, Area Officer's Scheme, Vigilance and Monitoring Committees meeting at the State/District level, with greater involvement of Members of Parliament, National Level Monitors to monitor quality of work and adherence to implementation of scheme as per Programme guidelines. Further, to ensure transparency, accountability and people's participation, constitution of a Monitoring Committee of villagers for each work under the programme has been made mandatory.

[Translation]

Development of Cheaper Bio-diesel by NCL

3299. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Chemicals Laboratory (NCL) has developed cheaper bio-diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which production of the same is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL):

(a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Remittance in the Country

3300. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has surpassed China as the top remittance receiving country in the world as per the latest Report of the World Bank;

(b) if so, the details of remittances India received from Indian nationals who are living abroad during the last five years, year-wise and country-wise;

(c) percentage of remittances in terms of GDP of the country during the last five years, year-wise;

(d) whether Bangladesh and Nepal are receiving more remittances than that of India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per the 'Global Economic Prospects 2006', a World Bank publication, India was the top remittance receiving country in the year 2004.

(b) and (c) As per the data of the Reserve Bank of India, the total estimated remittances from Indian nationals living abroad are given in the Table below. Country-wise information of such remittances is, however, not available.

Table: Total Estimated Remittances from Indian Nationals living abroad

Year	Remittances (Rs. Crore)	Remittances as a Percentage of GPP
2002-03	47,915	1.95
2003-04	49,683	1.80
2004-05	33,345	1.07
2005-06	56,580	1.59
2006-07	1,01,812	2.47

Source: RBI.

(d) and (e) As per the above World Bank Report, remittances received by Bangladesh and Nepal are not higher than those received by India in absolute terms.

Absorption of Deputationists

3301. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under Controller General of Accounts (CAG) in various Ministries Group 'C' and Group 'D' posts have been filled on deputation basis;

(b) if so, the details of such posts filled in various Ministries under CGA, particularly in Ministry of Industry during the last five years;

(c) whether CGA has asked the various Ministries to absorb these deputationists against the vacant posts of Group 'C' and Group 'D' in their Annual Direct Recruitment Plan;

(d) if so, the reasons for issuing such directions/ requests so late as the Ministries have already completed

their aforesaid plan till 2006-07 through their Screening Committee;

(e) whether the parent offices of these deputationists have already conveyed their NOC for their absorption under CGA in various Ministries; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to absorb such deputationists under CGA as they have acquired the professional competence required for account job?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Some Group 'C' posts in the offices of Pr. CCAs/CCAs/CAs in various Ministries under Controller General of Accounts, (CGA) have already been filled up on deputation basis. No Gr. 'D' post has been filled up on deputation basis.

(b) Some vacancies in Group 'C' posts of Accountants (Pay scale Rs. 4500-7000) and LDCs (Pay Scale Rs. 3050-4590) have already been filled up by taking officials on deputation basis in a number of Ministries during the last five years. The position of posts filled up on deputation basis in the office of Chief Controller of Accounts (CCA), Ministry of Industry is as follows:

Year	Gr. 'C' posts				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Ministry of Industry	16	(-2)	(-4)	15	(-) 3

(-) indicates reversion of deputationists to their parent organizations.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) and (f) Office of CGA has sought information/data of deputationists from all Ministries/Departments to examine the feasibility of absorption of willing officials. In this connection NOC's have been received from some of the parent departments

[Translation]

Filing False Affidavits

3302. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA has filed any false affidavit before the court during the last three years;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government against DDA in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.

JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that it has not filed any false affidavit during the last three years.

(c) Does not arise in view of answer at (a) and (b) above.

[English]

Vacant Posts in Central Government and Public Sector Undertakings

3303. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY:

Will be Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of posts lying vacant in Central sector in different departments and Government organisations;

(b) the year-wise break up of number of posts abolished; and

(c) the justification of abolishing various posts in Government offices and departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) While information of vacant posts in the Public Sector Units is not collected by the Ministry of Finance, as per the latest information available, the number of posts lying vacant in different departments of the Central Government as on 1.3.2005 is approximately 4.71 lakhs.

(b) The Ministry of Finance does not keep details of the break-up of abolished posts, since the orders in this regard are passed by the concerned Ministries/Departments.

(c) All Ministries/ Departments are required to review their vacancies regularly and take necessary steps in the light of such reviews, extant instructions on the subject and guidelines on economy measures.

[Translation]

Maintenance of Bungalows of MPs

3304. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA:

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the CPWD in the maintenance of bungalows of Members of Parliament and Ministers in Delhi from 1st June, 2003 to 31st October, 2007;

(b) the work-wise details thereof and amount spent thereon;

(c) whether any complaints of corruption and irregularities have been received in this regard;

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

(e) whether any tenders were cancelled by CPWD after they were awarded; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Domestic Violence Act

3305. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to extend certain provisions of the Domestic Violence Act to make beating of children by their parents an offence as reported in the Times of India, dated October 31, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Anti-Dowry Laws

3306. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

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

(a) whether the Government has identified deficiency in the existing Anti-Dowry Laws;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes any additional legislative provisions in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government is aware that the number of dowry death are increasing in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The National Commission for Women has recommended to the Government certain amendments in the anti-dowry laws. These include amendment of the definition of dowry in the Dowry Prohibition

Act, 1961 and increasing the penalty under Section 304B of the Indian Penal Code, relating to dowry death. The amendments recommended are under examination.

(d) As per the data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, the number of dowry deaths registered in the country during the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 were 7026, 6787 and 7618* respectively.

Recognition of Association of RRBs

3307. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has advised the Regional Rural Banks to recognize the Association of workmen and officers in the year 1980 and 1998 respectively;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Karnataka Gramin Vikash Bank has recognized its workmen association which applied for recognition long back; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Chairmen of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were advised to take suitable action for according recognition to a representative union/association of RRB employees registered under the Trade Union Act, 1929 vide letter dated 27.12.1980. It was further advised therein that this may be done in accordance with the guidelines contained in "Criteria for recognition of Unions" and "Code of discipline in industry" as laid down by Ministry of Labour.

(c) and (d) The Board of the Bank has approved the recognition of Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank Employees Association subject to completion of necessary formalities and signing the Code of Discipline. The decision of the Board was communicated by the Management of the Bank to the Association vide its letter dated 27th February, 2007.

Seventh World Toilet Summit

3308. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Seventh World Toilet Summit was held in New Delhi recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the resolution/decisions taken during the summit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes Sir, Sulabh International Social Service

*Provisional figures.

Organization has organized the seventh World Toilet Summit 2007 (WTS-2007) in New Delhi from 31st October to 2nd November 2007.

(b) As per the information furnished by Sulabh International Social Service Organization, the details and the resolution/decisions taken during the summit is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

44 countries participated in the WTS-2007 with 172 international and 207 national delegates.

The lead to organise the Summit was taken by Sulabh International Social Service Organisation under the aegis of Singapore based World Toilet Organisation. It was supported by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation; Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment; Ministry of Rural Development; and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and the UN-HABITAT.

The Summit was organised to provide platform to exchange ideas and envisaged programmes relating to sanitation. It was noticed that there is need to accelerate the progress on achieving the Millennium Development Goal on Sanitation by 2015; the goal being, to halve by 2015, the proportion of people who do not have sustainable access to basic sanitation.

At the end of the Summit, the following Delhi Declaration on Sanitation - 2007 was adopted:-

"Following a successful World Toilet Summit – 2007 (WTS 2007) it has been noted that there is a need to accelerate the progress on achieving the Millennium Development Goal on Sanitation by 2015. The participants advocate reconfirmation of the pledge that nations took at Johannesburg in 2002.

WTS 2007 adopts the Delhi Declaration on Sanitation – 2007:

1. Increase awareness and political will, priorities sustainable sanitation, the importance of achieving MDG-7 and other goals and also persuade national leaders to take further measures.
2. Move to mobilize Governments, UN Agencies, Financial Institutions, Corporate Bodies, Sanitation Service Providers, Local Bodies and other Stakeholders through strong partnership and collaboration to undertake the required steps to increase sanitation coverage.
3. Undertake data collection, annual review, monitoring and effective actions to scale-up sustainable sanitation programmes and strengthen policies at both international and national level.

4. Prepare and plan activities as well as a country specific National Roadmap for The International Year of Sanitation – 2008 in collaboration with all key stakeholders and important partners.
5. Ensure and enhance financial allocation and support through national budgets for achieving sustained progress on sanitation.
6. Develop and strengthen institutional, research & development and human resource at all levels to generate activities and employment in Water and Sanitation sector.
7. Promote knowledge exchange programmes on available sustainable sanitation technologies and behaviours in all regions.
8. Advocate with National Governments to set specific sanitation goals and targets as well as help local communities and educational institutions to gain access to institutional finance.
9. Organise regional and sub-regional conferences and workshops. Declare Sanitation Awards to recognize and support regional initiatives.
10. Implement sustainable sanitation programme through a demand-driven approach and facilitate efficient marketing mechanisms.
11. Prioritise school sanitation, health and hygiene programmes.
12. Implement child-friendly facilities for children which are both accessible and relevant to cultural and regional needs.
13. Address region specific gender concerns by ensuring sanitation facilities for women and the 'girl child.'
14. Facilitate a paradigm shift from disposal oriented to reuse and recycling sanitation systems and ensure quality control."

Proof of Demand for Dowry

3309. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court in its recent verdict has done away with proof for dowry demand as reported in the Asian Age, October 23, 2007;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the law defines about the demand for dowry;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the ruling in the above case was within the law definition or it was based on evidence or there is scope for interpretation of law; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to strengthen the law in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Apex Court has dealt with the issue relating to dowry deaths under section 304 B of the Indian Penal Code, 1861 (IPC) in *Devi Lal Vs State of Rajasthan* (2007 12 SCALE 265). In this case, the Apex Court has given credence to the fact that prosecution was able to prove the case beyond reasonable doubt as to the demand of dowry and also that ingredients of section 304 B of the IPC had been met. As such the proof for demand of dowry has not been done away with by the Apex Court in the aforesaid case.

(c) and (d) Section 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 lays down penalty for demanding dowry directly or indirectly. The Act does not define what constitutes demanding dowry.

(e) The apex Court also said in *Devi Lal Vs State of Rajasthan* that the testimonies of the prosecution witnesses have been relied on for arriving at the finding of guilt of the appellant. We do not see any reason to take different view.

(f) There is no proposal to amend the said Act in order to include therein a definition of demand for dowry (National Commission for Women has made some recommendation for amendment of the Act including amendment of the definition of dowry. Amendments to section 304B of IPC have also been recommended. The recommendations are under examination in Ministry of Women and Child Development).

Achievement of Target on Tribal Welfare

3310. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various Ministries show target achievement under tribal welfare quota of budget share (in proportion of population) only nationally; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Tribal sub-plan allocations are made by the Planning Commission in proportion to the tribal population as per guidelines issued by the Government in this regard. The Union Budget indicates Special Central Assistance for State Plans for Tribal sub-plan. In addition it provides the Central Plan outlay by Ministry/ Departments which includes the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Planning Commission has constituted a Tripartite Committee to review the implementation of the special strategy of TSP to

resolve various policy related issue thereto in respect of Central Ministries/Department.

Declining Regular Posts

3311. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the regular posts are decreasing and daily wages/contract jobs are increasing in different Government Departments in the country;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) As per information available, the strength of establishment has decreased from 32.74 lakhs in the year 2005 to 32.30 lakhs in the year 2006. No centralized information on daily wages and contract jobs in different Government Departments in the country is being collated.

[Translation]

Investment in Mutual Fund

3312. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which interests of investors are protected in mutual funds run by public sector enterprises; and

(b) the provisions made for ensuring protection of investors interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996 provides for a framework for functioning and operation of a mutual fund so as to protect the interest of unitholders. All registered mutual funds, irrespective of nature of sponsors i.e., Private Sector, Public Sector or Joint Venture, Indian or foreign are required to comply with the said Regulations and guidelines framed thereunder.

[English]

Conversion from Leasehold to Freehold

3313. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA shops/commercial spaces are being converted from lease hold to free hold;

(b) whether applications of shops/commercial shops on DDA land by Private builder are lying with Government;

(c) if so, the reasons for not converting the same to free hold;

(d) whether DDA is loosing heavy revenue losses due to this;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (f) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that as per the existing policy, the shops allotted by it are converted from lease hold to free hold and in respect of the commercial complexes, the commercial plot as a whole can be converted to free hold. Conversion of individual commercial units/spaces in multi-storeyed commercial complexes requires fixation of conversion fee, the process for which has been initiated.

Ban on Criminal Background People

3314. DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to ban people with criminal background for contesting elections; and

(b) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) In recent past, the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2002 and the Representation of the People (Third Amendment) Act, 2002 have been enacted with a view to making the electoral process clean and free from criminal and corrupt influences. The Government, however, continues to strive and explore further ways and means aimed at bringing about further reforms. In this regard, the Government has before it the recommendations made by different bodies/individuals, like the Dinesh

Goswami Committee, the Indrajit Gupta Committee, the Election Commission of India, the Law Commission of India, the Department - Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, etc. Since the process of electoral reforms is a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out only through consensus among the political parties, which is a time-consuming process, no time frame can be given.

Review of Legislation regarding Women and Children

3315. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the Government has observed any insufficiency in existing laws in regard to women and children;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to review such legislations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Government is reviewing the laws concerning or impacting women. The present status of the review in so far as the Ministry of Women and Child Development is concerned is enclosed as Statement.

Crimes and violence against children are being addressed by legislations like Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, Child Labour Act and Juvenile Justice Act. These Acts are being reviewed from time to time to make these more effective and stringent. Ministry of Women and Child Development is administratively concerned with Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act. Recently Rules under JJ Act have been notified with the approval of the Ministry of Law.

Statement

Present status of review of laws affecting women in respect of the Ministry of Women and Child Development

(I) Pending cases

S.No.	Name of Act	Present status
1	2	3

Legislations dealt by Ministry of Women and Child Development

1	Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986	Some more consultations by National Commission for Women (NCW) are being held before NCW submits its recommendations to the Government.
2	Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956	The proposal for amendment of the Act is under consideration by a Group of Ministers.

1	2	3
3	The Protection of Women Against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Bill, 2007	Based on many public comments received, the Bill has been revised. Another consultation on the Bill is being scheduled shortly.
4	Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961	NCW has recommended amendments to the Act and section 304-B of IPC. The recommendations are being examined.
(ii) Cases on which action taken/no further action necessary		
1	Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005	Enacted in September, 2005 and brought into force from 26-10-2006
2	Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929	A new legislation 'Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006' has been enacted and notified in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II Sec. I dated 11.1.2007. Simultaneously, the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 has been repealed. The new Act has been brought into force on 1st November, 2007.
3	The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987	Reviewed. No proposal for amendment.

[Translation]**Capital Investment in Share Market**

3316. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total capital investment made in Indian share market in 1992 and 2007 respectively; and

(b) the break-up of capital investment in Indian share market made by quoting PAN as against the total capital investment by October, 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per SEBI Annual report 1992-93, a total sum of Rs. 5,562.53 crores has been raised from the primary markets through public and rights issue during the financial year 1991-92. The total amount raised from the primary market through public and rights issue from Jan. 2007 to October 2007 was Rs 33,507.58 crores.

(b) Since July 02, 2007 it was mandatory to make investment in share market only by quoting PAN. Hence no capital investments was made through public offering without quoting PAN during October 2007.

Norms for Research Work by MNC Drug Companies

3317. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of medicines produced and the total value of research undertaken by the Multinational Drug Companies in India during the last three years, company-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether the Government has fixed any norms for undertaking research work for the Multinational Drug Companies operating in India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the names of the foreign drug companies which have been found not following the said norms?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) has a scheme for granting recognition to the in-house R&D units of industry. Sales turnover (in other words, total value of medicines produced) and research & development expenditure (in other words, total value of research undertaken) by the foreign multinational drug companies having R&D units recognized by DSIR, during the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Firm	Apr 04-Mar 05		Apr 05-Mar 06		Apr 06-Mar 07	
		R&D Exp.	Sales T.O	R&D Exp.	Sales T.O	R&D Exp.	Sales T.O
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Sandoz Pvt. Ltd.	8358	30058	10777	47185	10363	53032
2.	Uni-Sankyo Ltd.	8	2917	48	3698	21	4958

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Regent Drugs Ltd.	412	5433	703	10833	953	12909
		Dec 03-Nov 04		Dec 04-Nov 05		Dec 05-Nov 06	
4.	Abbott India Ltd.	145	40507	156	44467	208	51024
5.	Pfizer Ltd.	2351	55800	2235	59900	2380	66200
		Jan 04-Dec 04		Jan 05-Dec 05		Jan 06-Dec 06	
6.	Merck Ltd.	30	37660	161	39646	156	32949
7.	GSK Pharmaceuticals Ltd.(Glaxo)	443	147959	443	157588	615	167757
Total		11747	320334	14523	363317	14696	388829

(b) and (c) The Government has formulated norms for industries (including the foreign multinational drug companies) operating in India to undertake research work and obtain recognition of their in-house R&D unit by DSIR. The in-house R&D units qualifying for recognition are expected to be engaged in research and development activities related to the line of business of the firm such as, development of new technologies; design and engineering; process/product/design improvements; developing new methods of analysis and testing; pollution control; effluent treatment; recycling of waste products; and research for increased efficiency in use of resources, such as, capital equipment, materials and energy. The R&D activities are expected to be separate from routine activities of the firm, such as, production and quality control. The in-house R&D units should have staff exclusively engaged in R&D and headed by a full-time R&D manager who would have direct access to the chief executive or to the board of directors depending upon the size of the unit. The in-house R&D units are also expected to maintain separate identity and R&D accounts.

(d) There are many foreign drug companies who have not approached DSIR for recognition of their R&D units, and therefore, the details of the norms they follow are not known.

Private Consultants in CPWD, DDA and HUDCO

3318. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the services of private consultants are being availed for the works pertaining to design and construction of buildings despite the availability of more than seven thousand engineers in Central Public Works Department (CPWD), DDA, HUDCO having sufficient engineering knowledge;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

[English]

Auctioning of Vacant DDA Plots

3319. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA has earmarked lands/plots for banks/Guest Houses for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government regarding auction of these land/plots?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) DDA has informed that specific plots for Banks and Guest Houses have not been marked in the detailed design of commercial schemes i.e. Community Centres and Local Shopping Centres during the last three years.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of answer at (a) above.

Recruitment Rules In DDA

3320. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any inconsistency has been found in the notified Recruitment Rules for the post of Directors in Delhi Development Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has asked DDA to rectify the same;

(d) if so, whether DDA has not notified the Recruitment Rules for the posts of Directors as yet;

(e) if so, the reasons thereof and authority responsible for delay; and

(f) the time by which DDA would notify the modified rules in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (f) Delhi Development Authority (DDA), has reported that the method of recruitment to fill the post of Director (Ministerial) is as under:

- (1) 50% by promotion failing which by deputation;
 - (2) 50% by transfer on deputation.
- (i) Promotion: Deputy Director/Joint Director/Deputy Secretary or equivalent post in the scale of Rs. 3000-4500/- (pre-revised) with at least 5 years regular minimum service in that cadre grade and possessing a degree of recognised university or equivalent.
- (ii) Transfer on Deputation: Officers of IAS (AGMU Cadre) and officers of DANICS only with 8 years' service including 3 years service in the senior scale of DANICS (the period of deputation shall ordinarily not exceed 3 years).

The Ministry of Urban Development vide their letter No. K-11011/14/05-DDIA dated 13.10.2006 has advised to amend the Recruitment Regulations as follows:-

"Officers belonging to Central/State Governments holding analogous posts or officers with 5 years service in the scale of Rs. 10000-15200/-".

DDA has further reported that process to notify the modified rules has been initiated.

Salaries of Judicial Officers

3321. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the salaries of Chief Justice of India and other Judges of the Supreme Court on the Judges of advanced countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) No, Sir. At present there is no proposal in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

Import Duty on RBD Palmolein

3322. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to reduce import duty on RBD Palmolein; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration.

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

Appointment as Notary

3323. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of application pending with the Government for the approval to appointment as notary in respect of West Bengal and Punjab; and

(b) the time by which all these pending applications would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) 62 applications in respect of West Bengal and 203 applications in respect of Punjab for appointment of Notaries are pending for consideration.

(b) Applications are under process at different stages. As soon as the requirements according to the Notaries Act, 1952 and Notaries Rules, 1956 are complied with, the same will be considered by the Government.

Hoarding in Govt. Colonies

3324. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has given permission to any company to erect its hoarding in Government colonies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government is aware that the Times of India (ToI) has erected its hoardings in some Government colonies in Delhi particularly in Sector-VIII, R.K. Puram; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the ToI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Hoarding of Times of India is outside the compound walls of Government colony in Sector VIII, R.K. Puram, New Delhi.

(d) Action is to be initiated by appropriate law enforcing agencies.

*[Translation]***Appointment of Marketing and Recovery Officers by RBI**

3325. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has decided to appoint marketing and recovery officers for monitoring over the Private Banks employing of goondas/muscleman for recovery;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said officials are likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that there is no such proposal under consideration.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]***Rajiv Ratna Awas Yojana**

3326. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes any scheme called Rajiv Ratna Awas Yojana; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal for any scheme called Rajiv Ratna Awas Yojana at present. The

Government of India launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in December, 2005 providing for construction of houses and infrastructure amenities to the urban poor under Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) for 63 identified cities/towns and under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) for other cities/towns. However, as informed, Government of NCT of Delhi has launched a programme for housing poor known as Rajiv Ratna Awas Yojana.

*[Translation]***Kisan Credit Card**

3327. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) details of Kisan Credit cards issued during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether separate provision exists under the said scheme for tribal farmers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The details of Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) issued by all Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks during the last three years, State-wise is enclosed as Statement.

(b) and (c) There is no separate provision under KCC Scheme for tribal farmers. However, NABARD provides Short Term refinance to State Cooperative Banks and RRBs for financing their Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO). One of the components of ST (SAO) limit sanctioned is 'Development of Tribal Population' (DTP) under which the KCCs are also issued.

Statement**Kisan Credit Card Scheme - During the Year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (State-wise)**

Sl. No.	State/UT	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		Card Issued	Amt. sanctioned	Card Issued	Amt. sanctioned	Card Issued	Amt. sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh**	1582480	333725	1345804	450460	1378335	631774
2	Assam	83416	11666	64963	9109	34117	6098
3	Arunachal Pradesh#	4345	700	2173	145	1409	478
4	Bihar**	231781	59229	209249	64293	279376	99267
5	Gujarat	209758	399035	238534	415277	216758	445456

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6	Goa \$	2131	845	2826	3771	597	637
7	Haryana	158441	220179	253997	304559	110747	153103
8	Himachal Pradesh	32191	11330	35170	32752	28908	9952
9	Jammu and Kashmir	12678	2533	9056	2356	5165	3495
10	Karnataka	406589	226631	505037	790727	386786	170708
11	Kerala	318899	107932	240090	91804	317523	110378
12	Madhya Pradesh	759448	264813	497855	346072	373557	230903
13	Maharashtra	590723	536061	778374	510106	1087696	439164
14	Meghalaya#	10883	1180	9855	1589	11956	2427
15	Mizoram #	3495	724	3748	593	4446	1547
16	Manipur#	5769	1084	6045	773	14646	3697
17	Nagaland#	4277	519	4321	802	3948	869
18	Orissa	602605	122972	493979	220654	348726	166310
19	Punjab	152243	193046	179235	196410	114108	181654
20	Rajasthan	875218	361055	346500	300246	264731	187345
21	Sikkim # \$	1438	211	1726	371	685	182
22	Tamil Nadu	614641	162447	527892	190379	518203	236378
23	Tripura#	10415	1345	11476	2124	9842	1437
24	Uttar Pradesh	1998378	247887	1333064	653768	1358072	696334
25	West Bengal	498094	96899	479726	78699	181931	114482
26	Andaman & Nicobar Islands # \$	902	182	364	146	466	111
27	Chandigarh # \$	923	164	1	2	0	0
28	Daman & Diu @ #			71	30	22	5
29	New Delhi # \$	1139	657	658	607	1013	818
30	Dadra and Nagar Haveli @ \$	3	1	5	3	12	2
31	Lakshadweep @ \$	75	32	109	45	67	27
32	Pondicherry # \$	5378	1563	5222	1724	7482	1842
33	Jharkhand	158472	16964	126633	29200	201057	47766
34	Chhattisgarh	251944	18505	238537	35625	176068	52682
35	Uttaranchal	91197	16392	59956	24916	31755	32630
	Total	9680374	3418508	8012251	4760137	7470240	4029958

Note: # SCB functions as CFA.
 @ No Cooperative Banks in these UTs.
 \$ No RRB in these States/UTs
 * No. of banks implementing the Scheme
 Amount sanctioned data provisional
 ** Data for Co-op under reconciliation

[English]

**Procedure for Filling up Post of
Director in DDA**

3328. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure for filling up of the posts of Directors in DDA as per recruitment rules and that being followed by DDA;

(b) whether the posts of Directors in DDA are cadre posts for the DANICS service officers; and

(c) if not, the reasons DDA is not following the prescribed procedure for filling up of the posts of Directors in DDA?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) As reported by Delhi Development Authority (DDA), the method of recruitment to fill the post of Director (Ministerial) is as under:

- (1) 50% by promotion failing which by deputation;
- (2) 50% by transfer on deputation.

(i) Promotion: Deputy Director/Joint Director/Deputy Secretary or equivalent post in the scale of Rs. 3000-4500/- (pre-revised) with at least 5 years regular minimum service in that cadre grade and possessing a degree of recognised university or equivalent.

(ii) Transfer on Deputation: Officers of IAS (AGMU Cadre) and officers of DANICS only with 8 years' service including 3 years service in the senior scale of DANICS (the period of deputation shall ordinarily not exceed 3 years). The Ministry of Urban Development vide their letter No. K-11011/14/05-DDIA dated 13.10.2006 has advised to amend the Recruitment Regulations as follows:-

"Officers belonging to Central/State Governments holding analogous posts or officers with 5 years service in the scale of Rs. 10000-15200/-".

DDA has further reported that process to notify the modified rules has been initiated.

**Law Commission recommendations for
Terminally Ill Patients**

3329. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission report recommended setting up of a three-member panel of reputed medical persons regarding withdrawal of life support from the terminally ill patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has constituted any such body;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the likely date by which the report would be made available?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes; Sir.

(b) Every 'competent patient', who is suffering from terminal illness, has a right to refuse medical treatment. The doctor must be satisfied that the decision is made by a competent patient and that it is an informed decision.

In case of incompetent patients, the doctor shall not withhold or withdraw treatment unless he has obtained opinion of a body of three expert medical practitioners from a panel prepared by high-ranking authority. The decision to withhold or withdraw must be based on guidelines issued by Medical Council of India.

(c) The Government has examined the recommendation and is not in favour of accepting the same.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Decline in Industrial Growth Rate

3330. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been decline in industrial growth rate due to sharp decline in many industrial products;

(b) if so, the details of industrial sectors which have registered a decline;

(c) whether this decline was due to lack of demand;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the decline was despite the prevailing demand;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether finance minister has made any suggestion in this regard;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (i) The overall rate of industrial growth declined from 11.1 per cent

during April-September 2006 to 9.2 per cent during April-September 2007. The industry-wise picture is given in the table given below:

Industry group	Growth during April-September	
	2006-07	2007-08
Food Products	1.9	13.3
Beverages & Tobacco	14.2	8.3
Cotton Textiles	12.8	6.1
Wool, Silk & Man Made Textiles	6.7	5.1
Jute Textiles	-0.3	18.9
Textile Products	14.9	3.4
Wood Products	-0.1	78.8
Paper Products	8.1	1.1
Leather products	-5.2	7.8
Chemicals	10.5	7.8
Rubber & Petroleum	10.9	12.0
Non Metallic Mineral products	13.7	8.3
Basic Metals	19.4	18.5
Metal Products	5.0	-0.8
Machinery & Equipments	16.2	10.9
Transport Equipments	17.7	1.7
Other manufacturing	15.1	12.4
Manufacturing	12.3	9.7
Mining	3.1	5.3
Electricity	6.6	7.7
Index of Industrial production	11.1	9.2

Performance of individual industries in a market driven economy depends on a number of factors, such as demand and supply conditions, relative prices of inputs, competition, exchange rate movements and the macro-economic factors. Demand conditions in major importing countries and trade environment also affect performance of industries in which exports constitute a significant proportion of production.

Government has put in place various policies to promote broad based industrial growth. These include, inter-alia, delicensing of industry, liberalization of foreign trade regime to provide better access to inputs at competitive prices, rationalization and reduction in duty rates of customs and central excise, better infrastructure support and liberal FDI regime.

Irregularities in Construction of Flyover near Akshardham Temple

3331 SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- whether some officers had committed irregularities in the construction of a loop of the flyover near Akshardham temple due to a petrol pump located there;
- if so, the action taken against these officers;
- the time by which the construction of loop of the said flyover is likely to be started consequent upon the ruling given by the Supreme Court to close down the said petrol pump?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) DDA has informed that the completion of formalities for improvement of this clover-leaf may take about 8 months.

[English]

Cases against blacklisted NGOs

3332. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- the progress made in the cases registered against black listed NGOs;
- whether the funds released to these NGOs have been recovered;
- if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- further steps taken by the Government in identifying irregularities committed by NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) registered 129 cases against blacklisted NGOs. Out of 129 cases, an amount of Rs. 28.97 lakhs has been recovered from 33 blacklisted NGOs. The details of the amount recovered are enclosed as statement.

(d) Following steps have been taken by CAPART in identifying irregularities committed by NGOs:

- Photographs of all the members of the managing committee of the Voluntary Organization are insisted at the time of submitting the project proposal.

- Project proposals received are thoroughly desk appraised and basic documents relating to the society are insisted.
- Projects are sanctioned after pre-funding appraisal.
- Sanctioned projects are evaluated once or twice during the course of implementation depending upon the quantum of assistance extended. Projects are also post evaluated before the closure of files.
- Monitoring of the projects by individual empanelled experts has been replaced by Institutional Monitors to ensure accountability.
- Sanction orders are endorsed to the respective District Collectors/State Secretary Incharge of Rural Development/ Members of Parliament/Members of the Legislative Assembly/Concerned Village Panchayat etc.
- Information about sanction of projects is put on the website.
- Information are exchanged between different donor agencies/State Governments/Ministries/Autonomous organizations etc.
- Social audit is also insisted.
- A certificate is insisted from the Voluntary Organization stating that the financial assistance for the concerned project has not been received, is not being received and will not be received or will not apply, either completely or partially, from any other Governmental, non- Governmental, International or any other agency, for the same project covering the same beneficiaries.
- Original Bank Pass Book and Registration Certificate are verified before release of first installment in case of the first timer NGOs.

Statement

Details of amount recovered from Blacklisted Organizations as on 4th December, 2007

S.No.	Name and Address of the Voluntary Organisation	Amount recovered (in Rs.)
1	2	3
1.	Samaritan society of Mizoram Bungkawn, dist. Aizawl, Mizoram	17,727
2.	Priya Samajik Kalyan Sewa Samiti House of Yogesh Lamte 203, ansar colony MIG, BH. Police Station	1,49,500
3.	Ambedkar Yuvajana Sangham, Gandhi Nagar, Nidadavalu, W.G.Dist, A.P.	10,000

1	2	3
4.	Taramarla Integrated Rural Development & Social Tara Marla, Sathya Sai Taluk, Dist. Anantapur, A.P.	2,57,020
5.	Artisans India Integrated Foundation B-50, S.B.H. Colony, Saidabad, Hyderabad, A.P.	60,000
6.	Multipurpose Social Development Society Village Gundipalli, Duggannagariealli T.Q., Pulivendala, Dist. Cuddapah, A.P.	55,800
7.	Society For Natural Studies 206, Khanna Puramhavelli, Industrial Area, Dist. Khammam, A.P.	15,000
8.	Kishori Shikshan Avam Prashikshan Udyogik Sansthan Kumabhaheri, Block Nagar, Dist. Bharatpur Rajasthan	22,500
9.	Lok Seva Dal 137, Puchand Health Club, M.T., Dist. Rohtak, Haryana	12,800
10.	Thrikkadavoor Fish Cultivating Society Kureepuzha, Poperinad, Dist. Qullon, Kerala	79,800
11.	Youth Association For Rural Development Vill. Behta, Bulandshere, U.P.	40,500
12.	Yuva Avam Bal Vikas Samiti Ram Gulab Tola, Dist. Deoria, U.P	2,89,800
13.	Nutan Gram Vikas Samiti At PO Gohavar, Dist. Bijnore, U.P.	26,971
14.	Khadi Gramodyog Seva Sadan At PO Khempur, Dist. Rampur, U.P.	29,400
15.	Khadi Gramodyog Vikas Samiti Vill. Salkana, PO. Chaukini, Dist. Muradabad, U.P.	3,05,281
16.	Shri Vidya Nath Vidyalaya Samiti D-428, Rajaji Puram, Dist. Lucknow, U.P	26,000
17.	Vivekananda Child Welfare Home A/PO Kakdwip, Dist. 24 Parganas West Bengal	2,90,000
18.	Asha Welfare Society Vill. & Po Ganesh Nagar, Vinamkhana, Dist. South 24 Parganas, West Bengal	83,467

1	2	3
19.	Nari O Shishu Kalyan Samiti Ganesh Nagar Vianamkhana, 24 Parganas, West Bengal	82,382
20.	All India Samajothan Samiti A-3-51/1 LIG, Rohini, Sector 7, Delhi	83,788
21.	Samaj Sudhar Samiti F-18, Dharampura, Najafgarh New Delhi-110043	84,350
22.	Vikas Educational Social Welfare Society 456/S-1, Vikas Puri, New Delhi	63,100
23.	Amba Samajik Vikas Sansthan Haziganz, Patna City, Dist. Patna, Bihar	27,500
24.	Rashmirati Nav Chetna Samiti H.Q. Rashmi Jyoti Bhawan, New Jakknpur, Gpu Patna, Bihar	48,000
25.	Darbhanga Zilla Khadi Gramodyog Sangh H.O. Beta Road, Po Laheria Saraya, Dist. Darbhanga, Bihar	6,700
26.	Kamla Nehru Samaj Kalyan Kendra Gopalganj Shosha Ram, Dist. Rohtak, Bihar	1,56,633
27.	Collective Rural Operation of The Poor 2-86 C/O Potedar, Narsimhulu APSEB Sub Station, Parigi, Ranga Reddy Dist., A.P.	2,47,500
28.	Sri Yogananda Shikshan Prasarak Mandal Maharashtra	71,000
29.	Brighter Integrated Rural Development Society, Andhra Pradesh	58,475
30.	Shri Laxmi Harijana Mahila Mandali Andhra Pradesh	10,000
31.	Gyatri Khadi Gramodyog Mandal	1,26,000
32.	Mass Welfare Association, Tamilnadu	39,000
33.	Ambika Mahila Sangha, Karnataka	20,600
	Total	28,96,594

[Translation]

Works under Central Housing Scheme

3333. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds released by the Government to Central Public Works Department to undertake various works under Central Housing Schemes during the last three years in Delhi;

(b) the funds spent on repair/renovation of C.P.W.D. Complex Vasant Vihar and Peshwa Road;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the works so undertaken by the CPWD;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the irregularities noticed regarding misuse of funds by CPWD; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against such CPWD officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The details of total funds allotted and spent by CPWD to undertake various works under Central Housing Scheme during the last three years are as under:

MH: 4216 (P) (In Rs lakh)

Year	Allotment	Expdr.
2004-05	10035	10118
2005-06	10900	10587
2006-07	20004	14541

MH: 4216 (NP)

Year	Allotment	Expdr.
2004-05	7843	6247
2005-06	7723	6941
2006-07	8436	7564

(b) The details of fund spent on Peshwa Road and Vasant Vihar accommodation is as under:

(In Rs. lakhs)

Year	Peshwa Road	Vasant Vihar
2004-05	15.98	4.39
2005-06	30.94	41.45
2006-07	9.92	5.07

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Review of works is an ongoing process in CPWD.

The works are reviewed by officers of CPWD and Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation as follows:-

Sl. No.	Reviewing Authority	Estimated cost of works reviewed	Frequency of review
1.	Executive Engineer	Less than Rs.10.00 lakhs	Monthly
2.	Superintending Engineer	More than Rs.10.00 lakhs but less than Rs.1.00 crore	Monthly
3.	Chief Engineer, Additional Director General, Director General (Works)	More than Rs. 1.00 crore	Monthly
4.	Ministry of Statistics and Programme implementation	More than Rs.20.00 crores	Quarterly

No irregularities regarding misuse of funds by CPWD have been noticed.

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

Calculation of Rate of Inflation

3334. SHRI PAI'KAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to calculate the rate of inflation on the basis of consumer price index instead of wholesale price index; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Inflation is measured in terms of movement of Wholesale Price Index of 435 commodities on a weekly basis. Four Consumer Price Indices separately for industrial workers (CPI-IW), urban non-manual employees (CPI-UNME), agricultural labourers (CPI-AL) and rural labourers (CPI-RL) are also compiled at the National level to reflect movement of prices on a monthly basis.

World Bank Assistance

3335. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of assistance received from the World Bank for Anganwadi, and other welfare and development programmes of Women and Children during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of terms and conditions regarding this assistance;

(c) the details of works started with this amount, State-wise, and

(d) the time by which above said works are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The World Bank provided assistance to the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS-III) and the Nutrition component of Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring Project (APERP) during the last three years. The year-wise disbursement in respect of these two projects is as follows:

Year	Assistance in SDRs, Millions
ICDS-III Project (1999-2006)	
1 2004-05	39.24
2 2005-06	60.04
3 2006-07 (upto 31.3.2006)	18.61
Nutrition component of APERP (2002-05)	
1 2004-05	9.79
(total figure for both years)	
2 2005-06	

(b) The ICDS-III was funded from IDA whereas APERP was a blend of IDA and IBRD. IDA credits are available at no interest, 0.50% commitment charge and 0.75% service charge whereas IBRD loans are available at an interest rate of 6 months' LIBOR plus a variable spread and 0.25% commitment charge.

(c) and (d) The works of the projects included civil works, supply of weighing scales, outdoor play materials, PSE and medicine Kits etc, training of ICDS functionaries, innovative schemes, study tours, monitoring and evaluation activities etc. Both the projects closed on 31.3.2006.

[English]

Tax Demands

3336. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Income Tax Department has raised demand for additional tax from Corporate and individuals, during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of tax collected from them as a result thereof till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The current demand raised from 1st April upto 30th September 2007 is Rs. 30622 crores. Out of the current demand, Rs. 19792 crores has been realized/collected by way of pre-paid taxes and cash collection.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Papers to be laid. Shri B.K. Handique.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, on behalf of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7843/07]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): Sir, 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:-
 - (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, Faridabad, for the year 2006-2007.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, Faridabad, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7844/07]
- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the NTPC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the NTPC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with

Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7845/07]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 2006-2007.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7846/07]
- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited, Tehri, for the year 2006-2007.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited, Tehri, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7847/07]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Power Research Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Power Research Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7848/07]

- (3) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, under Section 101 of the Electricity Act, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7849/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, on behalf of Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and

English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7850/07]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the 9th Progress Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Action Taken pursuant to the Recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Stock Market Scam and matters relating thereto – December, 2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7851/07]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O.1550(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th September 2007 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O.1484(E) dated the 30th August, 2007, issued under Income Tax Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7852/07]

- (3) A copy of the Mid Year Review (Hindi and English versions) for the year 2007-2008 under subsection (1) of Section 7 of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7853/07]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coir Board; Kochi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7854/07]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust

for Micro and Small Enterprises, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7855/07]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. Mumbai for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7856/07]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 28 of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956:-

(i) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (Amendment) Rules, 2007, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 191 in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 2007.

(ii) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission Regulations, 2007, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 688(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7857/07]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1594(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2007, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 306(E) dated the 1st March 2007, issued under Section 10 of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7858/07]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 40 of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Khadi and Village Industries Board Regulation, 1988:-

(i) The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Khadi and Village Industries Board Rules, 2001, published in Notification No. 219/2001/F.No. 50-469/2001-Dev. I in Andaman and Nicobar Gazette dated the 5th December, 2001.

(ii) The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Khadi and Village Industries Board Bye-Laws, published in Notification No. 217/2001/

F.No. ANIKVIB/5-4/2001 in Andaman and Nicobar Gazette dated the 5th December, 2001.

- (iii) The Andaman and Nicobar Khadi and Village Industries Board Amendment) Rules, 2003, published in Notification No. 166/2003/ F.No. 50-560/2000-Dev. I in Andaman and Nicobar Gazette dated the 11th September, 2001.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay-in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7859/07]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Scheduled Tribes Finance Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Scheduled Tribes Finance Development Corporation, New Delhi for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7860/07]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bombay Dock Labour Board, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Bombay Dock Labour Board, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7861/07]

- (2) 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 Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7862/07]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Seamen's Provident Fund Organisation (Navik Bhavishya Nidhi), Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Seamen's Provident Fund Organisation (Navik Bhavishya Nidhi), Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7863/07]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the Third Annual Statement (Hindi and English versions) on Pending Law Commission Reports - December 2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7864/07]

- (2) A copy of the 202nd Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Law Commission on Proposal to Amend Section 304-B of Indian Penal Code - October 2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7865/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): Sir on behalf of Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 for the year 2006-2007 under section 11 of the of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7866/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, on behalf of Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institution of Biologicals, Noida, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institution of Biologicals, Noida, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7867/07]

- (2) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the 39 Institutions, mentioned therein, for the years 2006-2007 and of the two Institutions for the years 2003-2004, 2004-2005, 2005-2006 and 2006-2007, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the respective accounting years.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7868/07]

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL):
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) (i) Copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Raman Research Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Raman Research Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7869/07]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Academy of Sciences India, Allahabad, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Academy of Sciences India, Allahabad, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7870/07]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7871/07]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7872/07]

- (5) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Central Electronics Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Central Electronics Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7873/07]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Research Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Research Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7874/07]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Consultancy Development Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Consultancy Development Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7875/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, on behalf of Shri Prem Chand Gupta, I beg

to lay on the Table a copy of the Malabar Steel Re-rolling Mill Limited and Steel Complex Limited (Amalgamation) Amendment Order, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O.326(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th March, 2007, under sub-section (5) of Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7876/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR):
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Renewable Energy, Kapurthala, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (2) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Renewable Energy, Kapurthala, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7877/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Government Employees Welfare Housing Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Government Employees Welfare Housing Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7878/07]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Housing Federation of India, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Housing Federation of India, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7879/07]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council, New

Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7880/07]

- (4) 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 Hindustan Prefab Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Prefab Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7881/07]

- (5) A copy of the National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy-2007 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7882/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (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:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7883/07]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology, Chennai, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English

versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology, Chennai, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7884/07]

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, for the year 2006-2007, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7885/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Panabaka Lakshmi, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under subsection (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the HSCC (India) Limited, Noida, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the HSCC (India) Limited, Noida, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7886/07]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, Almora, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, Almora, for the year 2005-2006, along with 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 item No. (b) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7887/07]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7888/07]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Shimla, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Shimla, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7889/07]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7890/07]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All Dental Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the All Dental Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Dental Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7891/07]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Nursing Council, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Nursing Council, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Nursing Council, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7892/07]

- (8) A copy of the Food Safety and Standard (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1757(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th October, 2007, under Section 101 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7893/07]

- (9) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7894/07]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences and Kasturba Hospital, Sevagram, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences and Kasturba Hospital, Sevagram, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7895/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): Sir, on behalf of Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7896/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under subsection (2) of Section 20 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993:-
- (i) Annual Report of the National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

- (ii) Memorandum of Action Taken on the Annual Report of the National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7897/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): Sir, on behalf of Shri Taslimuddin, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Dairy Development Board, Anand, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Dairy Development Board, Anand, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7898/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the 37th Valuation Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India as on 31st March, 2007, under Section 29 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7899/07]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7900/07]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, under sub-section (3) of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working

of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7901/07]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7902/07]

- (5) A copy each of the following Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (8) of section 10 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980:-

- (i) Report on the working and activities of the Vijaya Bank for the year 2006-2007, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7903/07]

- (ii) Report on the working and activities of the Oriental Bank of Commerce for the year 2006-2007, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7904/07]

- (iii) Report on the working and activities of the UCO Bank for the year 2006-2007, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7905/07]

- (iv) Report on the working and activities of the Indian Bank for the year 2006-2007, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7906/07]

- (v) Report on the working and activities of the Punjab and Sind Bank for the year 2006-2007, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7907/07]

- (vi) Report on the working and activities of the Punjab National Bank for the year 2006-2007, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7908/07]

- (vii) Report on the working and activities of the Bank of India for the year 2006-2007, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7909/07]

- (viii) Report on the working and activities of the Union Bank of India for the year 2006-2007, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7910/07]

- (ix) Report on the working and activities of the Bank of Maharashtra for the year 2006-2007, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7911/07]

- (x) Report on the working and activities of the Allahabad Bank for the year 2006-2007, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7912/07]

- (xi) Report on the working and activities of the Syndicate Bank for the year 2006-2007, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7913/07]

- (6) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the State Bank of Saurashtra for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and Auditors' Report thereon under sub-section (3) of section 43 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7914/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): Sir, 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:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Cotton Corporation of India Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Cotton Corporation of India Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7915/07]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7916/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Sir, on behalf of Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 13 of 2007) – Accounts of the Union Government for the year ended the March 2007, under Article 151 (1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7917/07]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

- (i) The Union Government – Finance Accounts for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7918/07]

- (ii) The Union Government – Appropriation Accounts (Civil) for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7919/07]

- (iii) The Union Government - Appropriation Accounts (Postal Service) for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7920/07]

- (iv) The Union Government – Appropriation Accounts of Defence Services for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7921/07]

- (3) A copy of the Government Securities Regulations, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 228 in Gazette of India dated the 1st December 2007 under sub-section (3) of Section 32 of the Government Securities Act, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7922/07]

- (4) A copy of the Notification No. S.O.2020(E) (Hindi

and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 2006, appointing the 1st day of December 2007 as the date on which all the provisions of the Government Securities Act, 2006, shall come into force issued under subsection (1) of Section 4 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7923/07]

- (5) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) on Quarterly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the budget at the end of the first quarter of financial year 2007-2008, under sub-section (1) of section 7 of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7924/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Cement and Building Materials, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Cement and Building Materials, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7925/07]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Quality Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Quality Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7926/07]

- (3) A copy of the Newsprint Control (Amendment) Order, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O.1967(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st November 2007, issued under Section 18G of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7927/07]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur, for the year 2006-2007 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7928/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): On behalf of Shri Jairam Ramesh, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Inspection Council and Export Inspection Agencies, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Inspection Council and Export Inspection Agencies, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export Inspection Council and Export Inspection Agencies, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7929/07]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, Kochi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, Kochi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7930/07]

- (3) 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 State Trading Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the State Trading Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the

year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7931/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7932/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): On behalf of, Shrimati D. Purandeswari, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7933/07]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Rural Institute, Hyderabad, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council of Rural Institute, Hyderabad, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7934/07]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nagaland University, Kohima, for the year 2005-2006.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nagaland University, Kohima, for the year 2005-2006.
- (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. 7935/07]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology, Silchar, for the year 2006-2007.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology, Silchar, for the year 2006-2007.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7936/07]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology, Agartala, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology, Agartala, for the year 2006-2007.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7937/07]
- (7) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for the year 2005-2006, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7938/07]
- (9) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Banaras Hindu University, for the year 2006-2007, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7939/07]
- (10) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Mizoram University, for the year 2006-2007, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7940/07]
- (11) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Manipur University, for the year 2006-2007, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7941/07]
- (12) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the University of Allahabad, for the year 2006-2007, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7942/07]
- (13) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, for the year 2006-2007, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7943/07]
- (14) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Aligarh Muslim University, for the year 2006-2007, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7944/07]
- (15) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, for the year 2006-2007, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7945/07]
- (16) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Assam University, for the year 2006-2007, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7946/07]
- (17) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, for the year 2006-2007, within the stipulated

period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7947/07]

- (18) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the University of Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7948/07]

- (19) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Visva Bharati, for the year 2006-2007, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7949/07]

- (20) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Nagaland University, for the year 2006-2007, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7950/07]

- (21) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Jamia Millia Islamia University, for the year 2006-2007, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7951/07]

- (22) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Tezpur University, for the year 2006-2007, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7952/07]

- (23) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the North Eastern Hill University, for the year 2006-2007, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7953/07]

- (24) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English

versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the University of Hyderabad, for the year 2006-2007, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7954/07]

- (25) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the University Grants Commission, for the year 2006-2007, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7955/07]

- (26) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Indira Gandhi National Open University, for the year 2006-2007, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7956/07]

12.08 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 6th December, 2007, agreed without any amendment to the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Bill, 2007 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 5th December, 2007."

12.08 ¼ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Minutes

[English]

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Thirty-first to Thirty-third sittings of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions held during the current session.

12.08 ½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COAL AND STEEL

28th to 30th Reports

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (2007-2008):

- (1) Twenty-eighth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Twenty-third Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Coal;
- (2) Twenty-ninth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Twenty-fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Mines; and
- (3) Thirtieth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Twenty-fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Steel.

12.08 ¾ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

25th and 26th Reports

[English]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Action Taken Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare:-

- (1) Twenty-fifth Report of the Committee on Action Taken by the Department of Health & Family Welfare on the Recommendations/observations contained in its Twenty-second Report on Demands-for-Grants (2007-2008) of the Department of Health;
- (2) Twenty-sixth Report of the Committee on Action Taken by the Department of AYUSH on the Recommendations/observations contained in its Twenty-third Report on Demands-for-Grants (2007-2008) of the Department of AYUSH.

12.09 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in 18th, 20th, 21st and 22nd

Reports of Standing Committee on Energy, pertaining to the Ministry of Power*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): I am laying this statement on the present status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Eighteenth, Twentieth, Twenty First and Twenty Second reports of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy in pursuance of direction 73 A of Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, dated 1st September 2004.

The 18th Report is related to Demand for Grants for the year 2006-07. It has eight recommendations, all of which have been accepted by the Government. The 20th Report is related to 'Demand for Grants of Ministry of Power, 2007-08. It has 20 recommendations, all of which have been accepted by the Government. As regards 21st Report which is based on the Damodar Valley Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2007, I am to state that the report has been received in the Ministry on 7th September, 2007 and all the recommendations made in the 21st Report are under consideration.

As regards 22nd Report which is based on the 'Ultra Mega Power Projects', I am to state that the report has been received in the Ministry on 15th October, 2007 and all the recommendations made in the 22nd Report are under consideration.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee in the said report is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement, which is laid on the Table of the House, I would not like to take the valuable time of the House by reading out all the contents of this Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.09 ¼ hrs.

- (ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in 8th and 16th Reports of Standing Committee on Urban Development on 'Delhi Development Authority', pertaining to the Ministry of Urban Development*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): On behalf of Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, I am laying this statement in pursuance of the direction 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha which reads as under:-

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7957/07

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7958/07

"The Minister concerned shall make once in six months a statement in the House regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of Departmentally Related Standing Committee of Lok Sabha with regard to his Ministry."

I would like to inform for the benefit of the Hon'ble Members of the House that the Eighth Report of the Standing Committee of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha on Urban Development was presented to Lok Sabha on 2.8.2005 and its related Sixteenth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 2.8.2006. The Reports together contain 56 recommendations. Latest status of Action Taken by the Government has been indicated against each recommendation in the enclosed statement. Action Taken Notes on these recommendations as prevailing in November, 2005 were sent by the Ministry of Urban Development to the Standing Committee on Urban Development on 17th November, 2005.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the Hon'ble Members that further follow up action wherever necessary will be taken.

The Annexure to this statement is placed on the Table of the House.

12.09 ½ hrs.

(iii) Reconciliation of Revenue and Fiscal Deficit as in Finance Accounts 2006-2007 and Accounts-At-A-Glance/Budget-At-A-Glance*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I am laying a statement regarding the reconciliation of revenue and Fiscal Deficit as in Finance Accounts 2006-2007 and Accounts-at-a-Glance/Budget-at-a-Glance.

In the Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India on Union Government Finance Accounts 2006-2007, the Comptroller & Auditor General of India has made the following observations-

"The revenue deficit in 2006-07 was Rs. 1,32,847 crore while the fiscal deficit amounted to Rs. 1,82,934 crore. The Revenue deficit constituted 3.22 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) while the Fiscal deficit was 4.43 percent of GDP. The actual levels of revenue and fiscal deficits as per Union Finance Accounts for 2006-07 were significantly higher than their budget estimates respectively by 1.12 and 0.63 percentage points."

2. I would like to clarify that there has been no shortfall vis-a-vis the Fiscal and Revenue deficit targets projected in the Budget estimates for the year 2006-07. The

fiscal deficit and Revenue deficit as a proportion of GDP indicated in the Budget Estimates at 3.8 and 2.1 percentage points, respectively, have not only been fully achieved but also improved upon. The Fiscal deficit for 2006-07 was 3.5% and Revenue deficit was 1.9% of GDP as indicated in the Accounts at a Glance for 2006-07.

3. Figures for Revenue and Fiscal deficits as indicated/deprived from the Union Finance Accounts are different from those derived in Accounts at a Glance/Budget at a Glance and some of the papers accompanying Budget Documents due to inclusion/exclusion of some of the transactions on Revenue and Expenditure sides. While these are indicated in the Budget documents, the table below highlights the reasons for the difference in Revenue and Fiscal Deficits figures as indicated/derived in Finance Accounts and as depicted in Budget at a Glance/Accounts at a Glance along with necessary reconciliation transactions.

			(Rs. Crore)
			2006-2007
Deficit as per Finance Accounts			
Revenue Deficit			132847
Fiscal Deficit			182934
Deficit as per Accounts at a Glance*			
Revenue Deficit			80221
Fiscal Deficit			142573
Difference in the two figures			
Revenue Deficit			52626
Fiscal Deficit			40361
Factors explaining the Differences	Revenue Deficit	Fiscal Deficit	
(i) Bonds issued to Oil companies	24122	24122	
(ii) Securities issued to Food Corporation of India	16200	16200	
(iii) Write off of loans to State Governments	12304	...	
(iv) Securities issued to IMF		39	
Total			
			52626
			40361

* Prepared on the lines of 'Budget-at-a-glance'.

4. The reconciliation of the deficit figures with the Accounts at a Glance submitted by the Controller General of Accounts and figures obtaining in the Finance Accounts as

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7959/07

derived by C&AG above, indicates the reasons for the difference between the Revenue and Fiscal Deficit figures therein. The main reason for the difference of Rs. 52,626 crore in Revenue deficit and Rs. 40,361 crore in the Fiscal deficit is on account of the fact that the receipts, which have been shown against issue of securities/bonds/write off of loans in the Government account being in the nature of 'non-cash' transactions, have been "netted" against the matching amounts and hence excluded from the calculations deriving Revenue and Fiscal Deficits in Accounts-at-a-Glance/Budget-at-a-Glance.

5. It may, however, be clarified that while these transactions are included in the Annual Financial Statement and Demands for Grants presented to Parliament, the Reconciliation Statements explaining the difference between Annual Financial Statement/Demands for Grants and the Expenditure/Receipt Budget/Budget at a Glance are given as part of the Expenditure/Receipt Budget for the year. The procedure of depicting net expenditure in the Budget at a Glance (Gross expenditure as reported in AFS minus non-cash outgo items) has been followed over the years for budgeting and accounting of Government transactions.

12.09 ¼ hrs.

- (iv) **Status of Implementation of the recommendations contained in 28th Report of Standing Committee on Rural Development on Demands for Grants (2007-08) pertaining to Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development***

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): On behalf of Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, I am laying this Statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 28th Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (Department of Drinking Water Supply) (2005-06) in pursuance of the Direction 73 A of the Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha, issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II dated the 1st September 2004.

The Standing Committee on Rural Development (Department of Drinking Water Supply) (14th Lok Sabha) examined the Demands for Grants of the Department of Drinking Water Supply for the financial year 2007-08 and presented its 28th Report to the Lok Sabha on 14th May, 2007. The Report contained 39 recommendations.

Action Taken Statements on the comments/observations of the Committee contained in the 28th Report has been sent to the Standing Committee on Rural Development of Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Drinking Water Supply on 26th October, 2007.

The 39 recommendations of the Committee mainly concern status of implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee in their earlier Reports under direction 73 A of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha; Issue of unspent balances with states, inter component allocation, and physical achievements under ARWSP; Slippages of habitations from fully covered status; Financial and Physical performance and community contribution under Swajaldhara; issues of sustainability, water management and conservation; issue of reliance on ground water for drinking water schemes; quality of drinking water in rural areas; drinking water scenario in rural schools; Financial and Physical Performance under Total Sanitation Campaign; Action Plan and strategies devised for the attainment of Millennium Development Goal; and accelerating the pace of Total Sanitation Campaign with greater coordination with other departments and State Governments.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. To avoid wasting the valuable time of the House, I would request that the contents of the Annexure may be considered as read.

12.10 hrs.

- (v) **Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): Sir, it gives me great pleasure to inform the House that "The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006" will be notified for operation by 1st January, 2008. The Rules will be notified immediately thereafter.

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Sir, I demand that the rules should. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bwiswmuthiary, what is this happening?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sansuma Khungur Bwiswmuthiaryji, hon'ble Minister is not saying anything about you. He is informing that it will be done by 1st of January.

...*(Interruptions)*

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7960/07

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7961/07

12.11 hrs.

**AUTHORITY FOR ADVANCE RULINGS ON
CENTRAL TAXES BILL, 2007***

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of an Authority for Advance Rulings on Central Taxes as a substitute of the Authority for Advance Rulings constituted under section 245-O of the Income-tax Act, 1961 and the Authority for Advance Rulings (Central Excise, Customs and Service Tax) constituted under section 28F of the Customs Act, 1962, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know why Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan has given a notice. He is absent.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of an Authority for Advance Rulings on Central Taxes as a substitute of the Authority for Advance Rulings constituted under section 245-O of the Income-tax Act, 1961 and the Authority for Advance Rulings (Central Excise, Customs and Service Tax) constituted under section 28F of the customs Act, 1962, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajan), Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had given notice of Adjournment. We raised this issue as soon as the House started its proceeding. You had said that you would give me time to speak during the Zero Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you can speak now.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Government to the fact that Delimitation Commission is constituted under the constitutional provisions and delimitation of constituencies are also carried out as per the constitutional provisions. The Parliament specifies the functions of the Delimitation Commission. From this House itself, the Delimitation Commission had been authorized to strike a balance in consonance with the density of population. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singhji, you are a very senior and honourable Member and you know that the House can do nothing in this regard.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part - II, Section-2, dated 7.12.2007

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not saying anything in respect of the matter which is subjudice with the Supreme Court. I am saying that the power which the Parliament had given to the Delimitation Commission...*

MR. SPEAKER: No, no, this word will not go on record.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in respect of constituencies the Commission had been asked to strike a balance in consonance with the density of population, instead it has carved out new constituency. Not only this, you can have a look at the Sachar Committee Report in that it has been clearly written. ... (Interruptions)

The Constituency having Muslims in majority has been reserved, that is where the minority community is in majority, there they have been given the right to elect. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to appeal to all the hon'ble Members that such a kind of issue cannot be raised here.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House has the right to. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The issue is over. Your matter has been taken up for discussion. What is happening? It will not do.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, it is a blot on our democracy. It is a stigma on our democracy that the ...*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) ...*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, it is a stigma on our democracy. It is a blot on our democracy. It is a shame for the humanity that the ...* has been legitimizing. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice is on a different matter.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, he has been legitimizing the scavenger as a spiritual enlightenment...* asked. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not mention hon. Chief Minister's name.

... (Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, he has stooped down to fascism*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would delete that. Hon. Chief Minister's name will not go on record.

(Interruptions)...

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

MR. SPEAKER: You please bring it to me. That is over now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will delete everything. I have already deleted it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Can't Me do without it in pursuance of our vocation. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Please do not do it.

(Interruptions)...

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please have some patience.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: O.K. You know that their report is final in this regard. What can we do? You are a little agitated and thus have raised this issue. We cannot check its repercussion. Please sit down now.

[English]

Shri Chowdhury, you have given me one notice and you have raised so many things.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: We respect the Civil Judiciary.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are a bit agitated. I can understand that. All right.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lonappan Nambadan.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: (Interruptions)...

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, I cannot allow it. Nothing will go on record with regard to delimitation.

(Interruptions)...

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing?

[Translation]

Why are you fanning acrimony last day,

[English]

Go to your seats.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I cannot respond in any manner a matter, which is a constitutional body. ... (Interruptions) I cannot question their competence. However, I would bring to the notice of the Hon. Home Minister the feelings of the House. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not cooperate, I shall adjourn the House till 2.00 p.m. Please Cooperate.

[Translation]

I do not have only right, nobody has.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 2.00 p.m.

12.18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 listed in today's List of Business may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

- (1) **Need to release Central assistance for providing relief and rehabilitation to the flood-affected people in Karnataka**

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): The State Government of Karnataka had submitted two memoranda on the heavy rain/flood damages experienced in the State and had demanded compensation and assistance from the Centre to the tune of Rs. 1,91,727.30 lakhs. In addition, 1.17

* Not recorded.

* Treated as laid on the Table

3 lakh MTs of food grains are required for employment generation.

A detailed statement showing amount required for relief, rescue and emergent works due to heavy rains/floods during August 2007 were attached to these memoranda, which includes, among other things, Rs. 3037.23 lakhs for Gratuitous Relief; Rs. 54,678.27 lakhs for Assistance to small and marginal farmers; Rs. 10,000 lakhs for Employment Generation; Rs. 112.50 lakhs for Assistance to Fishermen; Rs. 634.80 lakhs for Assistance to artisans in handicrafts sector by way of subsidy for repair/replacement of damaged equipments; Rs. 56.16 lakhs for emergency supply of drinking water in rural areas and urban areas; Rs. 150 lakhs for provision of medicines, disinfectants, insecticides for prevention of outbreak of epidemics and Rs. 100 lakhs for Draining off flood water in affected areas.

As the situation in Karnataka is serious and large number of people are affected, I urge upon the Centre to seriously consider both the memoranda and release necessary financial assistance and the foodgrains at the earliest.

(ii) Import of Wheat

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KIREN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): Sir, through the House, I would like to draw your attention towards an article published in the 'Outlook' magazine dated 22nd October, 2007 under the caption 'Wheat to be imported likely to be costly and of poor quality'. Out of 265 samples of wheat sent for the laboratory test by the Government of Maharashtra, report of 229 samples indicate that the wheat is not fit for human consumption. Still this wheat is being distributed in some parts of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka. Some hon'ble Members from Maharashtra have urged the National Human Rights Commission to stop the distribution of red wheat under the Government's PDS Scheme, immediately.

Sir, the contract of importing wheat at high prices has been awarded to some select multinational companies, in order to benefit them whereas a single public undertaking, P.E.C. Limited was ready to supply it at a lower price. However, multinational companies like Glencor, Toefer, Starcom and Kargil were awarded the import contract at the rate of approximately 390 i.e. Rs. 15 thousand 578 per tonne. Sir, through the House, I would like to draw your attention towards it.

(iii) Need to reconstruct the 'Mahesara Setu' on N.H.-29 (E) between Gorakhpur and Sonauli in Uttar Pradesh.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Sir, Gorakhpur-Sonauli route is an important route linking India with Nepal.

This route used to be a part of the Buddhist circle and was a State highway. In view of its international importance, Government of India decided to develop it as National Highway No. 29(E) in the year 2003. At 86 km length of this Highway is the Mahesara Setu connecting Gorakhpur which was constructed in 1964. This bridge was damaged on 2nd October 2006 due to which traffic on this route particularly to Nepal was totally disrupted. Although the National Highway Authority of India completed its repair work, yet on 29th April 2007 this bridge got damaged once again due to which traffic on this route was completely disrupted for approximately 3 months. This bridge was reopened after repairs towards the end of July but it got damaged third time on 14 August, 2007, as a result of which traffic has completely been thrown out of gear. The Mahesara Setu has outlived its life. The experts associated with the construction of the bridge and the officials of the National Highway Authority of India have concluded that a new bridge in place of 'Mahesara Setu' is the only option. In view of the importance of this Highway and in the interest of the public at large, there is a need to construct a new bridge in place of the worn out Mahesara Setu.

It is, therefore, requested that the construction of a new bridge near Mahesara at 86 k.m. length on Gorakhpur-Sonauli highway and the upgradation of this Highway should be sanctioned on priority basis.

(iv) Need to expedite the four-laning of N.H.-3 passing through Murena Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Murena): Sir, national highway no. 3 is known by the name of Agri-Mumbai highway. Four laning of the said national highway has been completed and it passes through my constituency. The bridge across Chambal river on the said route and the roads on its either side have been left out. I request that the work of the said road and the bridge on Chambal river should be started immediately so that the citizens could avail the facility.

(v) Need to reopen Indian Oil Corporation depot in Forbesganj, district Araria, Bihar.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Sir, an I.O.C. depot at Forbesganj in my parliamentary constituency Araria has been closed down for the last 3-4 years. Initially the reason was attributed to the metregauge line passing by it. Now, it has been converted into a broadgauge line. The farmers and other citizens across this area are facing a lot of difficulties owing to the closure of this depot. Due to this heavy prices of petrol, diesel and kerosene are being charged from them as compared to other parts of the State. These materials are not even being supplied in time. The people working in this depot are facing crisis for their livelihood.

Therefore, through this House, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas

and request him to reopen the I.O.C. oil depot in Forbesganj, Araria at the earliest.

(vi) Need to release funds for 'Jal Grahan Yojana' in Udaipur district, Rajasthan

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA (Salumber): Sir, it is on account of non-allocation of funds for the Jal Grahan Yojana, especially in the Udaipur district of Rajasthan for the last two years that the wages have not been paid to the poor tribal, backward class labourers thus driving them on the verge of starvation. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Rural Development to this matter of public importance and request him to allocate funds for the said scheme.

(vii) Need to include Khadi and Village Industries Commission and Indian Coffee Board in the terms of reference of Sixth Central Pay Commission

[English]

SHRI SUDHANGSHU SEAL (Calcutta-North West): I stand to draw the attention of the Government to the terms of the Sixth Pay Commission. It is a matter of regret that the Government has not included the names of Khadi and Village Industries Commission and Indian Coffee Board in the terms of Sixth Central Pay Commission and thus depriving the workers and employees of these two organizations from legitimate financial benefits. It will not be out of place to mention that employees of both these organizations had got the benefit of Fifth Pay Commission. The Government has decided to keep them outside the scope of Sixth Pay Commission. Over and above, when both the organization have been formed by Act of Parliament, there can not be any logic for keeping Khadi and Village Industries Commission and Indian Coffee Board out of the terms of Sixth Central Pay Commission. I demand immediate inclusion of Khadi and Village Industries Commission and Indian Coffee Board in the terms of Sixth Central Pay Commission.

(viii) Need to construct a new railway line between Kollengode to Thrissur in Southern Railway

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): A survey was conducted to construct a new railway line from Kollengode to Thrissur in Southern Railways. The survey report has been submitted before the railway authorities. The distance between Kollengode to Thrissur is round about 50 KMs. only. If this railway line is constructed, the important pilgrim centres of South India like Guruvayoor, Pazhani, Madurai will be well connected and it will be very much viable and helpful for the freight movement from Pollachi. If completed, this route will be the corridor for the container transportation from Vallarpadam Container Transshipment Terminal at Cochin which is expected in 2009.

So, I urge upon the Government to start the construction of new railway line between Kollengode to Thrissur at the earliest.

(ix) Need to absorb the employees of District Rural Development Agency, Uttar Pradesh in Panchayati Raj Department of the State.

[Translation]

SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV (Jaunpur): Sir, the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) was constituted on 15th August, 1980 to expedite the process of rural development. The developmental work in rural areas is being undertaken by the centre and the State Government through this department for the last 27 years. Under this, 75 percent of the funds for the schemes are provided by the Central Government and the rest 25 percent of it is borne by the respective State Governments. But now the Central Government decided to bring all the schemes being run presently by the said agency under the Panchayati Raj department, however, the Government have not taken any decision for deputing nearly 2000 employees working with the District Rural Development Agency in Uttar Pradesh. It is on account of this uncertainty that the family members of all the employees are disturbed.

So, through the House, I urge the Union Government to take immediate steps to absorb all the 2000 employees of the District Rural Development Agency, Uttar Pradesh in the Panchayati Raj Department.

(x) Need to undertake the restoration work of 'Surya Mandir', a historical monument in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Sir, there are nearly 1100 year old several structures of historical importance in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh out of which some of them have been identified and taken over on paper by the Department of Archaeology. Presently, many structures are yet to be identified. Gradually all the structures are crumbling down. For example, the Chandel rulers of Mahoba had got an excellent Sun temple built using beautiful granite stones at Rahelia village on the lines of the Sun temple of Konark. This Sun temple of Rahelia has been famous as the single sun temple of North India for more than one thousand years. Earlier, it was very difficult to detect any joints in the entire temple which is nearly one hundred metre high. The grooved stones were arranged in such a way that the entire temple was constructed without using any mortar. Large number of tourists from the country and abroad used to visit this temple. Presently, one third of this temple has been severely damaged. The remaining part of this temple is still reminding of its past glory and grandeur. Hundreds of engraved stones from its pinnacles and turrets are lying scattered in and around this temple. There is resentment among the local people on account of this.

So, through the House, I urge the Union Government that necessary steps be taken to undertake the restoration work of this single Surya Mandir of North India at the earliest.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The discussion on internal security will continue in the next Session.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep patience for a second.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: My Hindi is good.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, what about the discussion on price rise?

MR. SPEAKER: The discussion on price rise will also be taken up in the next Session.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, in the last Session also, we could not take the discussion on price rise. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain): Sir, I have given notice for the Zero Hour. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what happened to the discussions on internal security? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The discussion on internal security as well as the discussion on price rise will be taken up in the next Session.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: When I say from the Chair, it means so.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If I have made you young today, it does not mean that you are young!

14.02 hrs.

VALEDICTORY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Twelfth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha which commenced on 15 November, 2007 is coming to an end now.

During this session we had seventeen sittings spread over 90 hours wherein important financial, legislative and other business were transacted.

As regards the financial business, the House spent nearly 4 hours on the combined discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) 2007-2008 and Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 2005-2006, and 5 hours 22 minutes on discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2007-2008 before passing the related Appropriation Bills.

The House discussed for about 3 hours and 45 minutes, the Statutory Resolution regarding approval of proclamation issued by the President under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to State of Karnataka before it was adopted.

As regards Legislative Business, the House passed 14 Bills. Important Bills passed during the Session included, The All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2007; The Tyre Corporation of India Limited (Disinvestment of Ownership) Bill, 2007; The Payment and Settlement Systems Bill, 2007, Sashastra Seema Bal Bill, 2007, The Indra Gandhi National Tribal University Bill, 2007 and The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Bill, 2007. The House also had a meaningful discussion for about 2 hours 50 minutes on the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Bill, 2007 together with the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan disapproving the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Ordinance, 2007. The Statutory Resolution was thereafter withdrawn and the Bill was passed. Another combined discussion took place on the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2007 together with the Statutory Resolution moved by Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat seeking disapproval of the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007. The Statutory Resolution was thereafter withdrawn and the Bill was passed.

During the period, four short duration discussions were taken up on important subjects namely (i) the proposal to set up Special Economic Zone in Nandigram, West Bengal; (ii) Indo-US Nuclear Agreement; (iii) need for harmonious functioning of three organs of the State i.e. Legislature, Judiciary and Executive and (iv) on internal security which remained inconclusive.

Coming to Private Members' Business, the House resumed discussion on a Private Member's Resolution regarding "free and compulsory education up to higher secondary level", moved by Shri Ram Kripal Yadav on 31st August, 2007. The Resolution was further discussed for over 2 hours and 17 minutes. However, the discussion was not concluded.

During this session, 13 Private Member's Bills were introduced. The House had discussion on three Private Member's Bills (i) The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2004 moved by Shri Mohan Singh on 24.8.2007; and The Inter-State River Water Regulatory Authority Bill, 2005 also moved by Shri Mohan Singh. These Bills were discussed before they were withdrawn. Another Bill, the Electoral Reforms Commission Bill, 2006, moved by Shri C.K. Chandrappan was discussed for about 20 minutes and the debate remained inconclusive.

During the current session, seven important matters were raised by way of Calling Attention relating to (i) situation arising out of high cost of health services and need to evolve laws to regulate the private nursing homes, raised by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta; (ii) situation arising due to supply of inferior quality wheat to BPL families under the Public Distribution System raised by Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra; (iii) Need for effective implementation of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 raised by Shri Basudeb Acharia; (iv) Need to control the spread of Encephalitis in the country raised by Shri Yogi Aditya Nath; (v) situation arising out of reported fall of water level in the country resulting in scarcity of water in rural areas raised by Shri Hansraj G. Ahir; (vi) situation arising out of violence by All Adivasi Students Association of Assam (AASAA) on 24.11.2007 at Guwahati raised by Shri Ajoy Chakraborty and (vii) situation arising out of shortage of fertilizers in various parts of the country raised by Dr.Chinta Mohan. In response to these Calling Attention matters, the concerned Ministers made the statements and replied to the clarifications.

As many as 64 statements were made by the Ministers on various other important subjects.

During the session, 340 starred questions were listed, out of which 70 Questions could be answered orally. Thus, on an average, about 4.11 Questions could be answered per day. Written replies to 3334 Unstarred questions were laid on the Table. One Half-an-Hour Discussion on non-issuance of Visas and Passports to Indians Living Abroad was also discussed.

In this Session, the Departmentally Related Standing Committees presented 42 reports.

About 193 matters of urgent public importance were raised by the members after the Question Hour and the day's proceeding. Hon. Members also raised 186 matters under rule 377.

In this session, we lost over 20 hours of time due to interruptions and forced adjournments, but the House sat late for over 17 hours to complete financial legislative and other business and for raising matters of urgent public importance. I sincerely thank the Leaders and Members for their cooperation in the smooth conduct of the proceedings in the House, which made it possible for the House to dispose of many issues in a constructive manner.

I would also like to thank the Hon. Deputy Speaker and my colleagues in the Panel of Chairmen for their cooperation in conducting the business before the House. I take this opportunity to thank the Hon. Prime Minister, the Leader of the House, the Leader of Opposition, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Leaders of various parties and groups as well as the Chief Whips apart from the Hon. Members for their cooperation. I would like to thank, on behalf of all of you, our friends in the Media. I take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General and the officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat for their dedicated and prompt service to the House. I also thank the allied agencies for their able assistance in the conduct of the proceedings of the House. Hon. Members, I also wish you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

14.09 hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

[English]

MR.. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members may now stand up as Vande Mataram would be played.

The National Song was played

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned sine die.

14.11 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.

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