

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Thirteenth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA

Monday, May 05, 2008/Vaisakha 15, 1930 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it is with profound sorrow, that I rise today to make a reference to the passing away of the widely revered Gandhian and a sitting Member of Rajya Sabha, Kumari Nirmala Deshpande.

Kumari Nirmala Deshpande, who was affectionately called 'Didi', dedicated more than sixty years of her life working relentlessly for promotion of communal harmony and in self-less service for women, tribals and the under-privileged. Also known 'Manaskanya' of Acharaya Vinobha Bhave, Nirmalaji joined the Bhoodan Land Reform Movement in 1952 and thus began her tryst with social-service.

Kumari Nirmala Deshpande was first nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 1997 and again in 2004. She was a Member of various Parliamentary Committees during her tenure. She was also a Member of the Parliamentary Forum on Children. She was the National President, Harijan Sevak Sangh, Chairperson, Association of Peoples of Asia, Babu Sadbhavana and Shiksha Trust and India-Pakistan Forum of Parliamentarians. She was also Member of the National Integration Council and Central Advisory Board of Education.

Kumari Nirmala Deshpande was the author of various novels, plays, travelogues and commentaries in Hindi and Marathi.

Kumari Nirmala Deshpande had widely traveled in connection with her efforts to promote peace and Gandhian values. Her efforts in bringing peace and tranquility in the Indian sub-continent were widely

appreciated. She was also the recipient of various awards and honours including the nation's second highest civilian award the 'Padma Vibhushan.'

Kumari Nirmala Deshpande was one of those rare personalities who dedicated their whole life in pursuit of self-less social service, and for promoting communal amity. Her simple life, indefatigable zeal, energy and enthusiasm endeared her to all those who came in association with her. Her life which exemplified 'simple living and high thinking' helped in her efforts to reaffirm the everlasting values of Gandhian thought and philosophy.

The passing away of Kumari Nirmala Deshpande, on 1 May, 2008 at New Delhi at the age of 79 years has created a void which would be difficult to fill.

I am sure the House would join me in conveying condolences to the bereaved family.

Members may stand in silence for a short while in the memory of the departed.

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while

...(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Training for Pilots of Indian Air Force

*541. SHRI AJAYA KUMAR:

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give more training to the Pilots in flying the Mig-21 aircraft and also proposes to replace these aircrafts gradually with new modern aircrafts; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Presently the pilots of the Indian

Air Force (IAF) are being trained on the MiG-21 aircraft, in the MiG Operational Flying Training (MOFT) squadrons.

Induction of modern technology aircraft for training in the Indian Air Force is a continuous process by phasing out the old fleet and introducing the new fleet.

Minimum Support Price of Agricultural Produce

*542. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the State Governments have urged the Union Government to link the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of agricultural produce with the consumer price index in the interest of the farming community;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has since examined the views of the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and further steps taken by the Government to ensure that farmers get remunerative prices for their produce?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) In the comments/views furnished by some of the States on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) contained in the Reports on Price Policy for the Kharif and Rabi 2007-08 season, no suggestion was given by them for linking the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of agricultural produce with the consumer price index. However, with a view to ensuring that the farmers get remunerative prices for their produce, the CACP recommends Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of selected crops, inter alia, keeping in view the cost of production, changes in input prices, terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture sectors. Accordingly, the Government decides on the MSPs for various agricultural commodities taking into account the recommendations of CACP, the views of the State Governments and

concerned Central Ministries as well as other relevant factors. Further, Government intervenes through public and cooperative agencies by undertaking procurement operations with the objective that the market prices are not allowed to fall below the MSPs.

Production of Edible Oils

*543. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

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

(a) whether the production of edible oils in the country has been declining over the years and is likely to decline further during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the demand, supply and import of edible oils during the last three years and in the current year, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether the diversion of edible oils to bio-fuel has led to rise in the prices of edible oils;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase production to ensure sufficient availability of edible oils in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir. A statement-I indicating the production of oilseeds and net availability of edible oils for the years 2001-02 to 2007-08 is enclosed.

(b) Does not arise. A Statement-II of demand, supply and import of edible oils is enclosed.

(c) No, Sir. No diversion of edible oils to bio-fuel has been reported in India.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Some of the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase production of oilseeds and availability of edible oils in the country are as under:—

1. Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) in certain States, financial assistance for Oil Palm Development and purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, Integrated Pest Management etc.
2. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is engaged in development of high yielding improved varieties, production and protection technologies in oilseeds for increasing the production and productivity and to make oilseeds cultivation profitable to farmers.
3. Enhanced incentives to the farmers through fixation of higher Minimum Support Price (MSP) of major oilseeds.
4. In order to encourage production of solvent extracted oils in the country and to promote export of extractions, excise duty on food grade hexane has been reduced to 14%.
5. Import of oilseeds/edible oils except copra/ coconut oil has been allowed on Open General Licence (OGL).
6. W.e.f. 01-04-2008, import duty on crude and refined edible vegetable oils has been reduced to zero and 7.5% respectively.
7. State Governments have been allowed to impose stock limits on edible oils and oilseeds.
8. Export of all major edible oils has been banned w.e.f. 17-3-2008.
9. The Government has implemented a Scheme for supply of one million tons of edible oil through State Governments with a subsidy of Rs. 15/- per Kg. of edible oil.

Statement-I*Production of Oilseeds and Net Availability of Edible Oils for the Years 2001-02 to 2007-08*

(in Lakh MTs)

Oil Year (Nov.-Oct.)	Production of Oilseeds* (Nov.-Oct.)	Net availability of edible oils from all domestic sources** (Nov.-Oct.)
2001-2002	206.63	61.46
2002-2003	148.39	46.64
2003-2004	251.86	71.40
2004-2005	243.54	72.47
2005-2006	279.79	83.16
2006-2007	242.89	73.70
2007-2008	282.08 (Estimated)	84.27 (Estimated)

Source: * Ministry of Agriculture

** Directorate of Vanaspathi, Vegetable Oils and Fats

Statement-II**Demand, Supply and Import of Edible Oils during the last Three Years**

(In lakh MTs)

Oil Year (Nov.-Oct.)	Total Estimated Requirement/Demand for edible Oil Consumption*	Net Availability/supply of edible oils from all domestic sources	Import of edible oils (Financial year)
2004-2005	113.00	72.47	45.42
2005-2006	118.50	83.16	42.88
2006-2007	124.10	73.70	42.17
2007-2008 (Estimated)	127.57**	84.27	37.64 [⊗]

Note: 1. Total consumption has been taken into consideration as demand/requirement.

2. Statewise data on demand, supply and import are not maintained.

* According to the projections for oil seeds/edible oils made for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) by the Group constituted under the Chairmanship of Economic and Statistical Adviser in the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, based on behaviouristic approach.

** Based on behaviouristic approach, the projected demand of oil seeds in the country during the 11th Five Year Plan, declared by Ministry of Agriculture and corresponding demand for edible oils worked out by Directorate of Vanaspati, Vegetable Oils and Fats.

⊗ Upto December, 2007.

[Translation]

Broadband Service for Rural Areas

*544. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

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

(a) the funds earmarked for subsidising the infrastructure cost to establish broadband connectivity in rural and remote areas in the Eleventh Plan Period; and

(b) the targets set for expansion of broadband services in the rural areas during this year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) An amount of about Rs. 2100 crores has been earmarked for establishing broadband connectivity in rural and remote areas in the Eleventh Plan period.

(b) The targets set for expansion of broadband services in the rural areas during this year, inter-alia, are:

- (i) Broadband coverage in all District and block Headquarters.
- (ii) Coverage of 80% towns/cities and more than 1 lakh villages.
- (iii) Broadband connectivity in around 25,576 rural exchanges.

[English]

**Weather-based Crop
Insurance Scheme**

*545. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has evaluated the effectiveness of the Pilot Weather-based Crop Insurance Scheme implemented during the Kharif 2007 season;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the modifications proposed in the scheme in the light of the evaluation done?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) It was considered pre-mature to make formal evaluation of Pilot Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) in view of limited experience of its implementation in one crop season. As announced in the Union Budget for 2007-08, Pilot WBCIS was implemented in Kharif 2007 in some selected areas i.e. 70 hoblies, of Karnataka State only.

The Pilot WBCIS is continued in rabi 2007-08 with greater coverage in terms of areas/crops. It was also decided to involve private insurers i.e. ICICI-Lombard and IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance companies which have similar experience in the implementation of WBCIS.

Bullet Proof Vehicles

*546. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bullet proof vehicles procured in 2005 by the Army for use in the anti-terrorist operations in Jammu and Kashmir and in the North-Eastern States have been found to be having lower pulling power;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has fixed any responsibilities in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) The contract for procurement of 200 Light Bullet Proof Vehicles was signed on 29-7-2005 based on the qualitative parameters framed by the Indian Army in 2000. During exploitation of these vehicles in Northern and Eastern Commands, the problem of inadequate pulling power has been reported. The General Staff Qualitative Requirement (GSQR) have been upgraded for future procurement of Bullet Proof Vehicles.

Comptroller and Auditor General of India in Para 2.1 of their Report No. CA 4 of 2008 (Compliance Audit) in respect of Army and Ordnance Factories for the year ending in march 2007, as presented in the Parliament on 14-3-2008, have, inter-alia, pointed out the existence of this problem in the vehicles. While preparing Action Taken Note on this Para of the C and AG Report, which is at present under process, all relevant issues including the necessity for fixing of responsibility will be kept in view.

Hoarding by Private Companies/Traders

*547. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI B. MAHTAB:

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

(a) the limit fixed at present on the stocks of essential commodities held by the private companies/traders;

(b) the current stock of the said commodities held by these companies/traders as on date;

(c) whether these companies/traders have resorted to large scale hoarding of essential commodities leading to a spurt in prices during the last three months;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken in this regard:

(e) whether the Government proposes to amend the present legislation regarding availability of essential commodities and hoarding to further empower the States to check hoarding; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Central Government has not specified any limits on the stocks of essential commodities that can be held by private companies/traders. State Governments have, however, been delegated powers to fix suitable stock limits in respect of wheat, rice, pulses, edible oils and edible oilseeds. So far, under these delegated powers, 8 States have prescribed stocks limits for wheat and/or pulses, 4 States have prescribed licensing requirements while one State has made declaration of stocks mandatory. The details are enclosed as Statement.

Further, to have an assessment of major purchases made by the private trade, Government has issued the "Rice (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order, 2007" and "Wheat (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order, 2008" making it mandatory for any Company/Firm/Individual to declare purchases (along with stocks held) of rice and wheat beyond 10,000 tonnes during Kharif Marketing

Season (KMS) 2007-08 and Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2008-09 respectively. During RMS 2007-08, the "Wheat (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order, 2007" was issued by the Government, making it mandatory for private traders purchasing more than 50,000 tonnes of wheat to declare purchases and stocks to the Government. The total stocks declared by the companies/firms as per the returns filed up to 31-3-2008 with the Central Government are 6,05 lakh tonnes of wheat and 5.25 lakh tonnes of rice.

The details of all the stocks of essential commodities held by private trade in the country (apart from the returns filed as per statutory requirement referred above) are not maintained by the Department.

(c) and (d) All the State Governments have not imposed stock limits and, therefore, the extent of stocks held by private trade across the country can not be assessed. In view of the rising prices of certain essential commodities, State Governments have been continuously advised by the Central Government for taking effective action (including imposition of stock limits) to check any hoarding of these commodities.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. Adequate powers are already available with the State Governments under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 to check hoarding and black marketing of essential commodities.

Statement

Implementation of Action by State Governments/UTs Pursuant to Issue of Central Notification dated 29-8-2007, 27-02-2007, 31-8-2007 and 28-2-2008 under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 with Respect to Wheat and Pulses.

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Limits Fixed		Remarks
		Wheat	Pulses	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	No limits has been fixed in respect of wheat	Revived the stock limits fixed under the A.P.Sch. Comm. Dealers (Licensing and (Distribution) Order, 1982. In "A" Class Cities for whole-salers 2000 qtls. and retailers 50 qtls. In 'B' and 'c' Class Cities for wholesalers 1000 qtls. and retailers 40 qtls.	Stock Limit fixed initially vide Notification G.O.MS NO. 64 dated 23-09-2006 and further extended twice vide Notification G.O.MS NO.10 dated 02-03-2007 and G.O.Ms.No. 33 dated 16-9-2007. It has further been extended for another six months beyond 29-2-2008 vide G.O.Ms. No. 7 dated 1-3-2008.
2.	Assam	Assam Trade Articles/Licensing and Control, 1982 have been revived in respect of wheat and pulses. Only licensing requirement has been imposed for a dealer if he stores Pulses for sale at any one time beyond 10 qtls. No stock limits have been imposed. But the dealers are required to display a list of prices and stocks of Pulses.	Assam Trade Articles/Licensing and Control, 1982 have been revived in respect of wheat and pulses. Only licensing requirement has been imposed for a dealer if he stores Pulses for sale at any one time beyond 10 qtls. No stock limits have been imposed. But the dealers are required to display a list of prices and stocks of Pulses.	Vide Government of Assam notification NO.FSA 122/2002/PT.III/8 3 dt. 4-5-2007. Extended validity beyond 31.8.2007 vide Notification No.FSA 122/2002 Pt.III/150 dated 14-12-2007. Further extended the validity for a period of six months w.e.f 11-03-2008 vide Notification NO.FSA 122/2002/155 dated 14-03-2008.

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- 1 2 3 4 5
3. Delhi
- *For Wholesalers-1000 qtls.
For Wholesalers-2000 qtls.
For retailers-50 qtls.
*For Manufacturers/Millers-60 days of grinding capacity.
(*Stock limits after Enhancement)
- For Wholesalers-2000 qtls.
For retailers-50 qtls.
- Stock limits fixed vide Notification No. 3(4)/2002-F and S (P and c)/2934-3054 dated 5-10-2006. The proposal of enhancement of stock limits of wheat has been approved and concurrence conveyed vide letter No. 11/8/2007-ECR and E dated 28-6-2007.
4. Gujarat
- There is no provision of licensing and stock Limit in the order.
As per this order every Dealer/Roller Flour Miller shall have to declare the stock of wheat and wheat Product (wheat flour) in excess of the quantities specified have to declare to State Government as under:
Retailer: Max 500Qtls,
Wholesaler Max 5000 qtls
Producer (Wheat Flour Mill) : either 30,000 or one month stock of milling capacity whichever is less,
Corporate Sector Unit: 50,000 qtls.
- All Pulses taken together
For All Municipal Corpn. Areas:
Wholesaler: 1000 qtls
Retailer: 50 qtls.
- For wheat vide notification No. GTH/2007/16/ECA/10/2002/1359/B dated 17-03-2007
For pulses vide notification No. CTHTH/2007/17/ECA/10/2006/786/B dated 17-03-2007
5. Himachal Pradesh
- Licence shall be required for a Dealer who store wheat for sale at any one time beyond 20 qtls.
Licence shall be required for a dealer who store pulses (whole or split) beyond 50 qtls for sale at any one time.
- Vide Notification No. FDS-A(3)-3/90-I date 11-09-2006. Further extended for another six months vide Notification No. FDS-A(3)-3/90-II dated 13-03-2007.
6. Karnataka
- No stock limits have been fixed but licensing requirements have been imposed for dealers and wholesalers. Requirement of display of prices and stocks has also been imposed.
No stock limits have been fixed but licensing requirements have been imposed for dealers and wholesalers. Requirement of display of prices and stocks has also been imposed.
- Vide Government of Karnataka notification No. FCS-115RPR-2006 dated 7-5-2007. Further extended vide Notification No. FCS 115 RPR 2006 (P-1) dated 12-10-2007.

7. Kerala
For retailers upto 10 qtls. at any time
For wholesalers upto 750 qtls.
For retailers upto 20 qtls. at any time
For wholesalers upto 750 qtls.

State Government of Kerala has issued Notification No. 5564/D1/2007/FCS and CAD dated 5-5-2007 for fixing the stock limits in respect of wheat and pulses upto 31-8-2007. State Government further extended the validity for six months from 01-03-2008 vide Notification No. 2824/D1/2008/F and CSD dated 22-03-2008

State Government of Kerala has issued Notification No. 5564/D1/2007/FCS and CAD dated 5-5-2007 for fixing the stock limits in respect of wheat and pulses upto 31-8-2007. State Government further extended the validity for six months from 01-03-2008 vide Notification No. 2824/D1/2008/F and CSD dated 22-03-2008

8. Maharashtra
(i) For Wholesalers-
'A' Cities-3000 qtls
'B' Cities and other areas=1000 qtls.
(ii) For Flour Millers-30 days grinding capacity.
For Wholesalers-
'A' Cities-3000 qtls
'B' Cities and other areas=1500 qtls.

Stock limit fixed vide Notification No. 1006/1304/C.R. 324/CS 23 dated 15-9-2006

Informed for further Extension of 6 months vide letter No. Sankirna 1006/1304/C.R. 324/CS 23 dated 14-03-2007.

Vide Food, Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department letter No. 19907/SFS and CW dated 25-9-2006 and further extended for six months w.e.f. 1-3-2007 vide letter No. 5901/EL-IC-5/07 dated 28-3-2007 addressed to all Collectors.

Stock Limits have been fixed vide Notification No. G.O.(Ms) No. 198 dated 14-6-2007

9. Orissa

Requirements of licensing and stock limits have not been imposed but the dealers/wholesalers are required to make declaration of stock and sale price, prohibition of withholding the stock from sale and requisition of stock etc. have been enforced.
Requirements of licensing and stock limits have not been imposed but the dealers/wholesalers are required to make declaration of stock and sale price, prohibition of withholding the stock from sale and requisition of stock etc. have been enforced.

Vide Food, Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department letter No. 19907/SFS and CW dated 25-9-2006 and further extended for six months w.e.f. 1-3-2007 vide letter No. 5901/EL-IC-5/07 dated 28-3-2007 addressed to all Collectors.

Requirements of licensing and stock limits have not been imposed but the dealers/wholesalers are required to make declaration of stock and sale price, prohibition of withholding the stock from sale and requisition of stock etc. have been enforced.

Vide Food, Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department letter No. 19907/SFS and CW dated 25-9-2006 and further extended for six months w.e.f. 1-3-2007 vide letter No. 5901/EL-IC-5/07 dated 28-3-2007 addressed to all Collectors.

10. Tamil Nadu

(i) Wholesaler:
(a) Municipal Corporation=1000 qtls.
(b) District HQ=750 qtls.
(c) Other Areas=437.50 qtls.
(ii) Retailer:
(a) Municipal Corporation=31.25 qtls.
(b) District HQ=18.25 qtls.
(c) Other Areas=12.50 qtls.

Stock Limits have been fixed vide Notification No. G.O.(Ms) No. 198 dated 14-6-2007

(i) Wholesaler:
(a) Municipal Corporation=2500 qtls.
(b) District HQ=1250 qtls.
(c) Other Areas=1250.50 qtls.
(ii) Retailer:
(a) Municipal Corporation=62.50 qtls.
(b) District HQ=50 qtls.
(c) Other Areas=50 qtls.

Stock Limits have been fixed vide Notification No. G.O.(Ms) No. 198 dated 14-6-2007

1	2	3	4	5
11. West Bengal	Wholesalers-250 qtls. Retailers-20 qtls.	No stock limits have been fixed	Stock limits fixed initially vide Notification No. 6628/FS dated 01-11-2006 which was further extended twice upto 31-8-2007 vide Order dated 04-04-2007 and beyond 31-8-2007 vide order dated 5-10-2007. It has been further extended beyond 27-02-2008 vide Order No. 2500-FS/Scett/Food/14R-3/2006/dated 01-04-2008	
12. Chandigarh	No stock limits have been fixed but only licensing requirement has been imposed for a dealer.	No stock limits have been fixed but only licensing requirement has been imposed for a dealer.	Vide Notification No. DFSO-CH-IL-2007/2051 dated 28-4-2007	
13. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Retailer-50 Qtls. Whole Saler-250Qtls.	Retailer-25 Qtls. Whole Saler-250Qtls.	Vide Notification No. SUP/EC/C.O./St.Limit/ 595 dated 22-6-07	

**Effects of Duty withdrawal on
Palm Oil on Coconut Growers**

*548. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent withdrawal of import duty on the unrefined palm oil and other edible oils has affected the coconut growers adversely;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the interest of the coconut growers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The decision to reduce the import duty on palm oil and other edible oils was taken by Government to mitigate the adverse impact on the consumers due to increase in the prices of edible oils. In order to protect interest of coconut growers, Government of India has disallowed import of crude and refined Palm oil and Palmolein through any port in Kerala and exempted export of coconut oil through Kochi port from the purview of ban imposed on export of edible oils.

To protect interest of the farmers, Government of India is also implementing Price Support Scheme for procurement of oilseeds through NAFED as and when the prices tend to fall below Minimum Support Price (MSP). For the benefit of coconut farmers, the Coconut Development Board (CDB) is also implementing various programmes like expansion of area under coconut, production and distribution of quality planting materials, productivity improvement through integrated farming system and integrated control of pests and diseases. The market promotion activities for coconut products are also undertaken by the CDB.

[Translation]

Functioning of Mobile Towers

*549. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:

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

(a) the details of the mobile towers installed by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in the country including Madhya Pradesh during each of the last three years and till date, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) the targets set in this regard for 2008-09, State-wise;

(c) whether all these mobile towers are functioning properly;

(d) if not, the details of those not functioning properly, State-wise and location-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The number of Mobile towers installed by BSNL in the country including Madhya Pradesh during each of the last three years and till date, State wise are enclosed as Statement-I. The location wise details of towers available in the country including Madhya Pradesh is being collected, and compiled which will be submitted subsequently.

Details of GSM mobile towers installed by MTNL during the last three years are given below.

Year	Delhi	Mumbai
2005-06	132	100
2006-07	105	54
2007-08	146	86
2008-09 (till 30th April)	40	04

(b) The target set in this regard by BSNL for 2008-09, State-wise is enclosed as Statement-II.

MTNL has proposed to install 120 GSM mobile towers in Delhi and 273 GSM Mobile towers in Mumbai in 2008-09.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. BSNL and MTNL are augment-

ing their mobile network progressively so as to enhance coverage, capacity and to further improve the quality of service. BSNL and MTNL are also optimizing their network continuously for better performance. Monitoring of the network has also been strengthened to ensure performance as per QoS parameters prescribed by TRAI.

Statement-I

Details of BSNL's Mobile Towers provided during the last three years and till date

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Number of Towers provided during last three years and till date				
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total Provided in last Three years	Total available as on 31-03-2008
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman Nicobar	15	20	27	62	68
2.	Andhra Pradesh	589	454	119	1162	2051
3.	Assam	273	87	222	582	784
4.	Bihar	335	187	243	765	1105
5.	Chhattisgarh	55	243	313	611	673
6.	Gujarat	206	853	479	1538	2164
7.	Haryana	446	219	76	741	1000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	237	124	27	388	485
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	266	107	34	407	560
10.	Jharkhand	207	110	50	367	578
11.	Karnataka	637	201	93	931	2038
12.	Kerala	561	604	141	1306	2097
13.	Madhya Pradesh	49	566	384	999	1369
14.	Maharashtra	451	1024	738	2213	2824

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15.	North East-I	79	52	72	203	282
16.	North East-II	46	50	29	125	212
17.	Orissa	363	178	256	797	1065
18.	Punjab	634	364	46	1044	1446
19.	Rajasthan	666	775	246	1687	2124
20.	Tamil Nadu	799	372	162	1333	1998
21.	Uttarakhand	203	105	34	342	440
22.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	726	1189	259	2174	3069
23.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	692	295	129	1116	1218
24.	West Bengal	325	233	209	767	1106
25.	Kolkatta TD	222	267	103	592	763
26.	Chennai TD	294	54	6	354	676
Total		9376	8733	4497	22606	32195

Statement-II

*Targets of BSNL's Mobile Tower for
the year 2008-09*

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Target for the year 2008-09
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	47
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1215
3.	Assam	450
4.	Bihar	1012
5.	Chhattisgarh	913
6.	Gujarat	1500

1	2	3
7.	Haryana	259
8.	Himachal Pradesh	485
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	357
10.	Jharkhand	687
11.	Karnataka	1321
12.	Kerala	600
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2796
14.	Maharashtra	2916
15.	North East-I	150
16.	North East-II	378
17.	Orissa	620

1	2	3
18.	Punjab	345
19.	Rajasthan	979
20.	Tamil nadu	932
21.	Uttarakhand	350
22.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	1030
23.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	530
24.	West Bengal	750
25.	Kolkatta TD	279
26.	Chennai TD	140
Total		21041

[English]

Production of Coarse Grains

*550. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production of important coarse grains in each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the plan/schemes to promote the production of coarse grains during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The State-wise details of production of important coarse grains (coarse cereals) during the last three years (2004-05 to 2006-07) are enclosed as Statement.

To increase the production of coarse cereals, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals)" subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture with effect from October 2000 is under implementation in the country. Besides, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with an objective to incentivise the States to increase investment in Agricultural and allied sector has been launched in 2007.

Statement

State-wise production estimates of different Coarse Grains from 2004-05 to 2006-07

State/UT	Jowar			Bajra			Maize			Ragi		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	516.0	588.0	411.0	81.0	82.0	47.0	2064.0	3087.0	2462.0	87.0	79.0	64.0
Arunachal Pradesh	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	55.0	57.9	63.5	NG	NG	NG
Assam	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	13.9	13.7	14.0	NG	NG	NG
Bihar	3.8	4.2	3.5	1.3	4.6	4.4	1465.7	1361.1	1714.8	10.5	11.3	12.5
Chhattisgarh	4.4	5.9	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	131.7	106.2	119.2	2.7	2.7	2.7
Goa	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.3
Gujarat	207.5	148.0	103.0	1084.7	1072.0	1019.0	412.5	560.0	363.0	25.8	22.0	11.0
Haryana	26.0	24.0	26.0	749.0	679.0	1024.0	40.0	34.0	32.0	NG	NG	NG
Himachal Pradesh	NG	NG	NG	0.2	0.1	0.2	736.0	543.1	695.4	3.0	3.4	3.2
Jammu and Kashmir	3.6	0.4	4.0	9.6	7.8	12.3	492.3	453.5	486.9	NG	NG	NG
Jharkhand	1.7	0.2	0.3	2.0	0.1	0.1	286.0	238.5	296.4	11.0	8.8	11.2
Karnataka	1435.0	1665.0	1312.0	267.0	421.0	187.0	2512.0	2728.0	2719.0	1733.0	1724.0	816.0
Kerala	0.3	1.2	0.1	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	0.6	0.3	1.0

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Madhya Pradesh	630.6	627.6	627.6	595.7	241.5	271.7	253.9	1252.6	1249.0	840.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Maharashtra	3624.0	3904.0	3904.0	3772.0	1126.0	1032.0	1059.0	753.0	996.0	1150.0	147.0	132.0	123.0
Manipur	NG	8.9	7.9	7.9	NG	NG	NG						
Meghalaya	NG	24.0	24.1	25.0	NG	NG	NG						
Mizoram	NG	15.7	22.7	21.0	NG	NG	NG						
Nagaland	4.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	4.0	3.1	0.0	83.5	92.9	108.3	NG	NG	NG
Orissa	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.8	1.6	1.6	14	106.0	101.9	102.8	44.9	40.3	43.1
Punjab	NG	NG	NG	NG	7.0	5.0	6.0	422.0	403.0	481.0	NG	NG	NG
Rajasthan	265.9	169.7	169.7	367.8	3002.2	2759.3	3421.0	1262.6	1102.1	1116.4	NG	NG	NG
Sikkim	NG	58.2	56.5	56.5	4.1	4.0	4.0						
Tamil nadu	252.1	231.4	231.4	294.0	124.3	94.8	99.0	294.7	241.2	759.1	154.1	132.7	148.2
Tripura	NG	3.0	2.2	2.4	NG	NG	NG						
Uttar Pradesh	252.3	241.9	241.9	238.0	1223.9	1246.3	1286.0	1494.0	1054.3	1163.9	0.9	0.9	0.0
Uttaranchal	NG	44.0	44.0	42.0	190.0	174.0	186.0						
West Bengal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	139.6	128.4	253.5	15.1	15.3	15.0
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	NG	0.1	0.1	0.2	NG	NG	NG						
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	2.1	2.1	2.1
Delhi	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.9	5.6	3.1	2.9	0.2	0.1	0.1	NG	NG	NG
Pondicherry	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.5	NG	NG	NG	0.2	0.2	0.2
All India	7244.3	7629.6	7629.6	7150.8	7931.3	7684.0	8423.7	14172.0	14709.9	15097.0	2432.4	2353.6	1443.6

State/UT	Small Millets							Barley					Total Coarse Cereals				
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07		
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	20	21	22		
Andhra Pradesh	23.0	26.0	17.0	NG	NG	NG	2771.0	3862.0	3001.0								
Arunachal Pradesh	21.4	22.4	21.4	NG	NG	NG	76.4	80.3	84.9								
Assam	4.1	3.9	4.0	NG	NG	NG	18.0	17.6	18.0								
Bihar	2.3	5.5	4.6	18.3	18.8	19.9	1501.9	1405.5	1759.7								
Chhattisgarh	47.5	41.3	48.6	3.2	3.2	3.0	189.5	159.8	178.3								
Goa	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	1.1	1.0	0.8								
Gujarat	4.0	34.0	20.0	NG	NG	NG	1734.5	1836.0	1516.0								
Haryana	NG	NG	NG	67.0	76.0	115.0	882.0	813.0	1197.0								
Himachal Pradesh	7.0	5.7	5.1	42.0	18.4	24.3	788.2	570.7	728.2								
Jammu and Kashmir	1.8	2.0	2.1	10.0	4.0	7.0	517.3	467.7	512.3								
Jharkhand	11.7	12.0	12.0	11.7	0.0	12.0	324.1	259.6	332.0								
Karnataka	30.0	26.0	21.0	NG	NG	NG	5977.0	6564.0	5055.0								
Kerala	0.0	0.0	0.0	NG	NG	NG	0.9	1.5	1.1								
Madhya Pradesh	101.1	100.2	89.9	104.1	99.8	69.8	2330.0	2348.4	1849.6								
Maharashtra	45.0	21.0	36.0	1.7	2.0	1.0	5686.7	6087.0	6141.0								
Manipur	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	8.9	7.9	7.9								

1	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Meghalaya	2.3	2.3	2.2	NG	NG	NG	26.3	26.4	27.2
Mizoram	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	15.7	22.7	21.0
Nagaland	7.0	16.0	17.3	7.0	7.3	0.0	105.5	120.1	126.4
Orissa	11.1	10.4	9.3	NG	NG	NG	169.1	159.9	162.4
Punjab	1.0	1.0	1.0	74.0	63.0	64.0	504.0	472.0	552.0
Rajasthan	8.0	5.4	5.0	417.7	492.1	591.7	4956.4	4528.6	5501.9
Sikkim	3.6	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.4	67.4	63.7	63.7
Tamil Nadu	42.8	30.1	61.6	NG	NG	NG	868.0	730.2	1361.9
Tripura	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	3.0	2.2	2.4
Uttar Pradesh	9.0	14.4	10.5	411.7	413.4	386.0	3391.8	2971.2	3084.4
Uttaranchal	91.0	87.0	86.0	33.0	18.0	30.0	358.0	323.0	344.0
West Bengal	2.7	3.0	3.0	4.0	3.0	2.6	162.0	150.3	274.7
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	0.1	0.1	0.2
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.2	0.2	0.2	NG	NG	NG	2.7	2.7	2.7
Delhi	NG	NG	NG	0.2	0.2	0.2	16.5	13.9	14.1
Pondicherry	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	0.7	0.8	0.8
All India	477.6	471.6	479.6	1207.1	1220.6	1327.9	33464.7	34069.3	33922.6

**Constitution of Additional
Labour Courts**

551. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) whether the Government has constituted additional Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals to ensure quick disposal of cases related to labour during each of the last three years;

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

(c) the number of cases pending as on date alongwith the number of cases disposed of by these courts during the above period, Stat-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the other steps being taken by the Government for disposal of the cases expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) As per the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, an Appropriate Government can set up Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals for resolution of Industrial Disputes. In respect of Industrial Disputes arising in the Central Sphere, Central Government is the Appropriate Government for setting up the Central Government is the Appropriate Government for setting up the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts (CGIT-cum-LCs). During the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07), Five (5) new CGIT-cum-Labour Courts in addition to existing seventeen (17) CGIT-cum-

Labour Courts were to be established for speedy disposal of Industrial disputes. These five CGIT-cum-LCs were established by 2004 as per details given below:

Name of the CGIT	Year
New Delhi II	2003
Guwahati	2003
Ernakulam	2004
Chandigarh II	2004
Ahmedabad	2004

The data with regard to constitution of additional Labour Courts and Industrial tribunals in the State sphere is not centrally maintained.

(c) and (d) The details of number of cases pending alongwith the number of cases disposed off by the CGIT-cum-LCs during the last three years is enclosed as Statement. The details in respect of Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals in the State Sphere are not centrally maintained.

A new Plan Scheme of 'Holding of Lok Adalat' as an Alternative Grievance Redressal Mechanism was introduced in the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) for the speedy disposal of the Industrial disputes in the CGIT-cum-LCs. In addition, the Ministry has been reviewing periodically the various aspects of functioning of CGIT-cum-LCs with the view to facilitate expeditious disposal of Industrial disputes.

Statement

year-wise Pendency/Disposal Figure in the CGITs cum Labour Courts (Central Sphere)

Sl. No.	CGIT	2005-06			2006-07				
		Cases	Applications	Cases	Applications				
		D	P	D	P	D	P		
1.	Mumbai-I	63	213	28	64	75	193	38	35
2.	Mumbai-II	20	456	9	438	97	410	26	506
3.	Dhanbad-I	150	1745	31	367	73	1,746	17	358
4.	Dhanbad-II	195	929	0	36	45	949	0	36
5.	Asansol	50	562	14	79	64	606	17	62
6.	Kolkata *	8	269	0	133	9	281	8	95
7.	Chandigarh-I	1,162	911	162	212	148	846	123	98
8.	Chandigarh-II	72	1,178	10	144	275	946	67	112
9.	New Delhi-I	94	492	39	451	72	540	29	469
10.	New Delhi-II	192	493	74	57	242	333	38	82
11.	Kanpur	96	663	188	184	158	560	55	154
12.	Jabalpur	126	1454	52	597	107	1,438	115	489
13.	Chennai*	131	584	24	35	379	293	4	30
14.	Bangalore	95	352	20	82	113	288	19	95

15. Hyderabad	659	780	187	631	156	856	556	199
16. Nagpur	19	912	0	15	178	836	3	18
17. Bhuvaneshwar	41	424	38	99	41	412	36	136
18. Lucknow	75	408	13	36	60	379	8	38
19. Jaipur*	108	154	24	24	51	228	0	0
20. Guwahati	13	33	3	7	8	37	1	7
21. Emakulam	18	22	0	58	122	247	96	29
22. Ahmedabad*	208	1,818	71	1,037	49	1,947	40	1,473
Total	3,595	14,852	987	4,786	2,522	14,371	1,296	4,521

D—Disposed during the year

P—Pending at the end of the year

Cases: Cases are those that are referred under Section 10 of the Industrial Disputes Act 1947 to the CGIT-cum-Labour Courts for adjudication consequent upon the failure of conciliation made by the RLC (c) or the ALC(c)s.

Application: Applications are those that are filed by the workers directly under Section 33-A and 33-C of the Industrial Disputes Act 1947 before the CGIT-cum-Labour Courts.

*Year-wise Pendency/Disposal figure in the CGITs cum Labour Courts (Central Sphere)
upto December-07*

Sl. No.	CGIT	2007-08			
		Cases		Applications	
		D	P	D	P
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Mumbai I	14	228	14	37
2.	Mumbai II	55	420	101	525
3.	Dhanbad I*	4	1,792	0	363
4.	Dhanbad II**	5	994	0	64
5.	Asansol	37	660	4	65
6.	Kolkata**	13	291	0	102
7.	Chandigarh I#	43	868	22	102
8.	New Delhi I	36	538	10	468
9.	Kanpur	52	553	15	150
10.	Jabalpur	77	1,453	104	387
11.	Chennai	68	307	1	37
12.	Bangalore	84	365	13	77
13.	Hyderabad	39	955	5	198
14.	Nagpur**	39	904	0	21
15.	Bhubaneshwar^^	10	402	1	136
16.	Lucknow	70	374	12	29
17.	Jaipur**	0	270	0	0
18.	New Delhi II	146	253	18	75
19.	Guwahati	17	28	0	7
20.	Ernakulam	87	192	42	27

1	2	3	4	5	6
21.	Ahmedabad**	10	2,014	11	1,583
22.	Chandigarh II^	104	877	5	135
Total		1,010	14,738	378	4,588

D—Disposed during the year

P—Pending at the end of the year

* Upto Nov 07

** upto September 07

Upto July, 07

^ upto April, 07

^ upto October, 07

Cases: Cases are those that are referred under Section 10 of the Industrial Disputes Act 1947 to the CGIT-cum-Labour Courts for adjudication consequent upon the failure of conciliation made by the RLC (c)s or the ALC(c)s.

Applications: Applications are those that are filed by the workers directly under Section 33-A and 33-C of the Industrial Disputes Act 1947 before the CGIT-cum-Labour Courts.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras

*552. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras functioning at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to open more such Kendras;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise along with the funds allocated for the purpose during 2006-07 and 2007-08;

(d) whether the Government also proposes to increase financial assistance being provided to these Kendras; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) sanctioned in the country is 560 out of 589 approved. The State-wise details are enclosed as Statement.

(b) Of the remaining 29 districts, it has not been found feasible to establish KVKs in 8 districts due to non-availability of suitable land, inadequate farming population/area, and poor communication facilities. In the balance 21 districts, opening of KVKs will depend on receipt of proposal from suitable organization, sufficient area/population coverage, availability of suitable land for establishment and fulfillment of other requirement.

(c) The budgetary allocation for KVK scheme during 2006-07 and 2007-08 was Rs. 287.00 crore and Rs. 314.08 crore respectively.

(d) and (e) Against an allocation for KVKs of Rs. 885.32 crore in the X Plan, the allocation in the XI Plan has been significantly enhanced to Rs. 2051.98 crore.

Statement

State-wise Details of KVKs

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Number of KVKs
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1

1	2	3
2.	Andhra Pradesh	22
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	12
4.	Assam	20
5.	Bihar	37
6.	Chhattisgarh	16
7.	Delhi	1
8.	Goa	2
9.	Gujarat	24
10.	Haryana	18
11.	Himachal Pradesh	12
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	14
13.	Jharkhand	21
14.	Karnataka	26
15.	Kerala	14
16.	Lakshadweep	1
17.	Madhya Pradesh	47
18.	Maharashtra	33
19.	Manipur	8
20.	Meghalaya	5
21.	Mizoram	8
22.	Nagaland	8
23.	Orissa	29
24.	Pondicherry	2
25.	Punjab	17
26.	Rajasthan	32
27.	Sikkim	4

1	2	3
28.	Tamil Nadu	29
29.	Tripura	4
30.	Uttar Pradesh	63
31.	Uttaranchal	13
32.	West Bengal	17
Total		560

Pay for Army Personnel

*553. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn towards a news item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated April 8, 2008 captioned 'Poor Pay Triggers Army Exodus';

(b) if so, whether the Government has examined the facts contained in the news report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) There is no large departure of officers from the Army. Army personnel are allowed to leave service on account of various reasons like supersession, extreme compassionate grounds, low medical category, failure to acquire minimum educational qualification, etc. However, these cases are examined on case to case basis subject to the exigencies of service. The number of Army officers who applied for premature retirement/resignation and the number of officers who were permitted to leave service due to various reasons during the last 5 years is 3474 and 2076, respectively.

The pay, allowances and other benefits admissible to the Army officers are as per Government orders

issued from time to time. These are also examined by the Central Pay Commissions set up by the Government. Improvement of service conditions, pay and allowances of Army officers is a continuous process.

[Translation]

Revision of Minimum daily Wages

*554. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to revise the minimum daily wages to provide financial help to the labourers in view of the steep rise in the prices of essential commodities in the county; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which minimum daily wages are likely to be revised and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR

FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both the Central and State Governments are the appropriate Governments to fix and revise the minimum wages in the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction. As per Section 3 (1) (b) of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the appropriate Government shall review at such intervals, not exceeding five years, the minimum rates of wages so fixed and revise the minimum rates, if necessary. Accordingly, the appropriate Governments review/revise minimum wages from time to time, taking into account, inter alia, the rise in price levels. Further, 26 States/ Union Territories and the Central Government have adopted the Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) system whereby VDA is revised twice a year effective from April and October taking into consideration the rise in Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers.

The statement giving the rates of minimum wages for workers employed in Scheduled employments in the Central and States Spheres is enclosed.

Statement

Rates of Minimum Wages for different Category of Workers in Different States/Union Territories

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	Unskilled	Semi-Skilled	Skilled
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh*	100.00	110.00	120.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	55.00	60.00	65.00
3.	Assam*	72.99	76.32	79.70
4.	Bihar*	81.00	83.00	85.00
5.	Chhattisgarh*	69.00	99.59	106.02
6.	Goa	93.00	99.00	105.00
7.	Gujarat*	55.00	65.00	100.00
8.	Haryana*	135.00	140.00	150.00

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	75.00	79.50	91.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	66.00	88.00	147.00
11.	Jharkhand*	67.72	—	—
12.	Karnataka*	74.84	82.34	84.64
13.	Kerala*	97.52	99.02	101.12
14.	Madhya Pradesh*	61.37	84.30	87.96
15.	Maharashtra*	65.00	72.92	75.33
16.	Manipur*	72.40	77.65	79.40
17.	Meghalaya*	70.00	75.00	85.00
18.	Mizoram	103.00	115.00	143.00
19.	Nagaland	66.00	70.00	75.00
20.	Orissa*	70.00	80.00	90.00
21.	Punjab*	96.90	101.35	107.50
22.	Rajasthan*	73.00	77.00	81.00
23.	Sikkim	85.00	-	-
24.	Tamil Nadu*	66.73	90.82	93.82
25.	Tripura*	47.18	47.18	83.85
26.	Uttar Pradesh*	76.31	88.31	102.91
27.	Uttarakhand*	70.82	83.21	95.60
28.	West Bengal*	57.01	58.16	58.51
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	130.00	140.00	168.00
30.	Chandigarh*	131.79	137.56	149.10
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli*	99.80	106.30	112.80
32.	Daman and Diu*	87.00	97.00	104.00
33.	Delhi*	140.00	146.00	156.00

1	2	3	4	5
34.	Lakshadweep*	70.00	76.00	82.00
35.	Puducherry	78.00	-	86.00
	Central Sphere* @	75.34	88.78	112.68

*The system of VDA is in vogue

@w.e.f. 1-4-2008

[English]

**Increase in the Number of Mobile
Phone Subscribers**

*555. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of mobile phone subscribers has increased speedily in the country in the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and in the current year alongwith the growth rate, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure quality transmission in mobile service connections?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA):

(a) Yes, Sir. The total mobile subscriber base has increased from 56.88 million in March 2005 to 261.08 million in March 2008.

(b) The details of mobile phone subscriber base during the last three years and the current year alongwith the growth rate, State-wise, year-wise are enclosed as Statement.

(c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) monitors the performance of mobile service providers against the quality of service benchmarks notified in the Regulations issued by TRAI, through quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports obtained from telecom operators. TRAI also monitors the congestion at the point of interconnection (POI) through monthly congestion report. The telecom service providers are making efforts to improve the quality by continuously augmenting their mobile network infrastructure and optimizing the same to meet the specified standards set by TRAI.

Statement

Circle/State-wise details of Mobile phones for the last three years w.e.f. 31-3-2005

Sl. No.	Name of Circle/ State	Total Mobile Phones as on			Growth rate (in %) during the year			
		31-3-2005	31-03-2006	31-03-2007	31-3-2008	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	10740	32587	44083	57846	203.42	35.28	31.22
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4251239	7669812	13045794	20577632	80.41	70.09	57.73
3.	Assam	287002	1128597	2331898	3913099	293.24	106.62	67.81
4.	Bihar	1158534	3819442	5773370	10869459	229.68	51.16	88.27
5.	Chhattisgarh	117951	191417	467294	701032	62.29	144.12	50.02
6.	Gujarat	4239010	6775707	11163757	16968200	59.84	64.76	51.99
7.	Haryana	1252666	2240298	4470606	6401457	78.84	98.55	43.19
8.	Himachal Pradesh	354255	728578	1408876	2299811	105.66	93.37	63.24
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	274821	1114652	1491315	2201912	305.59	33.79	47.65
10.	Jharkhand	206372	403371	571217	640229	95.46	41.61	12.08
11.	Karnataka	3913203	6890546	11382511	17043556	76.08	65.19	49.73
12.	Kerala	2826014	5019928	7601981	11698216	77.63	51.44	53.88
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1871031	3441142	6682326	12491306	83.92	94.19	86.93
14.	Maharashtra (-) Mumbai	4657918	7417194	12788896	21079326	59.24	72.42	64.83
15.	North East	146606	500935	1201518	2118532	241.69	139.86	76.32
16.	Orissa	762996	2172208	2963261	5180156	184.69	36.42	74.81

17. Punjab	3763822	5461829	8364307	11715504	45.11	53.14	40.07
18. Rajasathan	1852881	4147323	8011334	13586738	123.83	93.17	69.59
19. Tamil Nadu (-) Chennai	3624160	5957147	10553554	18284050	64.37	77.16	73.25
20. Uttarakhhand	156467	321779	544882	685565	105.65	69.33	25.82
21. Uttar Pradesh	4442433	9907365	17561905	28366704	123.02	77.26	61.52
22. West Bengal (-) Kolkata	895338	2732985	5040111	9381095	205.25	84.42	86.13
23. Kolkata	2019998	3502096	5030986	7844469	73.37	43.66	55.92
24. Chennai	2228248	3246131	4637124	7061200	45.68	42.85	52.28
25. Delhi	6073819	8869702	12083283	16282949	46.03	36.23	34.76
26. Mumbai	5501404	8116905	9877466	13631670	47.54	21.69	38.01
Total	56888928	101809676	165093655	261081713	78.96	62.16	58.14

Note: (1) Source BSNL/MTNL/COAI/AUSPI.

(2) Figures include WLL (F) also.

(3) Private operators provide data service area-wise only and not separately for Andaman and Nicobar, Jharkhand, Uttarakhhand, Chhattisgarh and NE-II which are included in West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and North East-I respectively. However, Bharti Airtel provides landline figures separately for Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

**Outsourcing by Directorate General of
Quality Assurance**

*556. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) has outsourced some of its services to the private agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the outsourcing of services of DGQA to private agencies poses any threat in regard to maintenance of secrecy of classified information; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Safaiwala/Sweeper, Canteen Staff, Labourer, Security Guards, Vehicles/Drivers etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Not applicable.

[Translation]

Production of Mustard

*557. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of mustard is estimated to be less by ten per cent during 2007-08 as compared to the production in the last year;

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

(c) the details regarding the market prices and the consumption of the said oilseed during the last three months and at present in the country; and

(d) the estimated quantity of mustard likely to be procured by the Government and Non-Government agencies during the current Rabi season?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) As per the 3rd Advance Estimates released on 22nd April 2008, production of rapeseed and mustard in the country is estimated at 64.31 lakh tonnes during 2007-08 which is 13.5% less than the production of 74.38 lakh tonnes during 2006-07. The production of rapeseed and mustard declined due to less area coverage under the crop during 2007-08 compared to 2006-07, and deficient rainfall at the time of sowing in major producing States. The production of rapeseed and mustard also declined because of cold-wave/frost conditions in the month of January 2008 in Rajasthan and Haryana.

(c) Table below gives the market price of mustard seed in major producing States in the last three months:

Month	Market Price (Rs. Per Quintal)	
	Minimum	Maximum
February, 2008	1950	2900
March, 2008	2200	2900
April, 2008	1850	2640

The market prices of mustard seed in major producing States are currently ruling between Rs. 1850 per quintal and Rs. 2640 per quintal.

Almost the entire rapeseed and mustard production is consumed in the country in the form of mustard oil. The consumption of mustard oil is more during the winter season.

(d) Government has not made any procurement during Rabi 2008 under the Price Support Scheme as the market prices of mustard seed have been ruling much above the Minimum Support Price of Rs. 1800 per quintal. The traders/millers cover their requirement of mustard seed from the mandies in the open option during the peak arrival period from March-May. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation

of India Limited (NAFED) has planned to procure about 1 lakh tonnes of mustard seed subject to its economic viability. NAFED has procured about 20,000 tonnes of mustard seed on the prevailing market rates in major producing States.

Suicide by Farmers

*558. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO
GAWALI:

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of suicides committed by the farmers in various States including the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra is continuously increasing;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last six months, State-wise and the reasons therefor;

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the details of the loans provided by the Rural Cooperative Banks to the families of the farmers who committed suicides during the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) A statement indicating number of suicides by farmers during the last two years in various states

including Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, as reported by the respective State Governments is enclosed. The State Governments have reported crop failure, drought, indebtedness, social and economic insecurity broadly, as causes for suicide by farmers.

The remedial measures undertaken by the Government of India in this regard include approval of a Rehabilitation Package of Rs. 16978.69 crore for 31 districts reporting comparatively higher number of farmers' suicides in four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. The implementation of package will be over a period of 3 years. The rehabilitation package aims at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, crop centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries etc. As on 31-01-2008, an amount of about Rs. 10070.81 crore has been released under the package. In addition, a scheme of debt waiver and debt relief for farmers has been announced by the Government in the Union Budget for 2008-09.

The information regarding loans provided by the Rural Cooperative Banks to the families of the farmers who committed suicide during the last two years, is not readily available. However, the flow of agricultural credit for the last two years, in the 31 identified districts covered under Rehabilitation Package in four states, is given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the State	Target 2006-07	Disbursement as on 31st March, 2007	Target 2007-08	Latest Disbursement position
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	13,817.78	12,627.23	15032.50	10703.32*
Karnataka	3076.20	2962.99	3749.41	2004.65\$

1	2	3	4	5
Kerala	1945.07	2324.30	2395.45	1143.76\$
Maharashtra	2583.39	2012.90	2225.35	1582.44**
Total	21,422.44	19,927.42	23402.71	15434.17

* Position as on 31-12-2007

** Position as on 31-01-2008

\$ Position as on 30-09-2007

Statement*Cases of suicide by farmers as received from State Governments*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Period	No. (Based on the figures reported by State Governments)	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2006	514	
		2007 (upto 30-09-2007)	142	
2.	Karnataka	2006-07	343	
		2007-08 (upto 31-12-2007)	235	
3.	Maharashtra		(Total)	(Vidarbha)
		2006	2355	1448
		2007	1985	1230
		2008 (upto January 2008)	110	72
4.	Kerala	2001 to 2006	841	
		2007 (upto 31-10-2007)	64	
5.	Tamil nadu	2000-2007 (up to March 2007)	26	
6.	Punjab*	2005	6	
		2006	3	
7.	Gujarat	2006	149	
		2007	103	

*The information reported vide State Government letter No. 4/39/06, agri. 2(10)/7257 dated 21-03-06 relates to the cotton belt of Punjab. Government of Punjab has also reported vide their letter No. 4/15/07-Agri. 2 (10)/3943 dated 11-05-07, that number of suicides due to debt burden in the year 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 was 2, nil, 3 and 3 respectively.

NB1: 'Nil' report in respect of farmers' suicide has been received from the states namely, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Goa, Haryana, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Tripura and all Union Territories.

*[English]***Procurement of Foodgrains**

*559. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

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

(a) the quantum of foodgrains including wheat procured by the Government as well as private agencies/traders separately during 2007-08 and till date;

(b) whether the Government has directed its agencies to take urgent steps for ensuring adequate procurement during 2008-09;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the directives issued by the Government and the action taken by the said agencies thereon alongwith the time by which the procurement is likely to start, agency-wise;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check excessive procurement and hoarding of foodgrains by private agencies/ traders; and

(e) the action plan prepared by the Government to ensure adequate supply of foodgrains during 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) 111.3 lakh tonnes of wheat was procured by the Government agencies (Food Corporation of India and State agencies) for the Central Pool in Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2007-08 and 163.88 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured in RMS 2008-09 up to 03.05.2008. In Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2007-08, 229.03 lakh tonnes of rice has been procured by the Government agencies for the Central Pool up to 28.4.2008. Data of the entire purchase by all private agencies/traders is not maintained in the Department of Food and Public Distribution. However, the companies/firms who have filed returns under Wheat and Rice stocks declarations orders have declared purchase of 24.54 lakh tonnes of wheat and 10.97 lakh tonnes of rice up to 31-3-2008.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Directions have been issued to all Government agencies to make all necessary arrangements for procurement of wheat in RMS 2008-09 such as giving adequate publicity to Minimum Support Price operations, opening of sufficient number of procurement centers in all areas having marketable surplus of wheat, ensuring availability of proper infrastructure and staff at all purchase centers ensuring supply of gunny bags etc. All Government agencies have taken necessary action on these instructions and procurement has already commenced.

(d) In order to monitor major purchases of wheat and rice by private agencies/traders, "Wheat (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order 2008" and "Rice (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order 2007" have been issued under the Essential Commodities Act 1955, which are effective for Rabi Marketing Season 2008-09 and Kharif Marketing Season 2007-08, respectively. The orders provide that any Company or Firm or Individual that purchases wheat/paddy (in terms of rice) or rice beyond 10,000 tonnes shall furnish a return to the Food Secretary of the State from where maximum quantity has been purchased, while a return for purchase of rice beyond 25,000 tonnes is required to be furnished to the Central Government. Central Government has not fixed any limit on the stocks of food grains that can be held by traders/firms. However, State Governments have been delegated powers under EC Act, 1955 to impose suitable stock limits for wheat and rice.

(e) Steps taken to increase procurement of food grains in order to ensure their adequate supply under the TPDS and welfare schemes during 2008-09 are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to increase procurement of foodgrains in order to ensure adequate supply under the TPDS and welfare schemes.

- (i) The MSP for wheat has been fixed at Rs. 1000 per quintal for RMS 2008-09, an increase of Rs. 250 per quintal over RMS 2007-08, in order to encourage farmers to grow more wheat.

- (ii) Wheat exports on private account have been banned till further orders. Wheat exports from Central Pool are also banned.
- (iii) A notification titled "Wheat (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order 2008 has been issued under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 on 11-2-2008. The order provides that any Company or Firm or individual which purchases wheat beyond 10,000 tonnes during 2008-09 shall furnish return to Secretary, Food of the State from where maximum quantity has been purchased, while a return for purchase of wheat beyond 25,000 tonnes is required to be furnished to the Central Government.
- (iv) Department of Consumer Affairs has extended upto 31st August, 2008 notification under the EC Act enabling State Governments to impose stock limit on wheat.
- (v) Import of wheat on private account at zero duty has been permitted till further orders.
- (vi) NAFED has been permitted to procure wheat on behalf of FCI in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Bihar
- (vii) Commission to Societies/Sub-agent @ 2.5% of MSP has been permitted for Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh etc. on the lines of Arthiya Commission in Punjab and Haryana.
- (iv) Export of non-basmati rice has been banned.
- (v) Import of rice at zero duty has been permitted.
- (vi) A notification titled "Rice (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order 2007 has been issued under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 on 27-11-2007. The order provides that any Company or Firm or individual which purchases paddy (in terms of rice) or rice beyond 10,000 tonnes during Kharif Marketing Season 2007-08 (October-September) shall furnish a return to the Secretary, Department of Food of the State from where maximum quantity has been purchased. In case the purchase of paddy (in terms of rice) or rice exceeds 25,000 tonnes (throughout the country) the return in the prescribed proforma to Department of Food and Public Distribution of Central Government.
- (vii) Department of Consumer Affairs has extended upto 31st March, 2009 notification under the EC Act enabling State Governments to impose stock limit on rice.

**Concealment of Information
on Packages**

*560. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

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

- (i) The MSP for paddy was fixed at Rs. 645 and Rs 675 per quintal for Common and Grade 'A' variety respectively for KMS 2007-08, giving an increase of Rs. 65 per quintal over the MSP of KMS 2006-07, in order to encourage farmers to grow more rice.
- (ii) The Government has announced a bonus of Rs. 100 per quintal over and above the MSP of paddy in KMS 2007-08.
- (iii) The Commission to Societies and Self-Help Groups undertaking procurement of paddy on behalf of the FCI/State Agencies, etc. has been allowed at a maximum of 1.5% of MSP.
- (a) whether many manufacturers are reportedly concealing essential information to be provided on packages of their products;
- (b) if so, the details of the violation registered thereof in the last two years and the remedial action taken in this regard including the proposed changes in relevant legislations, if any;
- (c) whether a campaign has also been launched for creating awareness among consumers regarding information to be provided on the packages; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved in this regard, so far?

Rice (KMS) 2007-08

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) As per information received from States/UTs., 46566 and 46224 cases have been registered in 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively for violation of Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 including concealing of essential information on the package.

(b) The details of cases booked State wise and

year wise for the last two years is enclosed as Statement. Enhancement of penalty to make the laws more stringent in this regard requires amendment of the Act for which approval of Parliament is necessary.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. In the last two years 30 advertisements were published on all India basis through print media and 1051 video spots were telecast through television channels to create awareness among consumer regarding information to be provided on the packages.

Statement

Number of cases registered for violation in respect of packaged commodities Rules including concealment of information for the last 2 years

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20005	22527
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	10	1
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—
4.	Assam	125	—
5.	Bihar	05	15
6.	Chandigarh	190	120
7.	Chhattisgarh	58	75
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—
9.	Daman and Diu	—	—
10.	Delhi	2603	1666
11.	Goa	184	185
12.	Gujarat	3024	—
13.	Haryana	363	529
14.	Himachal Pradesh	208	—
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—

1	2	3	4
16.	Jharkhand	—	—
17.	Karnataka	7182	7994
18.	Kerala	1541	2611
19.	Lakshadweep	0	—
20.	Madhya Pradesh	1366	927
21.	Maharashtra	2617	3957
22.	Manipur	—	—
23.	Meghalaya	49	—
24.	Mizoram	0	28
25.	Nagaland	—	—
26.	Orissa	348	—
27.	Pondicherry	3	1
28.	Punjab	171	—
29.	Rajasthan	610	430
30.	Sikkim	—	—
31.	Tamil Nadu	—	—
32.	Tripura	3	—
33.	Uttarakhand	178	172
34.	Uttar Pradesh	5513	4642
35.	West Bengal	210	344

Licence Norms in Telecom Services

5262. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has ignored the suggestions of Telecom Services on licence norms in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes

to follow unified access services licence documents of 2006;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to rework the spectrum charges;

(d) if so, the main decision taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the extent to which Government has remained firm on its 2006 licence norms in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (e) Subsequent to acceptance of recommendations dated 28-08-2007 of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), inter-alia, that there should be no cap on the number of access provider in any service area, 120 new Unified Access Services (UAS) licences have been granted in February-March, 2008 to 16 companies in 22 service areas as per the existing guidelines dated 14-12-2005 for grant of UAS licences.

The review of spectrum fee charges is undertaken from time to time, taking into account various relevant aspects.

Telephone Connections in Gram Panchayats

5263. SHRI MOHAN JENA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats proposed to be provided with telephone facility especially in Samia, Dhanamandal, Kayina Gram Panchayat offices of Jajpur district of Orissa during the current financial year, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has fixed any target in this regard during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which all Gram Panchayats are likely to be connected with the telephone facility in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) This department maintains data in respect of villages covered by Rural Telephony. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has already provided telephone facility at Samia and Dhanamandal Gram Panchayat of Jaipur District of Orissa. Kayina Gram Panchayat has been planned to be covered during the current financial year.

Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has entered into an agreement with BSNL in November, 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in 66,822 unconnected villages in the country. This excludes villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc. As on 29-2-2008, out of this, 53,073 villages have been provided with VPTs and the remaining 13,749 villages will be provided with VPT facility by December 2008. A statement indicating State-wise number of uncovered villages, provided with telephone connections and the number of villages which are yet to be provided with telephone connections is enclosed.

Statement

Circle-wise Status of villages as on 29-2-2008 covered under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) agreement

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Total number of uncovered villages	Total number of villages covered	Total number of villages yet to be covered
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1,074	657	417

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	8,931	8,638	293
4.	Bihar	0	0	0
5.	Jharkhand	1,694	1,092	602
6.	Gujarat	4,144	4,041	103
7.	Haryana	0	0	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1,002	867	135
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1,755	1,274	481
10.	Karnataka	0	0	0
11.	Kerala	0	0	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	11,894	11,801	93
13.	Chhattisgarh	5,043	3,317	1,726
14.	Maharashtra	6,441	5,882	559
15.	Meghalaya	1,957	207	1,750
16.	Mizoram	96	28	68
17.	Tripura	75	69	6
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	646	210	436
19.	Manipur	876	456	420
20.	Nagaland	28	19	9
21.	Orissa	4,899	1,334	3,565
22.	Punjab	0	0	0
23.	Rajasthan	12,386	11,083	1,303
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0
25.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	0	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	0	0	0
27.	Uttaranchal	3,881	2,098	1,783
28.	West Bengal	0	0	0
Total		66,822	53,073	13,749

**Prevention of Spread of Avian Flu by
Migratory Bird**

5264. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bar Headed Mongolian Goose who migrate to India carry the deadly H5N1 strain of the avian flu virus;

(b) if so, whether these birds are spotted in India, and

(c) the steps contemplated to be taken in the advent of possible spread of the virus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Highly virulent influenza A virus of sub-type H5 had been insolated from the Bar headed Mongolian Goose in Mongolia in 2005.

(b) Bar-headed Mongolian Goose were spotted in the states of Karnataka and Maharashtra during 2007.

(c) The 'Action Plan for Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza' formulated by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries sets out the actions required to be taken by various agencies for tackling the disease. In respect of the infected area, these actions, inter alia, include controlling the movement of poultry, culling of all poultry, destruction of eggs and poultry feed followed by clean-up and disinfection and preventing restocking of poultry for a period of three months after completion of sanitization. During this time, strict surveillance of a specified area, outside the infected area, is also carried out to watch out against any spread of infection.

3G Technology in Telecom Sector

5265. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to

introduce the most advanced variant of mobile phone Third Generation (3G) technology in Telecom Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the progress made in this regard; and

(c) the main advantages that are likely to be accrued to the subscriber in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The Government has announced broad guidelines for 3G services which would be permitted in the 2.1 GHz band and the spectrum would be allotted, through a controlled, simultaneous ascending e-auction, to the successful bidders.

The 3G (3rd generation) mobile telecommunications is the generic name for the next generation of mobile networks that will combine wireless mobile technology with high data rate transmission capabilities. The 3G networks will be capable of providing higher data rates and will also be capable of supporting a variety of services such as high-resolution video and multi media services in addition to voice, fax and conventional data services.

Model Floriculture Regional Centres

5266. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up Model Floriculture Regional Centres in various parts of the country;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up more regional centres in various parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):

(a) to (d) Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal". The scheme was launched during the year 2001-02 in North Eastern states, later on extended to Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal. The scheme is being implemented in a mission mode approach addressing the issues related to development of horticulture, which includes introduction of high yielding varieties and technologies, area expansion programmes, post harvest management, infrastructure development for marketing and processing in an end to end approach.

Under the scheme, assistance is provided for establishment of Model Floriculture Centre (MFC) i.e.,

Model Floriculture Regional Centre and the rate of assistance is Rs. 70.00 lakhs per unit.

The function of the Model Floriculture Centre is to serve as a focal unit for development of floriculture in the state besides, obtaining planting material/germplasm from ICAR and importing from outside the country with a view to have advantage in marketing the produce.

The detail of the state wise assistance provided for establishment of Model Floriculture Centre unit is enclosed as Statement.

Under the scheme, State Governments of N.E. States, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand submit the proposal for establishment of Model Floriculture Centre in their Annual Action Plan.

CBI Raids Against Rice Dealers

5267. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether raids were conducted by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against rice dealers in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry on complaint of diversion/smuggling of rice to neighbouring countries filed by the Union Food and Consumer Affairs Ministry;

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

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government to check smuggling of rice and other foodgrains to the neighbouring countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The State Governments of West Bengal, Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have been advised to make special efforts to ensure that rice or wheat is not smuggled across the borders into neighboring countries. Further Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Department of Revenue have also been advised to take all possible steps to ensure that rice and wheat are not smuggled out of the country or exported by overinvoicing the rice to evade the Minimum Export price.

[Translation]

Complaints in Consumer Cell

5268. SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether majority of complaints received by the Consumer Cell situated in Sanchar Bhawan regarding problem in Telecom Services are from State of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to strengthen the Telecommunication system in Bihar; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) Following steps have been taken to strengthen the Telecommunications systems in Bihar:

- (i) Extensive use of wireless technologies in the access network.
- (ii) All District Head Quarters in the State of Bihar have been provided with Board Band facility.
- (iii) A scheme has recently been launched by USA Fund to provide subsidy support for setting up and managing 489 number of infrastructure sites (towers) in 37 districts in the State of Bihar for provision of Mobile services.
- (iv) Connecting all telephone exchanges on reliable digital media (converting MCPC to IDR or OFC).
- (v) Creation of pole less network to reduce overhead drop wire.
- (vi) Interactive Voice Response (IVRS) based centralized fault booking at Short Distance Charging Centre (SDCC).
- (vii) Conversion of SBM (Single Base Module) into RSUs (Remote Switching Units).
- (viii) Conversion of CDOT 256 Port exchanges into AN-RAXs (Access Network-Rural Automatic Exchanges).
- (ix) Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) entered for

New Technology and WLL equipments including FWTs and Provision of AMC in new supplies.

- (x) Provision of High capacity external maintenance free battery with FWT for providing larger talk time and standby time , in case of WLL connection.

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

[English]

Export of Sugar

5269. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to withdraw the subsidy on export of Sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor alongwith its likely impact on export and exporters of Sugar during the current year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to enable the exporters to achieve their export targets and to make them internationally competitive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has not fixed any target for individual exporters of sugar. The Government defrays expenditure on internal transport and freight charges including ocean freight, handling and marketing charges only to sugar factories on export of its domestically manufactured sugar. The exporters other than the sugar factory as described above are not eligible for payment in this regard.

[Translation]

Handloom Clusters

5270. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handloom clusters set up in the country at present particularly in Gujarat, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) whether the Government has identified new locations for setting up new handloom clusters in the country during the Eleventh Plan Period;

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

(d) the fund allocated, released and spent for setting up and development of hand loom clusters during each year of Tenth Plan, State-wise and cluster-wise; and

(e) the present financial condition of these clusters, State-wise and cluster-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) Statement-I showing number of handloom clusters sanctioned in the country so far, including Gujarat State is enclosed.

(b) and (c) The location of new handloom clusters will be identified by the Implementing Agencies. During 2007-08, 251 clusters have been sanctioned under the Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme. These clusters have been included in the list of 251 clusters enclosed as Statement-I.

(d) Statement-II showing cluster-wise funds released and expenditure incurred for comprehensive development of 20 handloom clusters sanctioned during the X Plan is enclosed.

(e) Achievements of 20 handloom clusters are enclosed as Statement-III.

Statement-I*Details of handloom clusters sanctioned in the country including Gujarat*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of clusters sanctioned	Location-wise name of the clusters
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28	Chirala, Madhavaram, Payakaraopeta, Pedana, Isukapalli, Muddireddipally, Yemmiganur, Prddatur, Sripuram-Yellanki, Gadwal, Puttapaka, Kothpalli, Ampolu, Kotragandredu, Veeravaram, Dagguluru, Polavaram, Vetapalem, Sangham, Madanapalli, Yadiki, Kodumure, Kosigi, Medak, Jangaon, Khammam, Thangallapalli, Mothkurgundala
2.	Bihar	10	Bhagalpur, Madhubani (Bhawar), Katoria, Biharsharif, Champanagar, Kharik, Nathnagar, Husainabad, Manpur, Sigori
3.	Chhattisgarh	5	Mungjhar, Chhuikhadan, Bajawand, Katgi, Raigarh
4.	Gujarat	5	Bhuj, Palanpur, Porbandar, Limbdi, Ahmedabad
5.	Himachal Pradesh	3	Kullu, Kangra, Gohar (Mandi)
6.	Jharkhand	10	Ibra Chuttu, Jiyajori, Bhargora, Sithio, Pokharkala, Urugutu, Kunti, Saraiyahaat, Bhagaiya, Mandro
7.	Karnataka	14	Gadag, Mahingpur, Challakera, Molkalimuru, Thimmasandra, Kollegal, Vijayapura, Y.N., Hosakote, Nidagundi, Tumminakutti, Ilkal, Basavakalayan, Haleangadi, Savadatti
8.	Kerala	20	Trivandrum, Chennimangalam, Koothapally, Vadakara, Sree Padam, Ramapuram, Travoncore, Bhagavathynada, Ooruttambalam, Swadeshi, Naveena, Thettivila, Neyyatinkara, ICON H/I, Chathannoor, Kozhikode, Nedumangad, Palakkad, Kozhode, Payyanoor.
9.	Madhya Pradesh	11	Chandari-Gwalior, Sarangpur-Padhana, Maheshwar, Sausar, Waraseoni, Maheshwar (Rural Area), Maheshwar-Kasrawad, Patrohi, Athana, Ashta, Mandsour,
10.	Orissa	18	Sonepur, Bargarh, Iaxmiprasad, Baramba, Berhampur, Fakirpur, Patangarh, Dunguripali, Udala, Sinapali, Gopalpur, Baripada, Jaleswar, Dhenkanal, Aska, Ranapur, Bolagarh, Jagatsinghpur
11.	Rajasthan	2	Pokaran, Napasar

1	2	3	4
12.	Tamil Nadu	30	Thiruvannamalai, Trichy, Kurinjipadi, Nilayur, Palani, Veeravanallur, Padirivedu, Jayankondam, Kandachipuram, Sholingar, Appakudal, Sirumugai, Thandampalayam, Emaneswaram, Vengaumedu, Edapadi, Dassappa gounded Pudur Chennimalai, Pallilyadi, Tiruppur, Punalveli, Thiruburvanam, Attayampatti, Vandiyur, Sawerapuram, Chinnalapatti, Gudiyatham, Pudupettai, Esalam, Thirumalpur
13.	Uttar Pradesh	25	Barabanki, Mubarakpur, Bijnore, Varanasi, Amroha, Kairana, Bazardiha, Bhojpur, Gorakhpur, Dulhipur, Adalhat, Prithvipur, Saraiyan (Batlohia and Konia), Pilibhit, Besendi, Majhwan, Chaksikthi, Bilna Naharpar, Burhanpur, Saifani, Khakra, Ibrahimpur, Saraiyan (Azamgarh), Mallawan, Thakurdwara
14.	Uttaranchal	5	Chhlnka, Manglore, Dunda, Munshiyari, Dharchula
15.	West Bengal	27	Samudragarh-Dhatrigrum, Shantipur, Tufanganj, Radhamoni, Mirzapur, Jangipara, Gangarampur Harali and Kurchi, Raghunathpur, Bishnupur, Dandirhat, Dinjata, Bordangi, Sattari, Kumar Gram, Malgoan, Chawk Islampur, Balagarh, Chandanpur, Sonamukhi, Shyamsundrapur, Tentulia, Kashipur, Debipur, Charkasthas, Chak Borali, Begampur
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	8	Ziro, Nahariagun, Daporijo, Nacho, Aalo, Pasighat, Teze, Changlang,
17.	Assam	11	Bijoynagar, Srihati, Betbari, Lakhimpur, Kapalbari, Boitamari, Bazarghat, Jajori, Dangori, Dighalagaon, Sipajhar.
18.	Manipur	20	Imphal, Kumbi, Kakching, Tupul, Churachandpur, Naorem, Kabrabam, Lamding, Phunreitag, Sawombung-Kabui Khunjao, Lambung, Wangkhei Konsam Leikai, Moirang-Kangieibung, Barhikhong Kitna, Kgonglong, Webagai Maibam Leikai, Dimadaillong, Uchaton, Ardro, Khurai (Thoudam)
19.	Meghalaya	4	Garobanda, Saipung, Lapnagar, Paham
20.	Nagaland	5	Kohima, Dimapur, Zunheboto, Mokokchung, Wokha
21.	Tripura	10	Naichar, Gobindpur, Nutannagar, Amarpur, Muhuripur, Shankhola, Halahali, Malaya, Mungiakami, Gakulnagar-Bishalgarh,
Total		271	

Statement-II*Details of funds released and spent in 20 Handloom Clusters*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Name of the Cluster	Amount released during X Plan			*Expenditure incurred
			2005-06	2006-07	Total	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Madhavaram	21.05	27.65	48.70	57.05
		2. Chirala	21.05	27.65	48.70	45.70
2.	Assam	3. Bijoy Nagar	21.05	27.65	48.70	65.33
3.	Bihar	4. Bhagalpur	21.05	27.65	48.70	80.12
4.	Himachal Pradesh	5. Kullu	21.05	27.65	48.70	69.90
5.	Karnataka	6. Gadag	21.05	27.65	48.70	63.43
6.	Kerala	7. Trivandrum	21.05	27.65	48.70	43.52
7.	Madhya Pradesh	8. Chanderi/Gwalior	21.05	27.65	48.70	50.76
8.	Manipur	9. Imphal	21.05	27.65	48.70	76.15
9.	Orissa	10. Sonapur	21.05	27.65	48.70	44.90
		11. Bargarh	21.05	27.65	48.70	43.72
		12. Trichy	21.05	27.65	48.70	45.38
10.	Tamil Nadu	13. Thiruvanna-Malai	21.05	27.65	48.70	58.53
		14. Kurinijipadi	21.05	27.65	48.70	55.80
		15. Varanasi	100.00	0.00	100.00	54.30
11.	Uttar Pradesh	16. Barabanki	21.05	27.65	48.70	46.90
		17. Mubarakpur	21.05	27.65	48.70	41.08
		18. Bijnore	21.05	27.65	48.70	49.52
12.	West Bengal	19. Samudra Garh-Dhatrigram (Burdwan)	21.05	27.65	48.70	49.68
		20. Shantipur (Nadia)	21.05	27.65	48.70	42.06
Total			499.95	525.35	1025.30	1083.83

*This includes expenditure incurred against the amount released in 2007-08 also.

Statement-III

*Achievements of 20 handloom clusters as on
31st March, 2008*

- 955 Self Help Groups (SHGs) formed, covering 10650 weavers.
- 18 consortium and 01 producer company have been formed, covering of 18,000 weavers.
- Wage enhancement of weavers by Rs. 300/- per month at Varanasi and Bhagalpur cluster.
- 342 awareness camps organized, involving 40800 weavers from the cluster pockets.
- 13,000 weavers registered under Insurance Scheme.
- Credit linkages for 642 weavers with banks— Rs. 53.75 lakhs credit disbursed.
- 49 dyers workshops organized with participation of 1300 dyers leading to improvement in dyeing quality.
- 61 exhibitions and 50 buyer seller meets organized with total sales realization of Rs. 9.37 crores.
- 25 export procedure training program organized with active involvement of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and Handloom Export Promotion Council.
- 825 new designs and products introduced.
- 26 managerial Training Programmes organized for office bearers of consortium and local institutions.
- 34 Yarn Depots established.
- Product Catalogues developed by 20 clusters.
- 1580 looms upgraded by replacement of reeds and healds.
- 18 Common Facility Centres (CFCs) and Dye houses approved.

— 2 dye houses up-graded.

[English]

Cargo Flights in Postal Services

5271. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the postal department operates daily cargo, flights to some destinations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has proposed to extend the facility in various other destinations in near future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Posts has chartered one Cargo plane from Air India for a period of one year. The Cargo plane operates on Kolkata-Guwahati-Imphal-Agartala- Kolkata route six days a week.

(c) to (e) The Department has a plan scheme on wet lease of three freighter aircraft for conveyance of mail for major cities in the 11th Plan. However, the scheme is yet to be approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee.

**Losses due to Brain Drain in
I.T. Sector**

5272 SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the several posts in the Information Technology (IT) sector are lying vacant in the country as the experts having high technical qualifications are migrating to foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of loss caused by this brain drain; and

(d) the steps taken/lbeing taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) As per National Association of Software and service Companies (NASSCOM) there is a loss of talent when a large number of students go abroad to pursue higher education and often take-up employment in those countries, however over the past few years there has also been a growing trend of experienced professionals returning to India to set up their own ventures/work in India.

Cavalry Unit at Pune

5273. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a request to open new cavalry unit at Pune has been received from various military strategists;

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the existing army establishments where cavalry units are located in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) No proposal to open a new Cavalry unit at Pune has been received. There is only one cavalry unit which is located at Jaipur with one squadron at New Delhi.

Commodity Exchanges

5274. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of National and Regional Commodity Exchanges in the country alongwith the products traded therein as on date;

(b) the number of new exchanges proposed to be set up alongwith the proposed location thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide loans to farmers participating in future trading;

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

(e) the efforts made to involve State Level Marketing Committees, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and Cooperative Sector in future trading alongwith the success achieved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The details of 'National' and 'Regional' Commodity Exchanges in the country along with the products in which they are recognized for trading is enclosed as Statement.

(b) The Government does not have a view on the number of new Exchanges to be set up. However, the Government will consider the application for setting up a commodity exchange from any company, association etc. on merit as and when such proposal is received.

(c) No Sir.

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

(e) State Level Marketing Committees, Non Government Organizations (NGOs) and the Cooperative Sector can play a useful role as aggregators in helping farmers aggregate their produce for price risk management on the Commodity Exchanges and for collateralized finance. These aggregators can assume the role of facilitating agents or a risk-bearing layer between the farmers and the commodity exchanges. Moreover, downside risks and transaction costs can be distributed among several farmers by these aggregators so that the possibility of default arising out of disproportionate exposures is mitigated.

In addition to the above, such agencies can play a vital role in information dissemination and knowledge/

capacity-building of farmers. Undeniably, keeping track of the market developments and taking suitable positions on the commodity exchanges is a lot easier for aggregators than it is for individual farmers. Alternatively, these aggregators can rely on an intermediary to fulfill their information, financial and infrastructural needs. These intermediaries can be a broker, financial institution, a government institution, technical consultancies etc.

Forward Markets Commission has adopted a two pronged strategy to involve State Level Marketing Committees, Non Government Organizations (NGOs)

and Cooperative Sector in futures trading. In the first stage, FMC along with the Exchanges has worked at increasing their awareness about the futures market. In the second stage, when these organisations decide to enable their constituents to learn and participate in futures trading, then the Exchange organizes training sessions/workshops including training on the terminals, explaining exchange processes etc.

The efforts made by the Commission have already resulted in the participation of some cooperatives and federations in the commodity futures markets.

Statement

Details of the National and Regional Commodity Exchanges

A. National Commodity Exchanges

Name of the Exchange	Commodities
Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited, Mumbai	<p>Agricultural Commodities</p> <p>Raw Jute, Sugar, Turmeric, Chana, Masoor, Kapaskhali, Mentha, Soy oil, Cardamom, Jeera, Pepper, Red chilli, Coffee, Guar seed, Gur, Potato, Areca nut, Cashew Kernel, Castor, Coconut, Groundnut, Guar, Rubber, Cotton, Maize, Mustard, Palmolein, Sunflower Oil, Sesame Seed, Soya Bean, Rice Bran Oil, Rice Bran De-oiled Cake, Yellow Peas</p> <p>METALS</p> <p>Aluminum, Copper, Gold, Nickel, Silver, Zinc, Lead, Sponge Iron, Steel, Tin</p> <p>OTHERS</p> <p>Furnace Oil, Natural gas, ATF, Carbon Credit</p>
National Commodity and Derivative Exchange Limited, Mumbai	<p>Agriculture</p> <p>Barley, Maize, Chana, Castor seed, Cotton seed oil Cake, Mentha Oil, Mustard seed/Rapeseed, soy oil, Soyabean, Jeera, Pepper, Red Chilli, Turmeric, Guarseed, Guar gum, Gur, Potato, Sugar, Rubber, Cashew, Raw Jute, Masoor, Yellow Peas, Sugar S, Yellow Soya Bean Meal, Crude Palm Oil, Whitish Sesame seeds,</p>

Name of the Exchange	Commodities
National Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited, Ahmedabad	<p>Groundnut, Groundnut Expeller Oil, Cotton Seed Oil Cake, Mustard Expeller Oil, Mustard Oil Cake, Cotton, Coffee</p> <p>METALS</p> <p>Gold, Steel ingot, Silver, Electrolytic, Copper Cathode, Nickel Cathode, Zinc Ingot, Aluminum Ingot,</p> <p>OTHERS</p> <p>Crude Oil, Furnace Oil, Polypropylene, Poly Vinyl Chloride, Carbon Credit</p> <p>Agriculture</p> <p>Cardamom, Pepper, Rubber, Raw Jute, Isabgul, Chana, Coffee, Copra, Cumin Seed, Guar Gum, Sacking, Soyoil, Menthol Crystal</p> <p>METALS</p> <p>Aluminium, Copper, Gold, Lead, Nickel, Silver, Tin, Zinc</p>

B. Regional Commodity Exchanges

Name of Exchanges	Commodities
1. Rajdhani Oils and Oil seeds Exchange Ltd., Delhi	Mustard seed/Rapeseed, Gur
2. Ahmedabad Commodity Exchange Ltd.	Castor seed
3. Bhatinda Om and Oil Exchange Ltd., Bhatinda	Gur
4. Bikaner Commodity Exchange Ltd., Bikaner	Mustard seed its oil and cake, Guarseed, Guargum, Gram
5. First Commodity Exchange of India Ltd., Kochi	Coconut oil, Copra and Cake
6. Haryana Commodities Ltd., Sirsa	Mustard seed, Mustard oil and cake
7. India Pepper and Spice Trade Association, Kochi	Pepper
8. Surendranagar Cotton oil and Oilseeds Association Ltd.	Kapas, Cotton bales and Seeds
9. The Bombay Commodity Exchange Ltd., Mumbai	Castor seed, RBD Palmolein
10. The Bullion Association Limited, Jaipur	Mustard Seeds, Mustard Oil and Cake
11. The Central India Commercial Exchange Ltd., Gwalior.	Mustard seed

Name of the Exchange	Commodities
12. The Chamber Of Commerce., Hapur	Gur, Mustard seed
13. The Cotton Association of India Mumbai	Cotton
14. The East India Jute and Hessian Exchange Ltd., Kolkata	Rawjute, Jute goods, Sacking
15. The Meerut Agro Commodities Exchange Co. Ltd., Meerut	Gur
16. The Rajkot Commodity Exchange Ltd.	Castor seed, Groundnut oil
17. The Spices and Oilseeds Exchange Ltd., Sangli	Turmeric
18. Vijay Beopar Chamber Ltd., Muzaffarnagar	Gur
19. National Board of Trade. Indore	Soyabean, Soya oil, Palm derivatives, Mustard Seeds its oils and Cake

Projects from Andhra Pradesh

5275. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government is going ahead with the Mahendratanaaya project in violation of the agreement with Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the work done by Andhra Pradesh in the project so far; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to make a consensus between the party States to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV):(a) to (c) Mahendratanaaya river is a tributary of Vamsadhara River which is an inter-state river. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that it is taking up the Mahendratanaaya project to utilize its share of the waters in Vamsadhara basin to cater to its needs. It has further informed that the utilization of waters from the Mahendratanaaya river (which is a tributary of Vamsadhara river) for the project proposed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh is within its rightful share of 52.50 TMC of the Vamsadhara basin and this is not in violation of any agreement with Orissa. The Government of Orissa has requested to

Government of Andhra Pradesh for a joint inspection of the project by the technical officers of both the States.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted Preliminary Report of Mahendratanaaya Project to Central Water Commission on 15-4-2008 for seeking "in principle consent". While examining various aspects of the project, the Central Water Commission also examines the inter-state aspects of the project as per guidelines for appraisal of irrigation projects.

Development of I.T. Sector in Small City

5276. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the interior western part of the country is still lagging behind in the Information Technology sector;

(b) if so, whether Government has proposed to take any initiative to spread the benefits of Information Technology to the small cities of the country;

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

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to develop Ahmedabad on the lines of Bangalore; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (e) Software Technology Park of India (STPI) has set up 51 centers across the country, out of which 44 centers are in Tier-II and Tier-III cities. The State wise STPI center details are enclosed at Statement.

As per current policy for setting up a new Software Technology Park of India (STPI) Centre, the State Government has to provide 3 acres of land, 10,000 sq. ft. of built up space and a grant-in-aid of Rs. 1 Crore to STPI. The Department of Information Technology, Government of India provides a seed capital of Rs. 50 lakhs to STPI for setting up of new STPI Centers. A feasibility study has to be conducted by STPI jointly with the State Government to evaluate the export potential and commercial viability of the proposal.

Statement

Software Technology Parks of India

Sl. No.	States	STPI Centers
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
2.		Thirupati
3.		Vijayawada
4.		Vizag
5.		Warangal
6.		Kakinada
7.	Assam	Guwahati
8.	Chhattisgarh	Bhilai
9.	Gujarat	Gandhinagar
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla

1	2	3
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar
12.		Jammu
13.	Jharkhand	Ranchi
14.	Karnataka	Bangalore
15.		Hubli
16.		Mangalore
17.		Manipal
18.		Mysore
19.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram
20.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore
21.	Maharashtra	Aurangabad
22.		Nagpur
23.		Nasik
24.		Navi Mumbai
25.		Kolhapur
26.		Pune
27.	Manipur	Imphal
28.	Orissa	Bhubaneswar
29.		Rourkela
30.	Pondicherry	Pandicherry
31.	Punjab	Mohali
32.	Rajasthan	Jaipur
33.		Jodhpur
34.	Sikkim	Gangtok
35.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
36.		Coimbatore
37.		Madurai

1	2	3
38.		Thirunavelli
39.		Trichy
40.	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur
41.		Lucknow
42.		Noida
43.		Allahabad
44.	Uttaranchal	Dehradun
45.	West Bengal	Kolkatta
46.		Durgapur
47.		Khargapur
48.		Siliguri
49.		Haldia
50.	Bihar	Patna
51.	Meghalaya	Shilong

**Schemes/Programmes for Development of
Wool and Woollen Products**

5277. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes and programmes being implemented by the Union Government under the Central Wool Development Board (CWDB) for the development of wool and woollen products during the Tenth Five Year Plan and proposed to be implemented during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of assistance provided by the Government to CWDB, Private Sector and Non-

Governmental Organisations for the development of wool and woollen products during each year of Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise; and

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) The Government of India through Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur had implemented the following schemes and programmes during the Tenth Five Year Plan:

(i) Integrated Wool Improvement Programme (IWIP)

(ii) Quality Processing of Wool

The schemes/programmes which are to be implemented during the Eleventh Five Year Plan are:

(i) Integrated Wool Improvement and Development Programme

(ii) Quality Processing of Wool and Woollen and

(iii) Social Security Scheme.

(b) The Government had released Rs.35.00 crore to Central Wool Development Board during the Tenth Five Year Plan to implement various schemes for the growth and development of wool and woollen sector. The details of the financial assistance provided to private sector and non-governmental organizations for the development of wool and woollen products during each year of the Tenth Five Year Plan is enclosed as Statement.

(c) The Government have proposed an allocation of Rs.82.19 crores during the Eleventh Five Year Plan to implement various schemes/programmes in the wool sector.

Statement

State-wise Release of funds during Tenth Plan (2002-03 to 2006-07) by the Central Wool Development Board for development of wool sector

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Name of Schemes/ Projects/Programmes	Name of Implementing Agency	Years						Total
				2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1.	Gujarat	Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project	Gujarat Sheep and Wool Development Corporation Ltd., Gandhinagar.	64.84	34.50				99.34	
		Sheep and Wool Improvement Scheme (IWIP)			133.50	42.30		50.00	225.80	
		Angora Wool Development	National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad			5.00			5.00	
2.	Rajasthan	Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project	Director, Animal Husbandry Department, Jaipur	42.76					42.76	
		Sheep and Wool Improvement Scheme (IWIP)	Secretary, Animal Husbandry Deptt., Jaipur					100.00	100.00	
		Machine Shearing-Cum-Training Project	GM, His Highness Maharaja Hanuwant Singh Trust, Jodhpur					17.27	17.27	
		CFC-SWIS	Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar	0.72					0.72	
			Raj Carpet and Woolen Product Society, Jaipur				0.585	0.990	1.58	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			M/s Chitra Carpets, Bikaner				0.585	1.00	1.59
		Shepherd Awareness cum Sheep Health Prog.	Goudwad, Gramin Vikas Va Anusandhaan Sansthan, Pali					32.50	32.50
			Secretary, Society to uplift Rural Economy (SURE), Barmer					9.750	9.75
			Chairman, Mahila Mandal, Barmer					45.50	45.50
			Secretary, Shakshi Anusan- dhaan and Vikas Samitee, Photodi					41.60	41.60
			Raiyat Vikas Sansthan, Jodhpur					3.25	3.25
3.	Himachal Pradesh	Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Programme	Himachal Pradesh State Wool Procurement and Marketing Federation Ltd., Shimla.	42.14	50.69				92.83
		Sheep and Wool Improve- ment Scheme (IWIP)			125.05		92.48	56.95	274.48
		Drier Plant			7.85	7.00			14.85
		Improvement of Wool Fibre-CFC (Angora)	M.D. Bhuttico Weavers, Kullu			0.58	1.40	0.54	2.52
			Shisham H/I and H/c Industrial production cum sale co-op society Ltd., Kullu				0.585	1.12	1.71
		Integrated Angora Rabbit Development Project	Animal Husbandry Department, Shimla	0.35					0.35

4. Uttar Pradesh	Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project	Uttar Pradesh Poultry and Livestock Specialities Ltd., Lucknow	16.08	25.50	41.58
	Machine Shearing-Cum-Training Project		0.54		0.54
	Sheeps and Wool Improvement Scheme (IWIP)	Director, Animal Husbandry Department, Lucknow		155.15	155.15
5. Haryana	Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project	Haryana State Livestock Dev. Board, Chandigarh		73.09	73.09
	Sheep and Wool Improvement Scheme	Animal Husbandary and Dairying deptt., Panchkula		10.00	97.77
	Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project	M.D., Karnataka Sheep and Wool Development Corporation, Bangalore	8.51		8.51
	Sheep and Wool Improvement Scheme		0.47	12.94	63.05
	Quality Processing of Wool			41.25	41.25
	Machine Shearing-Cum-Training Project		2.34		2.34
7. Andhra Pradesh	Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project	Director, Animal Husb. Deptt., Hyderabad	34.19		34.19
	Sheep and Wool Improvement Scheme			113.50	113.50
	Evaluation of Board Scheme (IWIP)	Head(csd), NIRD, Hyderabad		8.80	17.60
8. Jammu and Kashmir	Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project	Jammu and Kashmir Sheep Board, Jammu/LAHDC, Leh	7.05	21.31	28.36

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Sheep and Wool Improvement Programme (PM)	Secy., Animal Husbandry Deptt., Srinagar.	52.80	329.32	136.00	518.12			
	Creation of Revolving fund	Secy., Animal Husbandry Deptt., Srinagar.Jammu	100.00			100.00			
	Development of Speciality Fibre (Pashmina)	Secy., Animal Husbandry Deptt., Jammu	60.75	20.00	30.00	110.75			
	Machine Shearing-Cum-Training Project	Jammu and Kashmir Board, Jammu/LAHDC, Leh/Animal Husbandry	4.88			4.88			
	Integrated Angora Rabbit Development Project	Jammu and Kashmir Sheep Board, Jammu	0.46			0.46			
	Drier Plant	Secy., Animal Husbandry Deptt., Jammu	7.00			7.00			
9. Uttaranchal	Sheep and Wool Improvement Scheme (IWIP)	CEO, Uttaranchal Sheep and Wool Dev. Board, Dehradun	37.75	38.37	49.37	20.90	146.39		
	Integrated Angora Rabbit Development Project	Defence Agriculture Research Laboratory, Pithoragarh	7.80	1.42	2.66	11.88			
	Development-Speciality Fibre (Angora Dev.)	Manager, Lok Vikas Parishad, Rudrapryag	7.80			7.80			
		ED, Himalyan Institute for environment Ecology and Dev., Dehradun	3.90			3.90			
		CEO, Uttaranchal Sheep and Wool Dev. Board, Dehradun	3.90			3.90			
	Improvement of Wool Fibre-CFC (Angora)	Director, Swati Gramodyog Sansathan, Pithoragarh	0.585	1.02	1.61				

10. Punjab	Development Speciality Fibre (Angora Dev.)	Defence Agriculture Research Laboratory, Pithoragarh	6.55	17.83	24.83
	Quality Processing of Wool	Ludhiana Dyers and Processors Ltd. Ludhiana	50.00		50.00
11. Delhi	Support Service (Consultancy)	Regional Director, Wool Mark Service India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	2.75	7.13	9.88
	Support Service (Research and Development)	Registrar, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	5.00	5.00	10.00
12. Maharashtra	Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project	Punyashloka Anilyadevi Maharashtra Mendhi Va Sheel Vikas Mahamandal Ltd., Pune	9.68	8.96	18.64
	Sheep and Wool Improve- ment Scheme (IWIP)		27.40	13.55	40.95
	Research, Consultancies, Studies and Training	Wool Research Association, Thane.		14.80	14.80

**Indian Council of Veterinary and
Fisheries Research**

5278. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented the proposal for setting up of the Indian Council of Veterinary and Fisheries Research (ICVFR);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for delay in its execution;

(c) whether the condition for setting up of ICVFR have also been fulfilled;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the merger of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying with the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has also been finalized; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) There is no proposal under consideration for setting up of an Indian Council of Veterinary and Fisheries Research. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is the apex body in the country for planning and coordinating research in all branches of agriculture which includes Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Agricultural Engineering, Home Science, Agro-forestry, etc. A farmer typically is engaged in a variety of activities in his farming which includes crops, livestock, horticulture, etc. Therefore, it is essential to have a holistic and integrated approach to agricultural research and technology development in order to provide technology to the farmer in an optimum manner.

(e) and (f) There is no proposal under consideration in the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries for merger with Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

[Translation]

Drip Irrigation

5279. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made regarding the success and requirement of funds under drip irrigation project/scheme in the country;

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

(c) the criteria adopted for fixing target and allocating funds under the drip irrigation project; and

(d) the reasons for fixing low targets and poor achievement under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India had constituted a Task Force in July, 2003 to assess the scope and potential of drip irrigation in the country and recommended the requirement of funds and implementation strategy. Based on the recommendation of the task force, the Government launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro Irrigation (MI) in January, 2006 for promotion of drip and sprinkler irrigation.

(c) and (d) The target and allocation of funds for Micro Irrigation Scheme are demand driven and made on the basis of Annual Action Plan received from the various States. An area of 6.97 lakh ha. has been brought under micro irrigation within two years of the launch of the scheme. Thus, substantial progress has been achieved compared to the earlier period which recorded an average addition of 50,000 ha. per annum, prior to the launch of the scheme.

[English]

**Reduction in Tariff of Domestic
Internet Services**

5280. SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes available presently to the subscribers availing domestic internet services provided by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in the country;

(b) whether the Government is considering any proposal to reduce the tariff for usage of exclusive domestic services of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL); and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA):

(a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is not providing any scheme exclusively for domestic internet service. However, BSNL is offering internet access for accessing all legal websites throughout the world. The internet services provided by BSNL are Dialup internet, Broadband internet, Leased Line internet, ISDN internet and Mobile internet. These services are available to all landline and mobile customers of BSNL.

(b) and (c) No such proposal is presently being considered.

[Translation]

National Sugar Institute

5281. SHRI ANIL SHUKLA WARSI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working and research of the National Sugar Institute has been adversely affected due to its neglect in appointments/promotions and allocation of funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor indicating the appointments/promotions and vacancies in different categories of staff alongwith the allocation made for the institute during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the Government had issued directions for upgrading the institute to the level of scientific institute after including it in the list of scientific institution;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for failure to implement the said directives; and

(e) the time by which they are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir. National Sugar Institute, Kanpur provides technical education in various branches of sugar technology, sugar engineering, alcohol technology and other allied branches and also undertakes research on the problems of sugar industry, alcohol and allied industry, by-product utilization etc. The Institute has also a research farm and an Experimental Sugar Factory for training of students. The performance of the Institute with regard to number of students training and operation of experimental sugar factory is as follows:

Sl.No.	Item	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
01.	No. of Student trained	139	155	165 (Admitted)
02.	Sugarcane crushed in Experimental Sugar Factory (Quintals)	5837.38	6366.44	9213.11
03.	Sugar Produced (Quintals)	80.00	172.00	170.00

The approved plan outlay of the Institute during 10th Plan (2002-07) was RS. 6.45 crores against which

cumulative expenditure was about Rs. 3.15 crores. The 11 th Plan (2007-12) is Rs. 7.25 crores. The funds under

non-plan are provided as per actual requirements of the Institute.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) and (e) Do not arise.

Home Loan through post Office

5282. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to provide home loans through post offices in the country;
- (b) if so, whether any pilot project has been sanctioned by the Government in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has signed any contract with the public sector banks or private sector banks for providing this facility in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) and (e) An agreement has been signed between India Post and State Bank of India for Pilot Project launched on 2nd July 2007 in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu Circles for collection of Loan Applications (including Home Loan) in selected Post Offices and forwarding the same to link branches of State Bank of India.

Utilisation of Water Resources

5283. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the details of available potential requirement and supply of water resources for various purposes including electricity generation, agriculture and drinking water in the country as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): The availability of water resources has been assessed river basin wise and the same is used either through surface water systems or ground water schemes for meeting the various requirements. The river basin wise availability of water resources is enclosed as Statement-I. The total requirement of water resources for various purposes i.e. domestic, irrigation, industries, power, inland navigation, ecology and evaporation losses has been assessed by the National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan in its report and the statewide projected requirement at the end of the year 2010, 2025 and 2050 are enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement-I

River Basin-wise Average Annual Water Availability

[Billion Cubic Metre (BCM)]

Sl.No.	River Basin	Average Annual Water Availability
1	2	3
1.	Indus	73.31

1	2	3
2.	Ganga-Brahmaputra-Barak.	
	A. Ganga sub-basin	525.02
	b. Brahmaputra and Barak sub-basin	585.60
3.	Godavari	110.54
4.	Krishna	78.12
5.	Cauvery	21.36
6.	Pennar	6.32
7.	East Flowing Rivers between Mahanadi and Pennar	22.52
8.	East Flowing Rivers between Pennar and Kanyakumari	16.46
9.	Mahanadi	66.88
10.	Brahmani and Baitarni	28.48
11.	Subarnrekha	12.37
12.	Sabarmati	3.81
13.	Mahi	11.02
14.	West Flowing Rivers of Kutchh, Saurashtra including Luni	15.10
15.	Narmada	45.64
16.	Tapi	14.88
17.	West Flowing Rivers from Tapi to Tadri	87.41
18.	West Flowing Rivers from Tadri to Kanyakumari	113.53
19.	Area of Inland Drainage in Rajasthan Desert	Negl.
20.	Minor River Basins Draining into Bangladesh and Myanmar	31.00
Total (National)		1869.37

Statement-II**State-wise Projected Water Requirements**

[Billion Cubic Metre (BCM)]

State/UT	Total Water Requirement for all Uses		
	Year 2010	Year 2025	Year 2050
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	66.4	78.5	109.8
Arunachal Pradesh	1.4	2.1	12.6
Assam	18.8	24.1	50.1
Bihar and Jharkhand	47.7	64.3	106.6
Goa	0.5	0.8	0.9
Gujarat	35.3	46.0	56.8
Haryana	32.1	31.8	31.6
Himachal Pradesh	5.8	6.0	6.7
Jammu and Kashmir	7.1	9.1	15.5
Karnataka	36.4	42.7	58.8
Kerala	11.6	15.6	30.9
Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	51.2	67.6	113.6
Maharashtra	56.1	74.0	101.5
Manipur	1.5	1.7	5.1
Meghalaya	1.2	1.5	2.2
Mizoram	0.4	0.6	1.2
Nagaland	1.2	1.6	6.1
Orissa	24.0	32.8	49.1
Punjab	51.1	48.8	47.5
Rajasthan	55.3	54.8	59.6

1	2	3	4
Sikkim	0.4	0.5	0.8
Tamil Nadu	44.1	51.6	61.7
Tripura	1.6	2.0	6.9
Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal	118.0	137.0	171.6
West Bengal	37.3	44.5	66.4
UTs	1.8	2.5	4.0

Remunerative Prices to Farmers

5284. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers, particularly in Uttar Pradesh are not getting remunerative prices for their crops in comparison to the cost of inputs;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government proposes to give any package to improve the poor condition of the farmers of Uttar Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government's price policy for agricultural commodities seeks to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production, and to safeguard the interest of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices. The price policy also seeks to evolve a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy.

The Government decides on the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for various agricultural commodities taking into account the recommendations of the Commission

for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of State Governments and Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors which are considered important for fixation of support prices. The CACP, while formulating its recommendations on price policy considers a number of important factors which includes cost of production. The MSPs announced by the Government are applicable throughout the country, including Uttar Pradesh.

(c) and (d) The scheme of debt waiver and debt relief for farmers announced by the Government in the Union Budget for 2008-09 is applicable to all the farmers in the country. All direct agricultural loans disbursed to farmers by scheduled commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative credit institutions upto March 31, 2007 and overdue as on December 31, 2007 will be covered under the scheme. However, for marginal farmers (i.e. holding upto 1 hectare) and small farmers (1-2 hectare), there will be a complete waiver of all loans that were overdue on December 31, 2007 and which remained unpaid until February 29, 2008.

[English]

Minimum Support Price

5285. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minimum Support Price system is being operated by the Ministry through Food Credit Limit

sanctioned by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) with concurrence of the Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government approves the economic cost only after verifying the schemes of the procurement agencies;

(c) if so, whether this procedure takes a long time causing problems to procurement agencies to acquire utilisation of food credit from RBI;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor indicating the agencies and years for which such approval is pending; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The Central Government extends price support for paddy, wheat and coarsegrains through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and agencies of the State Governments. Under this policy, these Government agencies procure foodgrains at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) plus bonus (if any) from the farmers. For funding these procurement operations, the Consortium of Banks led by State Bank of India finances Cash Credit Limit to the FCI and the concerned State Governments on crop-to-crop basis. The Cash Credit Limit and the interest accrued thereon is repaid by the FCI and the State Governments after subsidy is released to them by the Central Government.

Provisional subsidy is paid to the State Governments for procurement operations based on the provisional economic costs worked out for each State based on standard principles. However, final subsidy for a crop procured in a marketing season for any State is paid only after finalisation of economic costs which are worked out based on audited statements received from the State Governments. The finalisation of economic cost for few States was delayed on account on delay in submission of audited accounts by these respective States.

FCI has informed that the economic cost of FCI does not have any linkage to the Cash Credit sanctioned by SBI and FCI has not faced any problem of sanction of Cash Credit by State Bank of India.

(e) To ensure that the legitimate expenses of the State Governments for their procurement operations of foodgrains for the Central Pool are reimbursed quickly, the following steps have been taken.

(i) Advance and provisional subsidy is being released once in every quarter.

(ii) A Special Cell has been formed in the FCI to examine the audited accounts submitted by the State Governments and to recommend the final economic costs.

Revenue From Auction of Spectrum

5286 SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received suggestions from the Ministry of Finance for auctioning spectrum to generate more revenue for the Government as reported in the Business Line dated February 17, 2008;

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

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance has shown its reservations against allocating spectrum at a price fixed in 2003; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) The report of the "Business Line" dated 17-02-08 mentions that the Union Finance Ministry has told the Department of Telecom that allocating spectrum through an auction process was legally possible. It also mentions that the opinion of the Finance Ministry is in contrast to

the stand taken by the Communication Ministry, which has earlier ruled out auction on the grounds that it was illegal.

The review of spectrum fee/charging is undertaken from time to time, taking into account various relevant aspects viz. consultations with stake holders, and the concerned Ministries, with a view to bring spectrum charges to a realistic level. Also, the initial spectrum is allotted as per provisions of the telecom service licences. With the growth of services, additional spectrum is allotted as per criteria in this regard. The spectrum usage charges are paid by the operators on revenue share basis. The annual spectrum revenues have increased from Rs.25 crore in 1997-98 to Rs. 3000 crore in 2007-2008.

Barrage Projects

5287. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Government of Orissa for construction of Barrage over river Udanti, Sandol in Kalahandi and Nuapada Districts of Orissa under AIBP;

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

(c) the benefits likely to accrue therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) No proposal for funding for construction of Barrage over river Udanti Sandol in Kalahandi and Nuapada districts of Orissa under AIBP has been received.

[Translation]

Disturbance in Mobile Service of BSNL/MTNL

5288. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to technical problems in the mobile and land-line telephone services of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) these services remain disturbed throughout the day in the country;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported through the newspapers and other forms of media about the break-down in the mobile and land-line services provided by the MTNL and the BSNL in the country during January 2008, till date, State-wise;

(c) whether the officials of the BSNL have approached the senior officials of police recently for the protection of cable wire in north Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Sir, Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) based Cellular Mobile Service and Landline Service of BSNL are working satisfactory, in general.

The Services are interrupted sometimes due to failure of media power supply equipment for which action for rectification is taken promptly. Congestion has been observed in the mobile network sometimes at some places for which BSNL has already initiated action for augmentation of its network. The same would enhance coverage, capacity and Quality of Service.

In MTNL, there was some temporary congestion in the cellular mobile network of MTNL Delhi due to up gradation and capacity expansion of 750K lines. This has now been commissioned and network is working satisfactorily. The new network will provide better coverage and more capacity.

(b) The information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) BSNL Offices in Bihar have met Police Authorities frequently and have also taken up the matter with them through written communications.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	No. of such cases reported in media since Jan., 2008
1.	Bihar	23
2.	Maharashtra	1
3.	N.E. II	6
4.	Tamil Nadu	1

[English]

**Procurement of Milk by
Mother Dairy**

5289. SHRI LALMANI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mother Dairy milk booths are located in High Income population areas;

(b) if so, the area-wise details of Mother Dairy booths at present;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide good quality milk to the low income population areas in order to check the sale of synthetic milk in such localities;

(d) whether the Mother Dairy is purchasing milk from the private milk suppliers instead from the State Dairy Cooperatives;

(e) if so, the details of milk quantity purchased from these suppliers during the last three; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to purchase milk from the State Dairy Cooperatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Mother Dairy has its booths spread across resettlement/JJ clusters, low income, middle income as well as high income population areas of Delhi.

(b) Area-wise details of milk outlets (booths/ insulated containers) of Mother Dairy, Delhi are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Good quality milk is being supplied by Mother Dairy/Delhi Milk Scheme to the low income population areas. Clean and hygienic milk produced by different companies is available in the market to meet the demand of different groups of population.

(d) Mother Dairy is also purchasing milk from the private companies as the neighbouring state dairy cooperatives are not in a position to meet the entire requirement of Mother Dairy, Delhi.

(e) During the last three financial years ending 2007, Mother Dairy purchased 16 crore litres of milk from the private companies and also had to use SMP for reconstitution. It purchased 163 crore litres from cooperatives.

(f) The milk made available by State Dairy Cooperatives is not sufficient to meet the requirement of Mother Dairy though Mother Dairy would always like to purchase from Cooperatives.

Statement*Area-wise list of Mother Dairy Outlets*

Area	Booths	Insulated Containers
Andrews Ganj	4	0
Ansari Road/Darya Ganj	7	2

Area	Booths	Insulated Containers
Ashok Vihar	20	4
Baba KS Marg/Tilak Marg/Mandir Marg/CP	8	1
Badarpur	13	34
Badli	1	17
Bahadurgarh	4	0
Bawana	3	13
Bengali market	2	0
Bhogal/Jangpura	3	0
Budh Vihar	5	10
Burari	0	62
Chandni Chowk	2	0
Chankyapuri/South Avenue	7	0
Chhatarpur	0	18
Dakshin Puri	5	8
Defence Colony/Kotla/Sewanagar	4	1
Delhi Cantt.	7	5
Dilshad Garden/Seemapuri	6	5
DLF Ph 1-5 Ansal Sushant Lok, Palam Vihar, Gurgaon	11	0
Dwarka/Bindapur/Naseerpur	28	10
East of Kailash	4	0
Friends Cly.	5	0
Ghevra	0	6
Greater Kailash	7	0
Greater Noida	8	0
GTB	8	2

Area	Booths	Insulated Containers
Gulabi Bagh	6	0
Hauz Khas	13	1
Huda Sectors, Gurgaon	22	0
Jahangir Puri	8	14
Jama Masjid	2	0
Janak Puri	14	0
Kalkaji	13	7
Kamla Nagar	8	0
Karala	1	17
Karwal Nagar/Gokulpuri/Mustafabad	8	67
Karkarduma Area—CGHS Complexes	11	3
Karol Bagh	10	1
Kashmiri Gate	1	0
Khanpur	5	11
Krishna Nagar	6	3
Lajpat Nagar	12	2
Laxmi Nagar/Shakarpur	5	2
Lodhi Colony	7	0
Madangir	6	0
Malviya Nagar	11	4
Mandir Marg	3	0
Mangol Puri	10	6
Manjnu Ka Tila	1	0
Mayapuri	6	2
Mayur Vihar/Vasundhara Encl./Ashok Nagar	18	17
Mehrauli	2	15

Area	Booths	Insulated Containers
Model Town	4	2
Mori Gate	3	1
Moti Bagh	7	0
Moti Nagar	10	2
Najafgarh	2	65
Nand Nagri/Mandoli/Sundernagri	8	42
Nangloi	11	91
Naraina	6	3
Narela	9	36
New Ghaziabad/Khoda/Loni	24	89
NIT,Janta Colony, Faridabad	11	23
Nizamuddin	2	0
Noida	42	59
Okhla	2	30
Old City Area, Gurgaon	7	12
Old Faridabad and Huda Sectors	26	14
Old Ghaziabad	14	28
Paharganj	11	2
Palam	5	27
Panchsheel	2	0
Pandara Road/Sujan Singh Park/Kaka Nagar	3	0
Paschim Puri/Vihar/Madipur	21	2
Patel Nagar	10	0
Patparganj/Mandawli/IP Ext.	16	11
Pitam Pura	15	0
Punjabi Bagh	3	0

Area	Booths	Insulated Containers
Pushp Vihar	4	0
Rajendra Nagar	7	1
Rajouri Garden	8	0
R.K. Puram	15	3
Rohini	29	10
Samalakha	0	9
Sangam Vihar	2	52
Sarita Vihar	14	0
Sarojini Nagar/Netaji Nagar	10	0
Saroop Nagar	3	19
Seelampur/Shahadra/Zafarabad	20	15
Shabad Dairy	2	5
Sheikh Sarai	6	0
Shakur Pur	7	1
Shalimar Bagh	11	4
Shastri Nagar	3	0
Sonia Vihar	0	18
South Ex	5	0
Sultan Puri	9	7
Sunlight Colony	5	0
Teen Murti	1	0
Tilak Nagar	12	1
Timar Pur	3	4
Trilok Puri/Kalyan Puri/Kondli	13	32
Tuglakabad	1	7
Uttam Nagar/Hastsal	15	25

Area	Booths	Insulated Containers
Vasant Kunj	12	11
Vasant Vihar	4	0
Vikas Puri	12	1
Yamuna Vihar/Bhajanpura/Ghonda	4	26

**Setting up of I.T. Investment
Regions**

5290. SHRI RAMESH DUBE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 291 regarding Setting up of IT Investment Sector dated November 19, 2007 and state:

(a) the progress made in setting up of the Information Technology Investment Regions (ITIRs) in the country so far; and;

(b) the details of the regions where such ITIRs are likely to be set up in the first phase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Government has recently approved the Policy for setting up of Information Technology Investment Regions (ITIRs).

[Translation]

**Mobile Telephone Service in
Rural Areas**

5291. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) whether the Government has set any target for providing mobile telephone service in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and till date. State-wise and the extent to which the set target has been achieved, year-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Government has not fixed any target in the past for providing mobile telephone service in the rural areas of the country. However, New Telecom Policy, 1999 (NTP-99) envisaged a target of 4% teledensity in rural areas both in wireline and wireless by the year 2010. As against the same, the rural teledensity of 9.03 has already been achieved as on 29-02-2008.

(d) To increase the penetration of mobile services in rural areas the Government has further initiated the following steps:—

- A scheme has recently been launched by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to provide subsidy support for setting up and managing 7871 number of infrastructure sites (towers) in 500 districts spread over 27 states for provision of mobile services in the specified rural and remote areas, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage.
- Government have issued guidelines on passive as well as active Infrastructure Sharing for Service Providers and Infrastructure Providers.

[English]

**Scheme for Reuse of Domestic
Waste Water**

5292. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a scheme for Reuse of Domestic waste water in view of constantly declining ground water;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds

allocated for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Urban Development have informed that there is no specific scheme for "Reuse of domestic Waste Water". However, under the ongoing Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), two projects for reuse of recycled water have been approved by the Ministry of Urban Development as detailed below:

Sl. No.	City	Project Name	Approved Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Purpose of reuse
1.	Chandigarh	Conservation of drinking water by harvesting of the tertiary treated sewage for irrigation of green spaces in Chandigarh	3672.60	Horticulture
2.	Nagpur	Recycle and Reuse of Waste Water	13011.00	Power Generation (for Thermal Power Station of MahaGenco)

**Workers Engaged in Unorganised
Manufacturing Sector**

5293. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unorganised manufacturing enterprises have increased during the last one decade;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of men and women workers engaged in unorganised manufacturing sector during the said period, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the reasons for decline in workers in above sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) As per the Central Statistical Organisation, Economic Census, 1990 and 1998, the number of enterprises have increased from 287,189 to 3,03,486 during 1990 to 1998. The majority of the total enterprises are in the unorganised sector. Though the number of employment per unit has marginally declined from 2.88 to 2.74, the overall employment has increased from 720,07,560 to 831,55,712. The sector wise, men/women data is not available. A Statement containing the total number of enterprises and employment in these enterprises is enclosed.

Statement**Total Number of Enterprises and Employment in these Enterprises**

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	Total number of Enterprises (in lakh)		Total Employment in Enterprises (in lakh)	
		1990	1998	1990	1998
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24.87	29.02	67.40	75.16
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.21	0.21	0.94	0.82
3.	Assam	4.95	5.93	16.88	21.94
4.	Bihar	12.28	14.43	34.51	34.34
5.	Delhi	4.55	6.86	20.84	34.99
6.	Goa	0.61	0.72	2.20	2.17
7.	Gujarat	14.98	19.15	47.34	52.66
8.	Haryana	4.57	5.33	13.53	15.62
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1.83	2.25	4.68	5.78
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	●	2.16	●	4.75
11.	Karnataka	16.94	19.12	50.82	52.58
12.	Kerala	12.29	15.65	32.94	38.50
13.	Madhya Pradesh	18.73	21.24	48.89	52.46
14.	Maharashtra	26.24	32.34	89.74	104.46
15.	Manipur	0.61	0.80	1.57	1.99
16.	Meghalaya	0.50	0.56	1.70	1.83
17.	Mizoram	0.23	0.25	0.72	0.78
18.	Nagaland	0.24	0.30	1.31	1.77
19.	Orissa	10.94	14.50	26.15	30.89
20.	Punjab	5.99	7.17	17.67	21.01

1	2	3	4	5	6
21.	Rajasthan	11.69	15.31	28.41	35.37
22.	Sikkim	0.11	0.13	0.49	0.47
23.	Tamil Nadu	21.11	25.14	62.27	71.81
24.	Tripura	0.85	1.04	2.19	2.68
25.	Uttar Pradesh	26.33	30.43	68.98	74.86
26.	West Bengal	27.50	32.34	74.53	87.64
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.12	0.14	0.55	0.64
28.	Chandigarh	0.33	0.40	2.01	2.19
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.03	0.04	0.16	0.33
30.	Daman and Diu	0.05	0.06	0.19	0.30
31.	Lakshadweep	0.05	0.05	0.18	0.17
32.	Pondicherry	0.31	0.43	1.22	1.83
Total		250.02	303.49	721.01	832.77

Note: * include own account enterprises.

@ Census could not be conducted.

Source: Central Statistical Organisation, Economic Census, 1990 and 1998

Modernisation of Soldiers

5294. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Army proposes to step up its massive modernisation drive to enhance the Combat Potential of its soldiers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the current status of its implementation; and

(c) the time by which the Indian Army is likely to be fully equipped with State of the art technology?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Modernisation of the Indian Army

is already underway in accordance with a Long Term Perspective Plan which is reviewed, monitored and updated from time to time. The Long Term Perspective Plan (15 years) is further split into Services Capital Acquisition Plans (5 years) and Annual Acquisition Plans.

(c) Modernisation of the Indian Army is a continuous process based on threat perception, operational challenges, technological changes and budget allocations.

Milk Industries

5295. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the milk industries in the Cooperative and Government Sector are facing closure and thereby causing hardships to its employees due to loss of work in the country, particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir. The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has not received such report from any part of the country including Maharashtra.

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

[Translation]

**Scheme for Fruit and
Vegetable Growers**

5296. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any

programme for the welfare of fruit producers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Horticulture Board (NHB), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Agriculture have facilitated the formation of different Fruit Growers' Association in the country. With a view to empower the grower of horticulture produce, the Association of Fruit Growers organizes workshops/seminars etc. at regular intervals to disseminate knowledge on development of crops, modern technologies, post-harvest management and marketing of produce. The NHB assists the fruit growers to participate in Krishimelas/exhibitions at State, National and International level. Nineteen such Growers' Association have been established (list at Statement-I). The funds allocated to Growers Association for the above purpose during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

The details of Association formed/ affiliated by the NHB

Sl. No.	Commodity	Name of the Association
1.	Flowers	Flowers Growers Association
2.	Aonla	Aonla Growers Association
3.	Apple	Apple Growers Association
4.	Guava	Guava Growers Association
5.	Mango	Mango Growers Association
6.	Banana	Banana Growers Association
7.	Strawberry	Strawberry Growers Association

Sl. No.	Commodity	Name of the Association
8.	Orange	Orange Growers Association
9.	Stone Fruits	Stone Fruits Growers Association
10.	Sapota	Sapota Growers Association
11.	Pomegranate	Pomegranate Growers Association
12.	Vanilla	Vanilla Growers Association
13.	Litchi	Litchi Growers Association
14.	Vegetables	Vegetables Growers Association
15.	Aromatic Plants	Aromatic Plants Growers Association
16.	Passion Fruit	Passion Fruit Growers Association
17.	Grapes	Grapes Association
18.	Nursery Men	Nursery Men Association
19.	Orchids	The Orchid Society of India

Statement-II

Details of Funds Allocated to Growers Association for Seminar/Symposium

Sl. No.	Name of the Association	National Level	State Level	District Level	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6

2005-06

1.	All India Mango Growers Association	Yes			2.00
2.	Aonla Growers Association of India	Yes			3.00
3.	Grapes Growers Federation of India	International			10.00
4.	Passion Fruits Association of India	—	Yes		1.00
5.	Aonla Growers Association of India	Yes	—	—	2.00
6.	Orange Growers Association of India	—	Yes	—	0.50
7.	Vegetables Growers Association of India	—	Yes	—	3.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Vegetables Growers Association of India	—	Yes	—	1.00
9.	Vegetables Growers Association of India	—	Yes	—	1.00
10.	Flowers Growers Association of India	—	Yes	—	1.00
11.	Mango Growers Association of India	Yes	—	—	1.00
12.	Mango Growers Association of India	Yes	—	—	0.75
13.	Mango Growers Association of India	Yes	—	—	1.00
14.	Litchi Growers Association of India	—	—	Yes	0.50
15.	Apple Growers Association of India	Yes	—	—	0.50
				Total	28.25

2006-07

1.	Litchi Growers Association of India	—	—	Yes	0.50
2.	Apple Growers Association of India	Yes	—	—	0.50
3.	Litchi	—	Yes	—	1.00
4.	Stone Fruit Growers Association of India	—	—	Yes	0.49
5.	Aonla Growers Association of India	Yes	—	—	3.00
6.	Strawberry Growers Association of India	Yes	—	—	1.00
7.	Strawberry Growers Association of India	—	—	Yes	1.50
8.	Apple Growers Association of India	—	Yes	—	1.00
9.	Flowers Growers Association of India	Yes	—	—	2.00
10.	Stone Fruits Growers Association of India	Yes	—	—	2.00
11.	Aromatic Growers Association of India	—	—	Yes	1.75
12.	Mango Growers Association of India	—	—	Yes	1.00
13.	Guava Growers Association of India	Yes	—	—	5.00
14.	Aonla Growers Association of India	Yes	—	—	5.00
15.	Apple Growers Association of India	International	—	—	3.00
16.	Vegetables Growers Association of India	—	Yes	—	3.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Apple Growers Association of India			Yes	1.50
18.	Passion Fruit Growers Association of India		Yes		1.00
19.	Aromatic Plant Growers Association of India		Yes		1.00
20.	Litchi Growers Association of India			Yes	0.30
21.	Litchi Growers Association of India			Yes	1.18
22.	Stone Fruit Growers Association of India		Yes		1.00
23.	Flowers Growers Association of India		Yes		0.50
24.	Strawberry Growers Association of India		Yes		1.00
25.	Strawberry Growers Association of India		Yes		1.00
26.	Vegetables Growers Association of India	Yes			5.00
27.	Aromatic Growers Association of India		Yes		1.00
				Total	46.22

2007-08

1.	Strawberry Growers Association of India	Yes			2.00
2.	Strawberry Growers Association of India	Yes			1.00
3.	Apple Growers Association of India	Yes			2.00
4.	Orange Growers Association of India	Yes			0.50
5.	Litchi Growers Association of India		Yes		1.00
6.	Aromatic Growers Association of India	Yes			3.00
7.	Passion Fruit Growers Association of India		Yes		2.00
8.	Mango Growers Association of India		Yes		2.00
9.	Mango Growers Association of India		Yes		1.00
10.	Sapota Growers Association of India	Yes		0.50	
				Total	15.00

[English]

MoU with Afghanistan

5297. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Afghanistan have signed any MoU on Cooperation in the field of Agricultural Research and Education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of project of the said MoU taken up so far and the present status thereof; and

(d) the expenditure incurred by the India on the project so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The MoU was signed between the Government of India and Afghanistan for cooperation in the field of Agricultural Research and Education on 28th August, 2005.

(c) Under the MoU, an Indian delegation comprising of five experts namely DDG (Engg.), ICAR; Director, NDRI, Kamal; Director, IARI, New Delhi; ADG (Horticulture), rCAR; and Dr. B.P. Patnaik MD, NSC, New Delhi was deputed to Afghanistan on 22-29 April, 2006 to develop a joint Biennial Work Plan between the two countries.

In consultation with the Agricultural officers of Afghanistan, the delegation identified capacity building, infrastructural development, exchange of germplasm and demonstration and pilot plant development, strengthening of laboratories in post harvest technology,

diagnostics and Vaccinology, feed and fodder analysis and food quality and safety, and exchange of germplasm (indigenous local cattle, sheep and goat). Demonstration and pilot plants development at Afghanistan for livestock product processing, packaging and storage as major areas of the joint Biennial Work plan for cooperation in the field of Agricultural research and education between India and Afghanistan.

The above identified areas are proposed to be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food, Govt. of Afghanistan under the technical advice of Indian experts and joint monitoring and evaluation by Indian and Afghan experts.

No projects have, however, been formulated as yet.

(d) Since no projects have been formulated so far, the question of expenditure incurred by India on projects does not arise.

Cultivation of Aromatic Plants

5298. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to cultivate aromatic plants and to set up floriculture zone in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal of the Ministry of Agriculture to set up a floriculture zone in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. However, in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Department of Agriculture is providing financial assistance to the farmers under the National Horticulture Mission for cultivation of aromatic crops and flowers.

During 2006-07, an outlay of Rs. 11.25 lakh was provided for cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants in 100 hectares of land. Further, a sum of Rs. 5.20

lakh was provided for development of floriculture in 20 ha. of land. Besides, the National Horticulture Board has also sanctioned a project for cultivation of Vanilla in 5 acres in Ferarganj of South Andaman.

[Translation]

**Status of Services of
WLL Phones**

5299. SHRI NIHAL CHAND:

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the status of rural telephone services in regard to Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and mobile technology in the country State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA):
The State-wise status of rural telephone services in regard to Wireless in local loop (WLL) and mobile technology in the country is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

State-wise status of rural telephone services in regard to Wireless in local Loop (WLL) and mobile technology in the country

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	As on 29-02-2008		
		Rural		Total Rural (Pub+Pvt.)
		GSM	WLL*	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	22728	3490	26218
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3877104	1168576	5045680
3.	Assam	752530	96024	848554
4.	Bihar	1396447	781564	2178011
5.	Chhattisgarh	106891	77543	184434
6.	Gujarat	4274921	474835	4749556
7.	Haryana	1176812	483862	2260674
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1241629	221563	1463192
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	520836	41061	561897
10.	Jharkhand	115915	67180	183095
11.	Karnataka	2607721	779464	3387185
12.	Kerala	2994546	908905	3903451

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1045638	1129399	2175037
14.	Maharashtra (-) Mumbai	3569533	2118513	5688046
15.	North East-I	260130	38159	298289
16.	North East-II	84693	15177	99870
17.	Orissa	1554607	364593	1919200
18.	Punjab	2945006	569551	3514557
19.	Rajasthan	4259604	1083873	5343477
20.	Tamil Nadu (-) Chennai	3227930	974828	4202758
21.	Uttarakhand	210851	51067	261918
22.	Uttar Pradesh—East	4550781	1018687	5569468
23.	Uttar Pradesh—West	21000359	718043	2818402
24.	West Bengal—Kolkata	3422311	417867	3840178
25.	Kolkata	706369	0	706369
26.	Chennai	44114	26061	70175
27.	Delhi	0	0	0
28.	Mumbai	0	261	126
All India Total		47670006	13629811	61299817

*Including WLL (F)

Evaluation of Silk Export

5300 SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has made any evaluation of export of silk and other silk products;

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

(c) whether the producers of silk and other silk products are facing problem in selling their produce in international market;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Indian Silk Export Promotion Council has received data upto December, 2007 i.e. for the 9 months of the financial year 2007-08. Silk exports amounted to Rs. 1927 crore which is approximately=US \$ 480 million, as against the proportionate target of US \$ 667.50

million. Achievement is about 28% less than the targets. The expected total exports is about Rs. 2,600 crore which is equal to US \$ 650 million and is less than target by 27%.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Some of the problems faced by producers of silk and silk products in selling their products in the international market are as under:—

- Due to recent appreciation of Indian Rupee value against the US \$ rates, the silk exporters are facing hardship to compete in the international markets.
 - Silk has been always considered as a luxury item and faces severe consumer resistance during economic slowdown. Hence, when the consumer products are affected silk faces the first cut and recovery is often seen at last. This situation is likely to continue for at least one more year.
 - There has been regular decline in demand from USA and European markets. As a matter of fact exports have declined in case of more than 95% of the countries except UK, Poland and Morocco.
 - India is facing tough competition in respect of silk goods exports after the abolition of quota restrictions from the major silk producing countries especially from China.
 - Growing input cost and pressure on prices are the major challenges to improving India's competitiveness in global markets.
 - Indian Silk exporters are facing non-tariff barriers such as formation of Trading Blocks like the EU, NAFTA (North American Free Trade Association) while exporting to the EU countries and US.
 - The stringent environmental regulation imposed by importing countries is another non-tariff barrier that Indian Silk Exporters are facing.
 - The interest rate hike also affected the India's exports.
- (e) The following remedial steps have been taken by the Government considering the decline in exports of silk and other silk products:
- The Government is providing assistance to the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai for undertaking various export promotion activities.
 - The Government has taken series of meetings with the exporters before announcing the new Foreign Trade Policy. Foreign Trade Policy continued all the Duty Remission Schemes and has always been encouraging to the silk exporters.
 - The Government has rationalized value addition/Input-output norms specified under the EXIM Policy extended to exporters, the facility of duty free import of raw material under the Advance Licensing Scheme, import of capital goods at concessional rate of duty for export products.
 - For Technological up-gradation of the industry loan at 5% point less than applicable rate, under the Technological Up-gradation Fund Scheme for the Textiles sector is available, inter-alia, to the silk sector.
 - Import duty on silk machinery has been reduced to 10%.
 - The RBI Credit Policy to exporters have become more friendly. Exporters can now get credit @ 2.5% for 90 days post-shipment or for 180 days pre-shipment.
 - Periodically reviewing the import policy for raw silk taking into account the balanced interests of the sericulturists as well as export manufacturers.
 - All pending Drawback Claims are being cleared.

- The DEPB Schemes is extended for one more year.

Apart from the above, the Central Silk Board (CSB) and the State Sericulture Departments have taken several initiatives to strengthen the Indian Silk Industry by focusing on improvement in productivity and quality through improved technology to counter the import of Chinese silk into the country. Some of the major steps taken to improve the quality of silk yarn through Research and Development efforts to produce International Standard silk to boost the Export of silk are furnished below:

1. CSB is implementing Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) in collaboration with the State Governments by giving greater thrust to Bivoltine Sericulture.
2. The Central Silk Board has evolved new Bivoltine Breeds with assistance from the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA). Commercial Exploitation of these breeds has resulted in the production of International Standard Import Substitute grade of mulberry raw silk in the country.
3. Through R and D efforts, the Central Silk Board has made a break through in tropicalising the BV Silkworm and Development of new varieties of mulberry (Viz V1, S36, AR11, AR12, S13 and S34). Plants with higher yields have resulted in significant improvement in silk productivity.
4. CSB launched Silk Mark scheme which is a hallmark for the products made from pure natural Silk and it guarantees the purity of silk products. The Silk Mark will also play an important role in brand promotion of Indian Silk in domestic and Export markets.

[English]

Development of New Brands by NTC

5301. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Textile Corporation (NTC) plans to give a fillip to its retail marketing by developing new brands and reviving the existing ones; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) NTC is planning to revamp its showrooms in a phased manner. The Company is also planning to create Brands for categories like men, Women, children etc. Revamping of its existing brand "ENTYCE" with the help of renowned marketing agencies is also part of the exercise.

[Translation]

Oilseeds Production

5302. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oilseeds producing edible oils are sown and harvested in different months of the year in the country;

(b) if so, the names of oilseeds sown in 2007-08 alongwith the months in which these seeds were sown and the area of land used therefor separately;

(c) the year-wise details of the area of land used for growing oilseeds during the last three years;

(d) whether the production of coconut and soyabean has increased and mustard oil seed has decreased in 2007-08 as against the previous year; and

(e) if so, the quantity thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The oilseeds producing edible oils are sown

and harvested in different months of the year in the country. The details of crop-wise, season-wise sowing of major oil seeds and area under each of them in the country during 2007-08 are given as under:

Crop	Area (000' hectare)	Sowing Season
1	2	3
Groundnut	5245	Kharif (June, July)
	1065	Rabi (September, October) Summer (February, March)
Rapeseed/ Mustard	5878	Rabi (October, November)
Soyabean	8800	Kharif (June, July)
Sunflower	751	Kharif (June, to August)
	1085	Rabi (September, October)

1	2	3
		Summer (February, March)
Safflower	318	Rabi (October, November)

(c) The details of year-wise area coverage of various oilseed crops during last three years are enclosed as Statement.

(d) and (e) The production of coconut during 2006-07 was 15.84 billion nuts as against the estimated production of 15.50 billion nuts during 2007-08. The production of soybean has increased by 582.20 thousand tonnes during 2007-08 as compared to the previous year. The increase in the production of soybean has mainly been on account of increase in area coverage and favourable weather conditions.

The production of Rapeseed/Mustard has decreased by 1006.80 thousand tonnes during 2007-08 as compared to the previous year. The decrease in production of Rapeseed/Mustard can mainly be attributed to the reduction in area coverage and unfavorable climatic conditions.

Statement

The details of Year-wise Area Coverage of various Oilseed Crops during last three years

(Area in 000' hectares)

Crops	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08*
1	2	3	4
Groundnut	6736.0	5615.1	6310.0
Castorseed	864.2	628.4	768.0
Nigerseed	414.4	469.0	407
Sesamum	1723.2	1703.2	1714.0

1	2	3	4
Rapeseed and Mustard	7276.5	6790.0	5878.0
Linseed	436.8	436.5	402.0
Safflower	364.6	377.0	318.0
Sunflower	2339.6	2164.8	1836.0
Soyabean	7707.5	8328.7	8800.0
Total Oilseeds	27862.8	26512.7	26433.0

*Third advance estimates

[English]

**Education Facilities to
Child Labour**

5303. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:

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

(a) whether employment of children is allowed in certain industries;

(b) if so, whether the Government has initiated a policy to direct industries in which the child labour is permitted to provide education facilities to children employed therein; and

(c) If so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Industrialists thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir, employment of children is allowed in non-hazardous occupations and processes. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in 15 Occupations and 57 Processes and it regulates the working conditions in non-hazardous industries where employment of children is not banned.

(b) and (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in one of

its directions had envisaged that working hours of children in non-hazardous occupations should not exceed six hours per day and education for at least two hours is ensured. The entire expenditure on education is to be borne by the concerned employer. In this regard the Government has issued suitable instructions to the State Governments, being Appropriate Government under the Act, to implement the guidelines of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Status report on the implementation of the guidelines is being furnished to the Hon'ble Supreme Court from time to time.

State Cooperatives

5304. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government have been asked by the Government to democratise the cooperatives;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain States have urged the Government to strengthen the cooperative movement and spread the cooperative activities to hitherto untouched areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action plan formulated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Planning Commission appointed a Committee in the year 1990 under the Chairmanship of Late Chowdhury Brahm Perkash to suggest a Model Act on Cooperatives. The Committee submitted its report in May, 1991, recommending, inter-alia, a Model Cooperatives Act. The thrust of the recommendations of the committee, is to democratise the management of cooperatives and to enable them to function as autonomous and self-reliant institutions. The report of the Committee was circulated to all the states. A Conference of the State Cooperative Ministers was held way back in July, 1992 to discuss the Model Cooperatives Act as recommended by the Committee. The Conference accepted the recommendations of the Committee, in principle. Since then, it has been the effort of the Government to persuade the states to democratize the cooperative.

Lastly, a conference of the State Cooperative Ministers was held on 7th December 2004 to consider the the amendments in the Constitution in respect of cooperatives. The Conference adopted a resolution approving the amendment to the constitution to ensure the democratic, autonomous and professional functioning of the cooperatives. The Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2006 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22nd May, 2006 addressing the key issues for the empowerment of the co-operatives through their voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional management.

(c) and (d) Government of India, in consultation with the State Governments, constituted a Task Force on revival of rural cooperative credit institutions in August, 2004 under the Chairmanship of Prof. A. Vaidyanathan to formulate a practical and implementable action plan to rejuvenate the rural cooperatives. The Task Force submitted its report to the Government of India in February, 2005. The Government have accepted the recommendations of the Task Force in principle and the same were discussed with the State Governments

and a consensus was arrived at, based on which Government approved a revival package. The package was circulated to the State Governments and Union Territories seeking their concurrence for implementing the package. 20 states, i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have signed Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs)

Jobs In Farm Sector

5305. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the number of jobs that have been created in the farm and allied sectors during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the allocation made for the development of the farm sector during the last three years and the amount spent thereon;

(d) whether the Government has appointed any panel last year to address farmers problems; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the implementation status of the recommendations made by the said panel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Estimates of employment are available from the Quinquennial Surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). As per two most recent quinquennial rounds of NSSO on employment and unemployment, employment in Agriculture and Allied Sectors on Current Daily Status basis has increased from 191.55 million in 1999-2000 (55th round) to 200.40 million in 2004-05 (61st round).

(c) The allocations made for the farm sector and the amount spent thereon for the last three years are given below:—

Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Expenditure
2005-06	4179.32	3890.00	3802.77
2006-07	4800.00	4860.00	4639.91
2007-08	5520.00	6927.94#	5937.28*

#including Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

*Upto February, 2008

(d) and (e) No, Sir. However, based on the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers as contained in the Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers, submitted by the Commission, and the views and suggestions received from the various Central Government Ministries and Departments and the broad consensus reached with the States, the Government of India has approved the National Policy for Farmers, 2007, which was laid in Parliament in November, 2007. These inter alia, include, asset reforms in respect of land, water, livestock, fisheries and bio-resources; provide support services and inputs like application of frontier technologies; agricultural bio-security system; supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material, issue of soil health passbooks to the farmers and integrated pest management system; region and crop specific implements and machinery; support services for women like creches, child care centres, nutrition, health and training; timely, adequate and easy reach of institutional credit at reasonable interest rates and farmer-friendly insurance instruments; use of information and Communication Technology and setting up of farm schools to revitalize agricultural extension; coverage of farmers under a comprehensive national social security scheme; effective implementation of MSP across the country and establishing community foodgrain banks; development of agricultural market infrastructure and terminal markets for agriculture; curriculum reforms in agricultural universities; special categories of farming like organic farming and contract farming; rural non-farm employment initiative for farm households; and integrated approach for rural energy, etc. An inter-Ministerial Committee has been constituted by the Department of

Agriculture and Cooperation for preparing the Plan of Action for operationalization of the policy. Many of the Schemes/Programmes being implemented by different Department and Ministries are as per the provisions of National Policy for Farmers 2007. These include Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Bamboo Mission, National Horticulture Mission, Micro Irrigation Schemes, Watershed Development Programme, Integrated Nutrient Management and Integrated Pest Management and other schemes covered under Macro Management Scheme providing autonomy to state governments in drawing up Plan Programmes as per their felt needs.

Reclaiming and Resuscitation of Saraswati River

5306. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has sent any proposal to the Union Government for financial assistance in connection with the reclaim and resuscitation work of river Saraswati;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the total cost involved in this project alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Government of West

Bengal submitted a proposal for "Improvement of South Saraswati River" from its off take point at Nasibpur (District-Hoogly) to its outfall in river Hoogly at Sankrail (District- Howrah) to the Union Government for providing financial assistance. This scheme has been included under 'Flood Management Programme' at an estimated cost of Rs. 32.10 Crore (central share :Rs. 24.08 Cr.). First instalment of the central assistance amounting to Rs. 1.00 Cr was released to the State Government in March' 2008. As per information provided by the Government of West Bengal the scheme has been planned for completion by the year 2009-10.

[Translation]

Consumer Cooperative Societies

5307. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has permitted consumer cooperative societies to collaborate with foreign Companies/Cooperatives for improving their working and viability;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a separate Cooperative Commission for framing and implementing the rules related to cooperative sector, its registration and resolution of disputes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Sale of Grocery Items through Post Office

5308. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been made between the Tribal Development Corporation and the Postal Department in Andhra Pradesh to sell grocery items through Post Offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to make it compulsory in all Post Offices of the country so as to make them to become self-reliant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle has entered into a tie up with Girijan Co-operative Corporation Limited, an undertaking of Government of Andhra Pradesh formed exclusively for the upliftment of Tribal people in the State of Andhra Pradesh, to retail their forest products. The list of post offices in Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle retailing such forest produce is enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d) The Department does not have any proposal to extend this scheme at present.

Statement

Names of the post offices retailing forest products in Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle

S.No	Name of the post office
1.	Hanamkonda Head Post Office
2.	Warangal Head Post Office and
3.	Khairatabad Head Post office
4.	Sanathnagar Post Office

S.No	Name of the post office
5.	Vijayanagar Colony Post Office
6.	Himayathnagar Post Office
7.	Srinagar Colony Post Office
8.	Pos. and Telegraph Colony Post Office
9.	Bahadurpura Post Office
10.	Saidabad Post Office
11.	Sanghinagar Post Office
12.	Gandhinagar Post Office
13.	Begumpet Post Office
14.	Vanasthalipuram Post Office
15.	Sanskruithi Township Post Office
16.	Musheerabad Post Office
17.	Vivekanandnagar Post Office

Cheap Express Parcel Service

5309. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started a Cheap Express Parcel Service in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to offer faster money transfer from abroad especially from Gulf Countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof:

(e) the number of persons likely to be benefited as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Department of Posts has restructured and revised the rates of the Express Parcel Post Service with effect from 01-04-2008 keeping the market trends in mind. The revised rates are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (e) The Department of Posts in association with Emirates Post has launched 'Electronic International Money Orders' on 26-04-08 using the International Financial System of the Universal Postal Union. Initially, the service is being offered from United Arab Emirates to India through 97 Head Post Offices in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and the State of Kerala. This service aims to fulfill the long felt needs of the Indian Expatriate community for a cost effective money transfer facility. The service will benefit the entire expatriate community of Indians in United Arab Emirates.

Statement

Revised Rates for Express Parcel Post with effect from 01-04-2008

Category	Rate upto 2 kg (Rs.)	For every additional kg (Between 3-10 kg) (Rs.)	For every additional kg (beyond 10 kg) (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
Local	25	3	2
Upto 500 km	40	5	4
501-1000 km	50	10	8

1	2	3	4
1001-2000 km	60	20	15
above 2000 km	80	25	20

[Translation]

Pollution in Rivers

5310. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain rivers continue to be more toxic despite antipollution campaign and the Government has received any report from Central Water Commission in this regard;

(b) whether the Government has undertaken any review of the anti-pollution campaign; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and follow up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As informed by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), out of 128 rivers being monitored by them for trace metals and pesticides residues, the observed values indicate the presence of metals exceeding acceptable limit for ambient waters in 53 rivers. The Government has not received any report from Central Water Commission in this regard.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has informed that under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) of MoEF, public participation and awareness is one of the components for creating awareness among general public and important stakeholders regarding the need to conserve the rivers of the country. Conservation of rivers is a dynamic activity with the ever-increasing pollution load due to rapid

urbanization and increase in population. Review of the strategies of conservation policy and identification of additional towns and rivers under NRCP are continuous process aimed towards ameliorating the water quality in rivers. Meetings are held by MoEF with concerned Ministries, independent experts in the field and Non Government Organizations (NGOs) for discussion on revamping of the National River Conservation Plan.

[English]

Non-Performing Assets under EPF

5311. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of Non-Performing Assets under the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) has increased during the last three years and thereof, till date;

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

(c) the reasons for such an increase in the said amount; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The details of Non-Performing Assets (i.e. defaults) under the Employees' Provident Fund have been enclosed as Statement.

(c) Though maximum caution is exercised by the Portfolio Manager before making investments in a particular security, there are a few instances when the borrower defaults/delays on interest or principal payment.

(d) Employees' Provident Fund Organisation's portfolio manager i.e. the State Bank of India takes necessary action including filing of legal suits and it

is also monitored by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation.

Statement

List of Non-Performing Assets

Sl. No.	Establishment	State	Years	Amount (in rupees)
1.	Bangalore Mahanagar Palika (BMP)	Karnataka	2005	78,65,753/-
2.	Richardson and Cruddas Ltd. (RCL)	Maharashtra	2002	1,25,98,750/-
3.	Madhya Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation (MPSIDC)	Madhya Pradesh	2004	14,70,000/-
4.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd. (TSPL)	Karnataka	2005	20,83,176/-
5.	Himachal Pradesh State Financial Corporation (HPSFC)	Himachal Pradesh	2005	5,85,094/-
6.	Uttar Pradesh State Financial Corporation (UPSFC)	Uttar Pradesh	2004	36,15,11,787/-
7.	The Pradeshiya Industrial Corporation of Uttar Pradesh (PICUP)	Uttar Pradesh	2003	1,37,67,539/-

Ban on Recruitment in Public Sector Undertakings

5312. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is considering to stop further appointment in Public Sector Undertakings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR

FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

STPI Scheme for Small and Medium Enterprises

5313. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started any

scheme namely Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) for the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to discontinue the said scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to continue the said scheme for the States which have failed to attract investment under the said scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. Software Technology Park Scheme is a standing scheme, which is governed by The Foreign Trade Policy 2002-2007 and Handbook of Procedure Vol.-I as amended time to time.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) As per current policy for setting up a new Software Technology Park of India (STPI) Centre, the State Government has to provide 3 acres of land, 10,000 sq.ft. of built up space and a grant-in-aid of Rs. 1 Crore to STPI. The Department of Information Technology, Government of India provides a seed capital of Rs. 50 lakhs to STPI for setting up of New STPI Centres. A feasibility study has to be conducted by STPI jointly with the State Government to evaluate the export potential and commercial viability of the proposal.

Supply of Diesel to Army in Jammu

5314. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether water and other liquids were supplied

in place of diesel under the necessary diesel supply to Jammu in army;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the people found to be involved in the above mentioned case and the, bungling made so far in the supply of diesel; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against the guilty persons so far and the measures taken to check the recurrence of such incident in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) No such case has been reported for Jammu in Army.

Improvement in Ravine Areas

5315. SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received proposal for pilot projects involving an estimated cost of Rs. 50 crore for improvement in the ravine areas of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the action being taken thereon; and

(c) the time by which this proposal is likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. A pilot project proposal for reclamation/development of Ravinous area in the Chambal basin of Madhya Pradesh with estimated cost of Rs. 50.00 crore was received in March 2006.

(b) and (c) As per recommendation of National Development Council, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Reclamation of Ravinous area had been transferred to State Sector in 1990. In view of above recommendation, the State Government of Madhya Pradesh was advised to approach other financing agencies for this purpose.

*[English]***Villages Without Telephone Facility**

5316. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are number of villages in the country especially in the Saurashtra-Kutch region of Gujarat, are deprived of telephone facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of villages proposed to be provided with the said facilities during next two years in the region, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) There are 5,93,601 inhabited villages in the country as per Census 2001. out of this 5,19,616 villages have already been provided with telephone facility by Bharat Sanehar Nigam limited (BSNL). Out of the total 5,592 inhabited villages in Saurashtra-Kutch Region of Gujarat as per Census 2001, so far 5,122 villages have been provided with village public Telephones (VPTs).

(c) A statement indicating the Secondary Switching Area-wise (SSA-wise) number of remaining 470 unconnected villages proposed to be provided with the VPTs during next two years in the region is enclosed.

Statement

Location-wise number of villages proposed to be provided with the telephone facilities during next two years in Saurashtra-Kutch region of Gujarat as per Census 2001

Sl. No.	Name of the Secondary Switching Area (SSA)	Tentative number of villages to be provided with VPT
1	2	3
1.	Amreli	18

1	2	3
2.	Bhavnagar	19
3.	Bhuj	90
4.	Jamnagar	100
5.	Junagadh	172
6.	Rajkot	12
7.	Surendranagar	59
Total		470

Re-verification work of the VPTs has been undertaken by Department of Telecom through USOF.

*[Translation]***Telephone Connections in Post Offices**

5317. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has provided telephone connections to all the small and big post offices in the country especially in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the post offices where telephone connections are yet to be provided, location-wise;

(e) the time by which telephone connections are likely to be provided by the Government in these post offices:

(f) whether the postmen delivering posts and postmasters in rural areas are being paid meagre salaries;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Government proposes to increase the salaries of these Postmen and Post masters in the country; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA):

(a) to (e) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House at the earliest.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Not applicable in view of (f) above.

(h) The recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission will address this issue.

(i) The recommendations are under examination with the Government.

[English]

Market Intervention Scheme

5318. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount of grant released to

various States under the Market Intervention Scheme during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government is contemplating to increase the amount of aid upto seventy five per cent to the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, the time by when a decision would be taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the details of the alternative measures taken to give benefit to the middle and small farmers of these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Ministry of Agriculture released 50% Central Government share of loss to various States (75% in case of North-Eastern States) under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) as under:—

Year	Commodity	State	Amount (in Rs. lakh)
2006-07	Ginger	Mizoram	70.36
2006-07	Hatkora	Mizoram	17.91
2007-08	Chilli	Mizoram	72.87
2007-08	Apples	Himachal Pradesh	148.14
2007-08	Passion Fruit	Mizoram	129.75
2007-08	Ginger	Mizoram	105.75

(b) and (c) No Such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(d) Recently the Government of Uttar Pradesh sent a proposal for implementing MIS for potato, which has been sanctioned vide sanction order dated 21-4-2008. No proposal from the State of Bihar has been received for implementation of the MIS. The middle and small

farmers of the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are also covered under the existing MIS. Besides, the middle and small farmers of these States are also benefited through various schemes of the Government including Price Support Scheme, National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS), Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme (MMA).

Certified Seeds

5319. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a project to double the production of certified seeds of pulses;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details regarding capital grants to the said project and number of farmers likely to be benefited therefrom;

(c) whether the Government proposes to expand the Integrated Scheme of Oil seeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To double the production of certified seeds of pulses, a project proposal of Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur to double the breeder seed production from 9220 quintals in 2007-08 to 18660 quintals by 2011-2012 has been sanctioned under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) Pulses. The

States have been requested to place the indent with Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for making available the Breeder Seed of Pulses so that the production of certified seeds of pulses can be doubled in the next five years.

Government of India under NFSM—Pulses has sanctioned the following project of Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur during 2007-08:

- (i) Strengthening of Infrastructure for breeder seed production through IIPR National Agriculture Research System (NARS) for Rs. 10.00 crores (at the rate Rs. 2.00 crores per year) for the entire 11th Plan.
- (ii) Strengthening of training infrastructure and organizing training programme through IIPR and State Agriculture Universities for Rs. 5.00 crores for the entire 11th Plan.

(c) and (d) In order to expand the Integrated Scheme of Oil seeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) and make it more effective, the scheme has been modified. The details of components, pattern of assistance and implementing agencies for Xith Plan under ISOPOM are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Pattern of Financial Assistance under ISOPOM for Oilseeds, Pulses, Maize and Oil Palm

Component	Items of Expenditure	Implementing Agency	Pattern of Assistance	% sharing of Expenditure	
				Central	State
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. SEED					
(i) Production of breeder seed of Oilseeds, Pulses and Maize	For producing breeder seed through State Agricultural university/Research Institutions/State Seed Corporation (SSC) etc.	Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) as nodal agency	RS. 175 lakh per year for 124 posts.	100	—
(ii) Purchase of breeder seed of Oilseeds, Pulses and Maize.	For purchase of breeder seed production by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)	i) State Departments of Agriculture (SDA's) ii) National Seeds Corporation Ltd., (NSC)/ State Farm Corporation of India Ltd., (SFCI)	Full cost as per uniform rates fixed by Seed Division,	75	25
(iii) Contract Research by ICAR	Contract research for development of drought resistant varieties of oilseeds and pulses, particularly of groundnut, soybean and rapeseed-mustard. Specific new problems hampering cultivation of these crops needing immediate remedies could also be suggested by the State for a study under these component for taking up by Indian Council of Agricultural Research ICAR State	ICAR, State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) etc. and International Crop Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)	Full cost.	100	—

Agricultural Universities (SAUs) etc. and International Crop Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) with the approval of the Government of India.

iv. Production of Foundation seed of Oilseeds, Pulses and Maize	For multiplication of breeder seed into foundation seed by SDA's through SSCS/Oil Seed Federation (OILFED's) Krishak Bharati Co-operative Ltd., (KRIBHO) National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd., (NAFED), Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Ltd., (IFFCO) etc.	i) SDA's ii) NSC/SFCI, NAFED, KRIBHCO, IFFCO	Rs. 1000/- per qtl. —do— 100	25 —
v. Production of certified seed of Oilseeds, Pulses and Maize (Seed Village Scheme)	For organizing production of certified seed in selected villages on Selected farmers fields through SSC's/OILFED' etc.	i) SDA's ii) NSC/SFCI, NAFED, KRIBHCO, IFFCO	Rs. 1000/-per qtl. —do— 100	25 —
vi. Distribution of certified seed of Oilseeds, Pulses and Maize*	For supply of certified seed to farmers at subsidized prices to increase seed replacement rate.	i) SDA's ii) NSC/SFCI, iii) NAFED, KRIBHCO, IFFCO iv) Private Sector Seed producing Agencies through SDA's.	i) 50% of the cost of certified seed of all crops or Rs. 1200/- per qtl. whichever is less i) (SDA's) 75 ii) (NSC/SFCI, iii) (NAFED, KRIBHCO IFFCO) 100 iv) Private Sector 75	25 — — 25 —
vii. Distribution of Minikit (Varietal Diversification)	For supply of seed minikits of newly improved varieties/hybrids by NSC/SFCI, NAFED, KRIBHCO, IFFCO and Private Agencies through State Department of Agriculture (SDA's) to the farmers.	NSC/SFCI, NAFED KRIBHCO IFFCO and Private Sector through Government Agencies	Free of cost to the farmers	100 —

1	2	3	4	5	6
viii. Infrastructure Development	For development of irrigation facilities and threshing floors at Seed Farms and storage godowns for seed of oil seeds, pulses and maize	i) SDA's ii) NSC/SFC/SAUs/ Krishi Vigyan Kendra	Actual cost as per Central Works Department (CPWD)/Public Works Department (PWD) rates.	50 100	50 —
	To meet special requirement for production of breeder seed of high yielding varieties/hybrid of pulses	iii) Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR), Kanpur		100	—

*Seed producing agencies are encouraged to have the seed certified under the scheme, however, the issue of quality seed (Truth full Label) will be considered on case to case basis.

Component	Items of Expenditure	Implementing Agency	Pattern of Assistance	% sharing of expenditure	
				Central	State
1	2	3	4	5	6
2. DEMONSTRATIONS					
i. Block demonstrations	For demonstrating improved crop production technologies on farmers fields	SDA's	50% of the cost of inputs with a maximum limit of Groundnut Rs. 4000/- Soybean-Rs. 3000// Rapeseed and Mustard-Rs. 2000/- Sunflower Rs. 2500/- Sesame, Safflower, Niger and Castor-Rs 1500/- and Linseed-Rs. 2000/- Lentil Rs. 2200/- Gram and Field pea- Rs. 2500/-, Rajmass Rs. 3500/- Maize Rs. 4000/-	75	25
(ii) Block demonstration on polythene Mulch Technology in Groundnut	For demonstrating Polythene Mulch Technology in Groundnut	SDA's	Rs.8000/- i.e. (Rs. 4000/- for supply of inputs + Rs.4000/- for the polythene sheet per. Ha.)	75	25
(iii) Integrated Pest Management (IPM)	For demonstrating IPM technologies on farmers fields	SDA's	a) IPM demonstration Farmers Field School (FFS) Rs. 22680/- per demonstration. b) Bio-intensive at different stages of plant growth as mentioned below.		

6

5

4

3

2

1

i) Gram

TRICHODERMA, TRAP+LURE,
NEEM 1500, LURE, Nucleur
Polyhedrosis Virus (NPV), LURE,
Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt.) with
maximum ceiling of Rs.747.50/-
per ha.

ii) Arhar

TRICHODERMA, NEEM 1500,
TRAP+LURE, LURE+ NPV, Bt.
LURE with maximum ceiling of
Rs. 1140/- per ha.

iii) Mustard:- TRICHODERMA,
NEEM 1500, CHRYSOPERLA,
NEEM 1500, with maximum
ceiling of Rs. 930/- per ha.

iv) Groundnut:- TRICHODERMA,
CHRYSOPERLA, NPV-SL, TRAP+
LURE, NEEM 1500, NPV SL,
LURE, Bt with maximum ceiling
of Rs. 1627.50/- per ha.

v) Soyabean:- TRICHODERMA,
NPV-SL, TRAP+LURE, NEEM
1500, LURE with maximum ceiling
of Rs. 428/- per ha.

(vi) Sunflower: TRICHODERMA,
CHRYSOPERLA, NPV B.t with
maximum ceiling of Rs. 1230/0
per ha.

(vii) Maize:— TRICHODERMA, CHRYSOPERLA, NPV B.t with maximum ceiling of Rs. 1480/- per ha.

Actual cost limited to Rs. 5000/- per ha.

Actual cost of demonstrations limited to Rs. 9000/- per ha. (Rs. 5000/-+Rs. 4000/- per ha.)

50% cost of the chemical or Rs. 500/- per ha. whichever is less.

i) Manually operated:— 50% cost of equipment or Rs. 800/- per PPE whichever is less.

ii) Power operated:—50% cost of equipment or Rs. 2000/- per equipment whichever is less.

50% of the cost of the chemical or Rs. 500/- per ha. whichever is less

50% cost limited to Rs. 250/- per ha.

50% cost of the material+transportation or Rs. 100/- per ha. whichever is less.

iv) (a) Frontline demonstrations	For demonstrating new Crop production technologies on farmers fields	ICAR	
(b) Frontline demonstrations on Polythene mulch Technology in Groundnut		ICAR	
3. Plant Protection Chemical	For need based supply of Plant Protection (PP) chemicals as subsidized prices in the event of outbreak of pests and diseases.	SDA's	
4. Plant Protection Equipments(PPE)	For supply of PPE to farmers at subsidized prices.	SDA's	
5. Weedicides	For supply of weedicides to farmers at subsidized prices in weed problematic cras.	SDA'S	
6. Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus (NPV)	For supply of NPV for control of pod borer in gram and arhar pulse crops	SDA's	
7. Supply of Rhyzobium culture/Phosphate Solubilising Bacteria (PSB)	For subsidized supply to farmers of Rhizobium culture for groundnut and soybean and pulses and PSB for all oilseeds, pulses and maize crops	SDA's	

1	2	3	4	5	6
8. Distribution of gypsum/ pyrite/liming/dolomite	For supply of gypsum/ pyrite/liming/ dolomite (as source of sulphur) to farmers at subsidized prices.	SDA's	50% cost of the material+transportation limited to Rs. 750/- per ha. whichever is less.		
9. Distribution of Sprinkler Sets.	For supply of sprinkler sets to farmers at subsidized prices for better water use efficiency	SDA's	50% of the cost of sprinkler set limited to Rs. 7500/- per ha.)		
10. Farmers Training	For organizing training of farmers in improved crop production technologies and post harvest management.	SDA's	Rs. 15000/- per training for a batch of 50 farmers.		
11. Staff and Contin- gencies	For special staff sanctioned for implementation and monitoring of the programme in the state.	SDA's	As per sanctioned strength under Technology Mission on Oil Seeds and Pulses (TMOP) scheme under VIII plan continued during IX plan will also be applicable during X plan.		
12. Evaluation of Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM)	For concurrent evaluation of implementation of the scheme/components	Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) or some other agency appointed by Government of India.	Actual cost basis		
13. Pipes for carrying water from source to the field	For carrying of water from the water source to the field to avoid percolation losses.	SDA's	Enhancement of assistance to 50% cost or Rs. 15,000 for water carrying pipes up to 800 meters and all types of pipes i.e. Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC), High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) etc. and all sizes as per the requirement of farmer.		

14. Officers training	To provide regular training to the officers/ extension workers of the SDA's as also of the TMOP Head Quarters. and its Directorates to update their knowledge about the new developments in the field of Agriculture.	ICAR	Rs. 16000/- for 30 officers for 2 days training
15. Foreign training of officials	To attend various international conferences and to study implementation of programmes in foreign countries by the officers of the department are required to be made with a view to improving the indigenous technology and implementation of production programmes.	SDA's	—do— Actual cost of expenses. A lump sum provision of Rs. 2.50 crores is required for the entire plan period.
16. Publicity	To establish linkage between agricultural experts to transfer latest technology in shortest possible time.		A lumpsum of Rs. 2 lakh per state.
17. Involvement of private sector in other activities	To involve private sector in the activities like a) seed production b) supply of inputs c) extension support d) frontline and block demonstrations.		A cap of 15% for each component through SDAs.

B: New approved components under ISOPOM for XI Plan

Sl. No.	Component	Approved Pattern of assistance
1.	Supply of improved farm implements	Assistance @ 50% of the cost or Rs. 2500 per implement for manual/bullock drawn and @50% cost or Rs. 15000 per power driven implement, whichever is less.
2.	Supply of micronutrients in the deficient areas	Assistance @ 50% of the cost or Rs. 500 per ha., whichever is less.

Pattern of Assistance under Oil Palm Development Programme

Component	Pattern of Assistance
(i) Planting Material	75% of the cost with a ceiling of Rs. 7500/- per ha for entire land holding of the farmer.
(ii) Cultivation Cost	50% of the cost during gestation period with a ceiling of Rs. 15500 per ha up to 15 ha.
(iii) Drip Irrigation	50% of the cost for small, marginal, Scheduled Caste (SC)/ Scheduled Tribes (ST) and women farmers with ceiling ranging from Rs. 7400/- to Rs. 93000/- and 35% for other categories with a ceiling of Rs. 5200/- to Rs. 6500/-. Assistance will be provided for a maximum of 4 ha. per beneficiary.
(iv) Training, Extension and Publicity, Establishment and staff and other ongoing schemes.	Need based support would be provided as per requirement for training, extension and publicity, establishment and staff and other ongoing schemes of seed gardens, leaf analysis lab, training of staff/officers and testing of genotype, etc.
(v) Demonstrations	In block where new oil palm plantation of 500 ha. or above are being taken up on farmers fields, 20 demonstrations of 1 ha each will be taken up with a view to demonstrate cultivation and management practices, plant protection measures and potential yield of oil palm to the farmers. Under oil palm demonstrations entire expenditure subject to the maximum of Rs. 10000/- per ha. for planting material and maximum of Rs. 30950/- per ha. for cultivation during gestation period of 4-5 year. Balance cost, if any, on planting material, cultivation and other expenditures may be met either by the farmers or state Government.
(vi) Diesel Pump sets	50% cost to a maximum limit of Rs. 10000/- per set.

Component	Pattern of Assistance
(vii) Development of Wasteland	15% of fund allocated for development of wasteland owned by farmers or Government lands/wasteland owned by the corporations of the state and Central Government or Cooperatives. Out of this 15%, 25% funds will be provided for infrastructure, irrigation facilities for wastelands.

ASSISTANCE PATTERN/NORMS FOR IPM DEMONSTRATIONS

Farmers' Field School (IPM demo-cum-training)

Sl. No.	Items	Amount in Rs.
(a)	IPM kit (excluding net) @ Rs. 150/- for 30 farmers and 5 agriculture extension Officers (AEOs)/Non governmental Organization (NGOs)/Lead farmers etc.) (35x150)	5,250/-
(b)	Working tea/refreshment for 39 participants (5 AEO, 30 farmers, 3 trainers) @ Rs. 15/- participant per day for 14 days (38x15x14)	7,980/-
(c)	Contingent expenditure Petrol, Oil and Lubricants (POL), etc.	2,500/-
(d)	Distribution of IPM literature to participants @ Rs. 30/- per head (35x30)	1,050/-
(e)	Cost of pheromones, seed treatment, emergent spraying etc. on crossing of Economic Threshold Level (ETL) in pests/diseases and any other relevant material, equipment	2,000/-
(f)	5 sweep-nets for one demonstration (1 sweep-net for group of 6 farmers @ Rs. 80/- per sweeping net and IAEO)	400/-
(g)	Organizing IPM field day	
	Working tea/refreshment for 38 participants and 62 fellow farmers @ Rs 15/- per head	1,500/-
	(b) Contingencies, sitting arrangement and POL etc.	2,000/-
Total expenditure on one FFS IPM demo-cum-training consisting of 30 farmers+5 apprentice		22,680/-

[Translation]

Objections on Black Berry Mobile Services

5320. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the objections have been made against

the provision of Blackberry Mobile Services in the country;

(b) if so, the names of Government agencies and their objections have been made in this regard; and

(c) the number of subscribers who are being provided Blackberry service by the various Telecom Companies in the country as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Security Agency have expressed their concerns regarding the provision of Blackberry E-mail Service by some of the Licensees on proprietary protocols without provision of proper intercepting monitoring system and any facility to decode the content of the messages.

(c) As per the information received from service providers, there are around 1,14,000 number of subscribers as on date who are being provided Blackbeery services by various Telecom Companies in the country.

[English]

Unmanned Underwater Vehicles

5321. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) proposes to develop unmanned underwater vehicles and seabed arrays to protect the entire nation by ocean surveillance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time will be taken to develop unmanned underwater vehicles and seabed arrays; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government for early development of underwater vehicles and seabed arrays?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has undertaken projects to develop necessary technologies in respect of Seabed Arrays and Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV). These ongoing Technology Development projects are likely to be completed by December, 2009.

[Translation]

Penalty on Payment of Bills

5322. SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI NIHAL CHAND:
SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:
SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to erect new towers to strengthen the network of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited's Dolphin service in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of towers proposed to be erected alongwith the places identified for this purpose;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reasons for charging penalty on paying bills of the said service after due date whereas earlier there was no such penalty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The number of towers proposed for GSM Services in MTNL, Delhi to be erected during 2008-09 is 120 including the NCR towns of Ghaziabad, Nodia, Gurgaon and Faridabad.

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

(d) As per policy in MTNL, Delhi, late payment fee is charged.

[English]

Gramada Phone Scheme

5323. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reliance Communications has proposed to announce the Gramada Phone Scheme in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether this programme runs under the guidelines of Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund, stipulated by the Department of Telecommunications;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether a total of 90 lakh people living in over 10,000 villages in part of Kodagu, Mandya, Tumkur, Hassan, Belgaum, Bagalkot, Bijapur, Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Udipi, and Dakshina Kannada districts are covered in this scheme;

(e) if so, the main features of the scheme;

(f) the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(g) the manner in which it will be helpful to those areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) entered into an agreement in March, 2005 with M/s Reliance Communications Limited (RCL), and other service providers for installation of Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) including in Karnataka.

(c) A total of 180 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) in Karnataka have been identified for installation for RDELs under USOF scheme. Out of these 43 SDCAs are being allocated to M/s RCL for installation of RDELs.

(d) The people living in villages in part of Secondary Switching Area/SDCA of Kodagu, Mandya, Tumkur, Hassan, Belgaum, Bagalkot, Bijapur, Kolar, Chikkaballapur and Dakshina Kannada are covered in this scheme.

(e) and (f) These RDELs will be provided in commercially unviable areas as per census 2001 at the tariff prescribed in the agreement entered between USOF and M/s RCL. USOF provides support in the form of front loaded subsidy for the RDELs installed between

01-04-2005 and 31-03-2009. The equated annual subsidy where payable shall be given upto a maximum period of validity of the agreement which will expire in March, 2010.

(g) The scheme has already been introduced with effect from 01-04-2005. M/s RCL has so far provided 1,28,288 RDELs in its 43 allocated SDCAs in the rural areas of Karnataka during the period from 01-04-2005 to 31-03-2007.

Banana Shirt

5324. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of Banana Shirt made of plantain fibre products to Kerala is in great demand among exporters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to improve its production and sales during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Guidelines for Private Placement Agencies

5325. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private placement agencies functioning at present in the country, particularly in Karnataka, Statewise;

(b) whether the Union Government has issued any guidelines for regulation of the functioning of the private placement agencies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) As per information available, there were 918 private placement agencies functioning in the country as on 31-12-2005. The number of private placement agencies reported by State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations is enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) and (c) In order to safeguard the interest of job-seekers, Ministry of Labour and Employment issued guidelines on 30.10.2003 to the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations for regulation of the functioning of Private Placement Agencies. A copy of the said guidelines is enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement-I

Name of the States/UTs who have Reported Operation of Private Placement Agencies

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	No. of Private Placement Agencies
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	48
2.	Karnataka	41
3.	Punjab	32
4.	Assam	29
5.	West Bengal	32
6.	Madhya Pradesh	15
7.	Haryana	25
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	11
9.	Gujarat	60
10.	Kerala	48

1	2	3
11.	Tamil Nadu	32
12.	Maharashtra	254
13.	Pondicherry	3
14.	Orissa	4
15.	Rajasthan	83
16.	Uttar Pradesh	74
17.	Uttaranchal	2
18.	Bihar	69
19.	NCT of Delhi	56
Total		918

Statement-II

Guidelines on Operation of Private Placement Agencies issued by DGE and T, Ministry of Labour and Employment, New Delhi vide letter No DGE and T-M-27014/2/2003-EE-1 dated 30-10-2003

- I. The Private Placement Agencies are defined as those agencies, which cater to the specific placement requirement of the labour market within the country. It should not include such agencies, which are covered under the provisions of Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and Inter-state Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Service) Act, 1979.
- II. The Private Placement Agencies should be registered with the designated authority of State/ UT. For registration of such agencies security deposit if considered necessary by the State/ UT would be necessary to safeguard the interest of the jobseekers.
- III. Such agencies should provide more or less regular jobs.

- IV. Private Placement Agencies will take adequate care to see that placement is not made for illegal activities.
- V. The Private Placement Agencies for placement are required to provide the placement services through matching of employers requirement with the profile of job seekers registered with them. In such cases the Private Placement Agencies may, therefore, have to be allowed to take reasonable service charges from the job seekers, which should not exceed first monthly wage of the job seeker. However, the Private Placement Agencies may not be allowed to charge more than Rs.100/- as registration charges from job seekers to meet the initial service charges.
- VI. The service charges to be paid by the employer to the Private Placement Agencies may be left open because it is a mutual agreement between the employer and the Private Placement Agencies. It should, however, be ensured that any amount of charges to be paid by the employer to the Private Placement Agencies for making placement services should not affect the rate of monthly wage of the job seeker.
- VII. Private Placement Agencies shall maintain a job seekers database which should be made available to State/UT controlled Employment Exchanges and vice versa on mutually agreed term.
- VIII. The Employment Department of the State/UT Government may be authorized to ensure the compliance of these guidelines on the functioning of Private Placement Agencies and both the agencies should work in harmony.
- IX. While regulating the Private Placement Agencies, the respective States/UTs will device their mechanism of inter action between Public and Private Placement Agencies.
- X. In case of violation made by the Private Placement Agencies the State/UT Government will have the right to forfeit his security deposit, besides cancellation of registration.
- XI. It should be obligatory on the part of the Private Placement Agencies to share the statistical information connected with the registration and placement of job seekers as prescribed by the State/UT Government. Authorized persons of the State/UT will have right to ascertain, the names of the employers to whom the services are provided by the Private Placement Agency.
- XII. Redressal of grievances or disputes may be settled by some designated authority as declared by the State/UT Government.
- XIII. Agreement between the designated authority by the State/UT Government and concerned placement agencies should be signed.
- XIV. The Private Placement Agencies registered with the designated authority of Government shall display their registration number and other details as may be required in conspicuous manner.
- XV. If registered Private Placement Agencies have branches in other States, it will be required to enter into separate agreement(s) with the designated authority of the concerned State(s)/ UT(s).

[Translation]

Kisan Call Centre

5326. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Kisan call centres functioning in the country, State-wise, particularly in Jharkhand; and

(b) the steps taken by the farmers to ensure that

such centres provide adequate information to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Kisan Call Centres (KCC) are functioning in 14 locations of the country. The list of 14 Centres and the States covered by each Centre is enclosed as Statement. At present Jharkhand State is being served through the Kisan Call Centre located at Kolkata. However establishing a Kisan Call Centre at Ranchi to serve the farmers of Jharkhand exclusively is in process, as part of the Government of India decision to expand the KCC to 28 locations from the existing 14.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to ensure that such centres provide adequate information to the farmers are as under:

- (i) At present 144 Cell Center Agents are engaged in 14 KCCs who are answering farmers' queries in 21 local dialects.
- (ii) In case Call Centre agents (at level I) are not able to completely answer the farmers queries, calls are escalated to level II, (128 in number, nationwide) where experts from Agricultural Universities answer farmers queries directly. Out of 128 L II Experts, 2 are located in Jharkhand State.
- (iii) 20 Nodal Officers designated by the Government of India are keeping liaison with

the Call Centre agents for providing technical support for running the Kisan Call Centres.

- (iv) Besides, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has also taken initiative to develop a data structure in the form of Kisan Knowledge Management System (KKMS) and software is being developed to provide data-bank on various packages of practices on Crops, Horticulture, Poultry, Fishery, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences. The data structure is designed to support the Kisan Call Centre as an information bank. KKMS facilitates Kisan Call Centre agents to provide correct answers to the farmers' queries instantly.
- (v) In order to monitor the activities of Kisan Call Centres, a State level Monitoring Committee (SLMC) has been constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary (Agri.) with Director Agriculture and allied Deptts., representatives of local BSNL office and concerned nodal officer of KCC as members to address the issues related with training programmes, publicity and connectivity. Besides, it also ascertains the authenticity and accuracy of answers of KCC agents given to farmers' queries.
- (vi) To make the toll-free number '1551', popular among the farmers, publicity is being done through various means like printed post cards, inland letters and local publicity through ATMA at district and block level.

Statement

Details of Kisan Call Centres

Sl. No.	Kisan Call Centre Location	States and UTs covered
1	2	3
1.	Mumbai	Maharashtra, Goa and Daman and Diu

1	2	3
2.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal
3.	Kochi	Kerala and Lakshadweep Island
4.	Bangalore	Karnataka
5.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands
6.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
7.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab
8.	Jaipur	Rajasthan
9.	Indore	Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh
10.	Kolkata	West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Jharkhand
11.	Guwahati	Tripura, Assam, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim
12.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat and Dadra and Nagar Haveli
13.	Delhi	Delhi and Haryana
14.	Jammu	Jammu and Kashmir and Jammu and Kashmir Region from Nov., 2006

[English]

**Vocational Training Institutes
for Women**

5327: SHRI E.G.SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Vocational Training Institute for women in the country;

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

(c) the time by when the said institutes likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Vocational Training is mainly

provided in Industrial Training Institutes (Government and Private). At present various State/UT Governments have set up 264 Government Women Industrial Training Institutes (WITIs), 95 Private Women Industrial Training Centres (ITCs), 685 Women Wings in Government ITIs and 108 Women Wings in Private ITCs having a total of 49,336 training seats. State wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

In addition, Ministry of Labour and Employment has also set up 1 National and 10 Regional Vocational Training Institutes for women in different States. These institutes are located at Noida, Mumbai, Bangalore, Thiruvananthapuram, Hisar, Indore, Kolkata, Tura, Allahabad, Vadodara, and Jaipur.

However, at present there is no proposal to set up Vocational Training Institutes for women.

Statement

State-wise distribution of women Industrial Training Institute (WITIs) and wings for women training in general ITIs/Private WITIs

Data as in October 2007

Region	Government		Private		Total	Total Seats
	WITIs	Women Training Wings in general ITIs	WITIs	Women Training Wings in Private ITIs		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Northern Region						
Delhi**	3	7	29	2	41	2760
Himachal Pradesh	16	Nil	Nil	Nil	16	1140
Rajasthan	8	5	4	Nil	17	928
Chandigarh	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	280
Uttar Pradesh	11	48	8	Nil	67	3852
Uttaranchal	4	5	Nil	Nil	9	560
Haryana	31	Nil	8	Nil	39	2460
Punjab	38	32	Nil	Nil	70	4564
Jammu and Kashmir**	10	44	Nil	Nil	54	1246
Total	122	141	49	2	314	17790
South Region						
Karnataka	17	Nil	11	Nil	28	2260
Kerala	8	Nil	1	Nil	9	1334
Tamil Nadu	12	3	12	Nil	27	2568
Andhra Pradesh**	23	10	4	17	54	3980
Puducherry	2	1	Nil	Nil	3	232
Lakshadweep	Nil	0	Nil	Nil	0	0
Total	62	14	28	17	121	10374

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Eastern Region						
Nagaland	1	0	Nil	Nil	1	112
Meghalaya	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	52
Bihar	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	7	432
Jharkhand	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	6	544
West Bengal	4	12	1	Nil	17	640
Orissa	10	Nil	5	Nil	15	928
Assam	5	5	1	Nil	11	864
Manipur**	1	7	Nil	Nil	8	192
Mizoram**	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	0
Tripura	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	116
Andaman and Nicobar	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	80
Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	0
Total	37	24	7	0	68	3960
Western Region						
Gujarat	6	24	3	Nil	33	2160
Madhya Pradesh	14	Nil	Nil	Nil	14	846
Chhattisgarh	8	5	Nil	Nil	13	488
Maharashtra	15	476	8	89	588	13702
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	1	16
Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	0
Daman and Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	0
Total	43	506	11	89	649	17212
Grand Total	264	685	95	108	1152	49336

**Data as on October 2006.

[Translation]

Retirement of Officers

5328. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many officers and soldiers have deserted the armed forces on being retirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor in the three wings of Indian armed forces during the last three years; and

(c) the remedial efforts being made by the Government to check the desertion by the officers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

**Relaxing Physical Standards
in Defence**

5329. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to relax the physical standards for recruitment to various posts in the defence forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Presently, there is no proposal to relax physical standards for recruitment to various posts in the Defence Forces.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

**Unsatisfactory Mobile Service
of BSNL**

5330. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state;

(a) the population and the areas of the country, especially in Uttar Pradesh which are covered by the Mobile Telephone Service, State-wise;

(b) the details of expansion and development work of mobile telephone service in the country, especially in Uttar Pradesh which is under consideration of the Government;

(c) whether the mobile telephone service of BSNL is functioning unsatisfactorily in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any review has been made regarding the working of officials of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL); and

(f) if so, the outcome of the review in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) At present around 65% of the geographical area of the country has got mobile coverage. The number of mobile telephone subscribers in Uttar Pradesh is 27820571 as on 29-02-2008. The service area-wise number of mobile telephone subscribers is enclosed as Statement.

(b) Government has issued 120 new Unified Access Service Licenses in January 2008 for increasing competition which will help to roll out mobile services in uncovered areas. As per terms and conditions of the licence licensee has to cover 50% of district headquarters in the service area within three years of effective date of the licence. In order to expedite the roll out of these services in rural and remote areas, the Government is providing a total subsidy of approximately Rs. 587.88 crores over a period of 5 years through Universal Service Obligation Fund for a scheme for setting up and managing 7871 infrastructure sites (towers) in 500 districts spread over 27 States where there is no existing Fixed Wireless or mobile coverage. The agreements, effective from 1st June, 2007 had been signed with successful bidders in May, 2007 and mobile services from these towers are likely to be launched in

a phased manner by the end of year 2008. 150 towers have been set up under this scheme till 29th February, 2008.

Further, BSNL has a tentative plan to add 126 lakh cellular mobile subscribers including 12.3 lakhs in Uttar Pradesh only during 2008-09. Bharti Airtel is planning to install 8 Mobile Switching Centers, 4802 ns Receive sites during 2008-09. Other operators are also having similar expansion plans.

(c) and (d) The mobile telephone service being provided by BSNL is working satisfactorily, in general, meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters as prescribed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. However, congestion has been observed in its network sometimes at some places for which BSNL has initiated action for augmentation of its network. This would enhance coverage capacity and QoS. The network is also being continuously optimized for its performance and monitoring of the network has been strengthened by BSNL to ensure performance as per Quality of Service parameters as prescribed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

(e) and (f) The functioning of BSNL officials are being assessed regularly and their performance is quite satisfactory resulting in overall positive growth of BSNL's network across the country.

Statement

Sl. No.	Service Area	Wireless Subscribers
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	55494
2.	Andhra Pradesh	19810366
3.	Assam	3592354
4.	Bihar	10388353
5.	Chhattisgarh	654847

1	2	3
6.	Gujarat	16211925
7.	Haryana	6179875
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2212545
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2102832
10.	Jharkhand	608976
11.	Karnataka	16557489
12.	Kerala	11235384
13.	Madhya Pradesh	11960691
14.	Maharashtra	19945315
15.	North-East-I	1632716
16.	North-East-II	369739
17.	Orissa	4891886
18.	Punjab	11398714
19.	Rajasthan	13073180
20.	Tamil Nadu	17622540
21.	Uttarakhand	663113
22.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	15551768
23.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	11605690
24.	West Bengal	8945353
25.	Kolkatta "Metro"	7594970
26.	Chennai "Metro"	6866958
27.	Delhi "Metro"	15910382
28.	Mumbai "Metro"	13288338
All-India		250931793

[English]

**Neighbourhood Apparel and Textile Training
Institute for Job Assurance**

5331. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Neighbourhood Apparel and Textile Training Institute for Job Assurance (NATIJA) are functioning at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) the aims and objectives of NATIJA;

(c) the number of persons benefited during each year of Tenth Plan and proposed to be benefited each year of Eleventh Plan under NATIJA, State-wise; and

(d) the funds allocated, released and spent thereon during each year of Tenth Plan and thereafter till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (c) The Scheme of "Neighbourhood Apparel and Textile Training Institutes for Job Assurance (NATIJA)" has been formulated during the Eleventh Plan period for establishing a network of employment-linked training facilities in basic garment manufacturing technology. The Scheme is designed to meet the projected demand of 4 million trained workers required in the garment industry over the next 4-5 years. The Scheme, *inter alia*, aims at setting up training facilities at District and Sub-District levels across the country to provide gainful employment to the disadvantaged sections in the regional and local economy. The existing training institutions in the Government and the Private sector, including the Power-looms Service Centres (PSCs), Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), Polytechnics, Weaver Service Centres (WSCs), Textile Research Associations (TRAs), Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDCs), etc., could be considered for locating such centres in the initial phase. The objective is to restructure/re-orient the existing training institutes by upgrading their infrastructure commensurate with the needs of the Industry in the changing global market scenario. Creation of new

training centres may be considered subsequently to meet the demand, as and when required. Since the Scheme is yet to be finalized, no further details are available at this stage.

(d) Does not arise.

Organic Farming

5332. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal to APEDA for accreditation of the State seed certification agency for organic farming;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Gujarat State Seed Certification Agency (GSSCA) had shown interest in 2006 to diversify its activities into certification of organic products. As GSSCA did not qualify for becoming a certification body, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has taken initiative to train three officials of GSSCA for two years in setting up a certification programme for organic products.

(b) Five trainings were organized in India and one abroad (Italy and Germany) between May 2006 and September 2007. The trainings focused on the requirements for setting up the organic certification programme as per ISO-65. After the trainings, the three trained officials are presently working in establishing the certification programme for GSSCA.

(c) On fulfilling the requirements under National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP), GSSCA can apply for accreditation for certifying organic products for exports.

Consumption of Wild Mushrooms

5333. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued any directions to various States to prevent consumption of unidentified mushroom in view of deaths of many persons due to consumption of such Mushroom in various districts of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Assam and other State Governments to such directions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government of Assam has already sent experts team involving scientists of Assam Agricultural University for inquiry into deaths occurred due to consumption of wild and poisonous mushroom.

Based on the advice of experts of the Assam Agricultural University, the Govt. of Assam has already issued directions to all the district authorities to advice people not to consume wild and unidentified mushrooms.

[Translation]

Unearthing of Scam in BSNL Offices

5334. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government is aware that Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has unearthed a Scam of Rs. 27 lakh after conducting raids at Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) offices in Maharashtra as reported in the *Dainik Bhaskar*, Nagpur Edition, dated March 19, 2008;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any

official inquiry into the matter on the basis of the said report;

(d) if so, whether any action has been taken against the officials involved in BSNL tower maintenance scam; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The CBI, Nagpur has asked some documents from BSNL on 18-3-2008 and reported that a case has been registered vide RC 11(A)/07-NGP.

(b) (i) A Regular case RC 11(A)/07-NGP was registered by CBI, Nagpur Branch on 31-12-2007 u/sec. 120 B r/w 420 IPC and Sec 13(2) r/w. 13(1)(d) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 against (1) Shri N.P. Parate, Dy. General Manager, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Yavatmal (2) Shri P.L. Wadekar, Chief Accounts Officer, BSNL, Yavatmal (3) Shri M.M. Khiratkar, Divisional Engineer, BSNL Yavatmal and (4) Proprietor of M/s Mahesh Constructions, Indore.

(ii) The brief allegations are that the accused public servants entered into a criminal conspiracy with a private person to cheat Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, Yavatmal in the work relating to painting and earthing of cable pillars and caused wrongful loss to the BSNL, Yavatmal to the tune of about Rs. 27.31 lakhs. After registration of the case, searches were conducted on 13-3-2008 and 15-3-2008 at the residence and office premises of public servants S/Shri M.M. Khiratkar, DE (Central) BSNL, Nagpur, P.L. Wadekar, Chief Accounts Officer, Aurangabad and Pvt. Persons viz., Shri Santosh Kumar Rajpur, Indore, Shri Vishal Jain, Yavatmal.

(iii) Investigation is in progress by CBI.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. CBI is still investigating the case.

**Export and Development of
Banarsi Sarees**

5335. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken any steps for export and commercial development of famous Banarsi Sarees manufactured in Mau, Mubarakpur, Varanasi and Bhadohi districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has prepared any action plan in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose during Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(e) the demand and supply of Banarsi Sarees in the country as well as abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) In order to give impetus to the export of handloom products, including Banarsi Sarees, from all over the country, including Mau, Mubarakpur, Varanasi and

Bhadohi, a scheme under the name of "Handloom Export Scheme" was in operation during the 10th Plan. The Scheme has been continued in the 11th Plan, with some modifications, under the name of "Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme". The Scheme provides assistance to eligible handloom agencies for development of exportable range of handloom products through design innovation and product diversification and international marketing thereof by way of participation in international fairs, exhibitions, Buyer-Seller-Meets (BSMs) etc. However, export of Banarsi Sarees is mainly done by private exporters. The Government do not export Banarsi Sarees directly.

(c) and (d) For the Eleventh Five Year Plan, a provision of Rs. 25.00 crore has been made by the Government under the Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme for 75 Export Projects and participation in 50 International fairs and exhibitions. during the year 2007-08, a sum of Rs. 197.56 lakh was spent for participation in 7 International fairs and exhibitions and a sum of Rs. 37.58 lakh was spent for 10 ongoing Export Projects and one fresh Export Project.

Details of funds provided under the Handloom Export Scheme in general, and to Uttar Pradesh, in Particular, during the last two years are as under:—

(Rupees in lakh)

Year	Uttar Pradesh	Other States	For participation in International trade events	Total
2006-07	Rs. 85.80*	Rs. 74.39	Rs. 289.45	Rs. 449.64
2007-08	Rs. 10.10*	Rs. 27.48	Rs. 197.56	Rs. 235.14

*The amount provided to the State of Uttar Pradesh accounts for 53.58% of the total amount released during 2006-07 for Export Projects and it accounts for 26.87% during 2007-08.

The Exporters of silk textiles, including fabrics for furnishings, sarees and other finished made-up items such as curtains, cushions etc. are encouraged to participate in International fairs as well as in Tex-Styles

India Fair in New Delhi. Although the scope of export of sarees as such to USA or EU is very limited, the exporters from Varanasi also participate in different international trade events to sell those items as fabrics

for different end uses. During the last two years, participants from the country including Varanasi had participated in the following international fairs and exhibitions under the banner of Handloom Export Promotion Council:—

1. Hong Kong Houseware Fair, Hong Kong—April, 2006
2. EVTEKS fair 2006, Istanbul, Turkey—May, 2006
3. 17th India Home Furnishing Fair, Osaka, Japan—May, 2006
4. Domotex Middle East, Dubai, UAE—May, 2007
5. TIP Fair 2006, Brussels, Belgium—September, 2006
6. TITAS Fair 2006, Taipei, Taiwan—October, 2006
7. FATEX Fair 2006, Paris, France—November, 2006
8. Spring Fair, Birmingham, U.K.—February, 2007
9. Heimtextil India, Mumbai—October, 2006 and 2007
10. Tex-Styles India Fair, New Delhi—February/March, 2007 and 2008
11. Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair (Autumn)—October, 2006 and 2007
12. Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair (Spring)—March, 2007 and 2008
13. Global Home Textiles Fair, USA—May, 2007
14. Pret-a-Porter Fair 2007—September, 2007

The Indian Silk Export Promotion Council keeps the exporters/weavers informed about the latest fashion/colour trends through SILKNET and other publications and conducts seminars to inform latest export trends.

(e) The data on demand and supply of Banarsi Sarees is not available as the export data is maintained

under the broad product group i.e. "Sarees" and not as per different styles/techniques of weaving of Sarees.

[English]

Density of Broadband Connections

5336. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state;

(a) the total number of broadband connections have been released in the State of Kerala alongwith the requirement, exchange-wise;

(b) whether the Government has any plan in future in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the density of broadband connections in the country; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) As on 31-3-2008, about 1.83 lakh broadband connections have been provided in Kerala. For Kerala Circle, BSNL has planned to provide 5,11,272 Broadband ports for urban areas and 24,000 ports to cover 643 villages for the year 2008-09. In addition, 700 exchanges will also be provided with the Broadband connectivity by 31-3-2009. This Department maintains the data State-wise. Details of State-wise Broadband connections given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

*State-wise details of Broadband Subscribers
(as on March, 2008)*

Sl. No.	State/Telecom Circle	Braodband Subscribers (As on 31-3-08)
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	1725

1	2	3
2.	Andhra Pradesh	294111
3.	Assam	21538
4.	Bihar (Including Jharkhand)	52779
5.	Delhi*	431377
6.	Gujarat	249785
7.	Haryana	58616
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12514
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	13444
10.	Karnataka	4,392
11.	Kerala	183506
12.	Maharashtra (Including Goa)	809982
13.	Madhya Pradesh (Including Chhattisgarh)	112686
14.	North East**	7400
15.	Orissa	32321
16.	Punjab	131750
17.	Rajasthan	94110
18.	Tamil Nadu	499442
19.	Uttar Pradesh (Including Uttaranchal)	170966
20.	West Bengal	266595
Total		3806039

*includes Noida, Gurgaon, Ghaziabad and Faridabad

**includes Meghalaya, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura

[Translation]

Infection of Bird Flu

5337. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether other birds besides hens have also been found affected by bird flu; and

(b) the main symptoms of bird flu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Birds affected by bird flu may die suddenly or show a range of symptoms (either alone or together) as follows:

- (i) lack of coordination (including inability to walk or stand straight)
- (ii) ruffled feathers
- (iii) difficulty in breathing
- (iv) loss of appetite
- (v) depression and droopiness
- (vi) bluish colouring of wattles and comb
- (vii) edema and swelling of head, eyelids, comb, wattles, hocks
- (viii) watery diarrhoea
- (ix) pin-point haemorrhages (mostly visible on feet and shanks)
- (x) bloody or watery discharge from nose or beak
- (xi) sudden fall in egg production
- (xii) eggs with soft or deformed shells

WLL Service in Rural Areas

5338. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether after its expansion WLL service is not available in the rural areas and people are facing difficulties due to poor coverage; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) As on 31st March, 2008, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has provided Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) services in 2,580 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) out of 2,642 SDCAs in the country.

(b) Following steps are being taken for making available WLL services in the rural areas and for removing difficulties of people due to poor coverage:—

- (i) BSNL has added 20 lakh lines (2,949 towers) in its network during the year 2007-08 for strengthening of coverage.
- (ii) Most of the SDCAs shall be covered on WLL by June, 2008 except few SDCAs which are technically/commercially non-feasible.

[English]

**Mobile Van Scheme for
Telephone Bills**

5339. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) the names of Metro cities where Mobile Van Scheme has been started for payment of telephone bills, as on date;

(b) whether there is any proposal to introduce mobile van service for collection of telephone bills in other parts of the country particularly in the rural areas of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Mobile Van Scheme, for payments of Telephone bills, is not in operation in any Metro city as on date.

(b) to (d) There is no proposal to introduce the mobile van scheme by the operators due to availability of adequate number of collection centres including banks, post offices, franchisees and other means such as, on line payment through credit/debit cards, mobile phones etc.

**Setting up of Modern Weaving and
Knitting Processing Units**

5340. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided assistance for setting up of modern weaving and knitting processing units;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated, released and spent thereon during each year of Tenth Five Year Plan alongwith the allocation made for Eleventh Five Year Plan, State-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the extent to which the textile Industry has been benefitted by such assistance during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) Government have been providing financial assistance for setting up of modern weaving and knitting processing units under two schemes. Under the Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP), assistance @ 40 % of the project cost subject to the limit of Rs. 40 Crore is provided for common Infrastructure, common facilities and factory buildings. Under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), 5% interest reimbursement of the normal interest charged by the leading agency is provided for procurement of machinery. Apart from the 5% interest

reimbursement, 10% capital Subsidy is also provided under the TUFs for specified processing machinery.

(c) Funds released to the projects sanctioned under the SITP, year-wise and State-wise, are given in the table below:

State	Number of Projects	Year-wise Release of Funds (In Crore Rupees)			
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	5	0.00	12.74	49.92	62.66
Bihar	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	7	8.00	8.00	64.00	80.00
Karnataka	1	0.00	2.12	10.62	12.74
Maharashtra	5	4.82	6.89	45.39	57.10
Punjab	1	0.00	0.00	4.00	4.00
Rajasthan	3	0.00	3.87	15.75	19.62
Tamil Nadu	6	5.73	5.39	40.91	52.03
West Bengal	1	0.00	4.00	8.00	12.00
Total	30	18.55	43.01	238.59	300.15

Funds released under the TUFs, year-wise is as under:—

(In Crore Rupees)

1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1.00	70.00	198.894	202.59	249.06	283.604	485.00	823.92	1143.37

Note:—State-wise data is not maintained.

Rs. 450 Crore under the SITP and Rs.1090 Crore under the TUFs have been provided in the budget for the year 2008-09.

(d) Thirty (30) textile parks sanctioned so far under the SITP will facilitate investment of Rs. 17000 Crore (estimated), production of textiles worth Rs. 27000

Crore annually and employment opportunities (direct/indirect) for more than five (5) lakh persons.

During 1999-2000 to 2006-07, TUFs has induced investment of Rs. 93,447 Crore, which includes Rs. 14,198 Crore in the weaving segment, Rs. 2,894 Crore in knitting segment and Rs. 9,325 Crore in the processing segment.

Employees Trade Unions in LIC

5341. DR.K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the employees Trade Unions at present in the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC);

(b) whether some of the said Unions are not registered/recognised by the Government;

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

(d) the steps taken for registering these unions of LIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Ministry of Finance has informed that the following employees Trade Unions are in existence in LIC:

1. Federation of LIC of India Class-I Officers' association (CLASS-I Federation)
2. National Organisation of Insurance Officers (NOINO)
3. National Federation of Insurance Field workers of India (NFIFWI)
4. All India Insurance Employees' Association (AIIEA)
5. All India LIC Employees federation (FEDERATION)
6. Bhartiya Vima Karmachari Sena (KARMACHARI SENA)
7. National Organisation of Insurance Workers (NOIW)
8. All India National Life Insurance Employees' Federation (INTUC)
9. All India Life Insurance Employees' Federation (LIFE)

10. **Akhil Bhartiya Jivan Bima Nigam Chaturth Sreni Karmachari Sangh (Class-IV Union)**

(b) and (c) Registration of trade union is covered under the Trade Unions Act, 1926 whereunder Registrars of Trade Unions are appointed by respective State Governments to register the trade unions who comply with the provisions of the Act.

As informed by LIC, at present no union is recognised in LIC. In the year 1966, verification of membership was conducted by the Labour Ministry. Based on the verification, All India Insurance Employees Association (AIIEA) and all the Divisional units affiliated to it were recognised in the year 1967 on the condition of their accepting the Code of Discipline. Following the breaches of Code of Discipline committed by AIIEA and established against them by the Central Implementation and Evaluation Committee, the Corporation derecognised the aforesaid Association and its affiliated units in 1968. Thereafter there has been no verification of membership of any union nor has any union been recognized in LIC.

(d) Under the provisions of the Trade Unions Act, 1926, a trade union can apply for registration to the Registrar of Trade Unions and on compliance with laid down conditions under the Act, the Registrar registers the trade unions.

Rehabilitation of the Workers of Closed Textile Mills

5342. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of workers rendered jobless due to closure of textile mills during each of the last five years, State-wise;

(b) the measures taken to rehabilitate them;

(c) the number of workers given financial assistance during the said period and thereafter; till date, State-wise;

(d) whether lakhs of workers have been denied financial assistance; and

(e) If so, the reasons therefor alongwith the measures taken to ensure assistance to each worker rendered jobless?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) Details are enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) Details are enclosed as Statement-II.

(c) Details are enclosed as Statement-III.

(d) No, Sir, All eligible workers of eligible mills are paid/being paid relief under TWRFS. However the workers affected consequent to the mills closed without the compliance of section 25(O) of Industrial Disputes Act., 1947 or without the appointment of Official Liquidator in the winding up process are not covered under the TWRFS.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Total number of workers on roll of closed cotton/man-made fibre textile mills (Non-SSI) as on 29-2-2008 during 5 years is given below:—

State-wise workers on roll of closed mills (Non SSI) during last 5 years

Sl. No.	State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	968	0	312	72	0
2.	Assam	1318	0	0	0	0
3.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Gujarat	1368	0	0	970	134
6.	Haryana	81	77	0	88	0
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Karnataka	990	0	2	0	0
9.	Kerala	1363	0	0	549	0
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1802	0	0	0	0
11.	Maharashtra	1347	0	1425	0	0
12.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Orissa	472	877	0	57	0
14.	Pondicherry	129	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15.	Punjab	0	0	0	732	0
16.	Rajasthan	55	56	1626	0	0
17.	Tamil Nadu	7707	1915	116	142	301
18.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	3045	22	0
19.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0
20.	West Bengal	236	0	0	0	0
Total		17836	2925	6526	2632	435

Statement-II

Government has set up Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstuction (BIFR) under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act with a view to arranging, the timely detection of sick and potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination of preventive, ameliorative and remedial measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies. BIFR appoints operating agencies for preparation of rehabilitation proposals in respect of potentially viable units. The decision on rehabilitation is taken by BIFR based on its findings. The co-operative sector is not covered under the BIFR.

Out of 848 textile cases registered with BIFR as on 31-10-2006 and out of 407 mills closed as on 29-02-2008, 111 textile cases are registered with BIFR and status of the cases are enclosed as Annexure.

Further, Textile Worker's Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) has been introduced in terms of para 18. of Textile Policy of 1985, to provide interim relief to the eligible workers of eligible closed textile mills. This

Scheme is effective from 15-09-1986 to give interim relief to the workers rendered jobless consequent to the permanent closure of non SSI Private mills. Relief under the scheme is available for three years on a tapering basis, @75% of the wage equivalent in the first year, 50% in the second year and 25% in the third year. The mills closed on or after 6-6-1985 are only covered under TWRFS. The mill should have been closed under section 25(0) of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 or alternatively an Official Liquidator should have been appointed by the High Court for the winding up process of the mills. The workers should have been completed minimum 5 yrs. Service in such closed mills and figured on the mills roll on the date of closure of the mills. Constant efforts were/are made by this office to provide relief to displaced workers of closed textile mills at an early date by organizing various Grievances Redressal Meetings, which were/are presided over by the Hon'ble Textile Minister/textile Commissioner/Joint Textile Commissioner etc. Such meetings had/have the representatives from various State/Central Government. Departments/Organizations/Labour Associations and from workers.

Annexure

State-wise status of Textile cases registered with BIFR as on 31-10-2006 and closed mill as on February, 2008

State	Declared No. Longer Sick	Declared Sick	Dropped as Net Worth become Positive	Non-Maintainable	Others	Scheme Sanctioned under Section 18/4 SICA, 1985	Stay Order by court/ Stayed by AAI FR	Under Enquiry	Winding Up recommended section 20(1) SICA, 1985	Total
Andhra Pradesh				1	2	1			7	11
Assam				2						2
Bihar	1									1
Delhi	1	1		1				1	2	6
Gujarat		1						1	4	6
Haryana		1		2					3	6
Karnataka	1			1					3	5
Kerala	1	3				1			2	7
Madhya Pradesh									2	2
Orissa		1		1			1			3
Punjab				1					1	2

Rajasthan	1	1	3	1	1	5	12
Tamil Nadu	2	5	4	1	2	19	34
Uttar Pradesh			1	1		7	9
Uttaranchal						2	2
West Bengal		1				2	3
Total	7	14	17	3	5	59	111

Statement-III
State-wise details of Payment of Relief Made Under TWRFS during the last 5 Years

Sl. No.	Years	Gujarat			Madhya Pradesh			Tamil Nadu		
		No. of Mills	No. of workers benefited	Amount of relief paid (in Rs.)	No. of Mills	No. of workers benefited	Amount of relief paid (in Rs.)	No. of Mills	No. of workers benefited	Amount of relief paid (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	2003-04	14	283	9604087	2	59	1523429	1	1	15677
2.	2004-05	2	46	1452289	1	3233	77986030	—	1 (diff.)	6273
3.	2005-06	7	1823	41050000	2	1336	36346646	—	1 (diff.)	39318
4.	2006-07	10	1043	42311359	2	1665	79000000	—	—	—
5.	2007-08	24	8776	294000000	2	361	14863795	1	1	30243

Sl. No.	Years	Karnataka		West Bengal		Total disbursement under TWRFS			
		No. of Mills	No. of workers benefited	Amount of relief paid (in Rs.)	No. of Mills	No. of workers benefited	Amount of relief paid (in Rs.)	No. of worker	Amount of relief paid
1	2	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1.	2003-04	—	—	—	—	—	—	343	11143193
2.	2004-05	1	18	541120	—	—	—	3298	79985712
3.	2005-06	1	65	2560682	—	—	—	3224	79996646
4.	2006-07	3	530	19188641	1	95	2000000	3333	142500000
5.	2007-08	3	1701	70623787	2	1163	18882175	12002	398400000
							Total	22200	712025551

*[Translation]***Vegetable Oil**

5343. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any board is functioning for the development of vegetable oil sector;

(b) if so, the main objectives thereof;

(c) whether these boards are not functioning satisfactorily and their meetings are not being held properly due to which their objectives are not being achieved; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps taken by the Government after reviewing the functioning of these boards and success achieved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) National Oil seeds and Vegetables Oils Development (NOVOD) Board was created in 1984 by an Act of Parliament enacted in 1983 with the objectives covering development of oilseeds and vegetables oils industry and for matters connected therewith.

(c) and (d) The meetings of the NOVOD Board and its Managing Committee are being held from time to time wherein the functioning of the Board is being reviewed with regard to the implementation of the Central Sector Scheme "Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oil seeds" entrusted to the Board.

Further, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation had commissioned a study by the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad for mid-term evaluation of the Central Sector Scheme "Integrated Development of Tree-Borne Oilseeds" being implemented by the NOVOD Board. The report of the study indicated satisfactory implementation of the Scheme.

*[English]***Setting Up of Cable Landing Station**

5344. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state;

(a) the number of Cable Landing Station (CLS) has been set up in the country;

(b) whether the Union Government has decided to set up one CLS at Haldia of West Bengal;

(c) if so, whether the feasibility study for locating the CLS has been completed;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has received this study report; and

(f) if so, the time by which the CLS is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Sir, nine Cable Landing Stations (CLS) has been set up as on date in the country.

(b) to (e) Millenium Telecom Limited, a 100% subsidiary of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has planned to lay a Submarine Cable System from East Coast of India to Far East Asia. The Cable Landing Station for this route has been decided to be located at Digha in West Bengal, based on Desk Top Study report.

(f) The Cable Landing Station at Digha is likely to be set-up by June, 2010.

Import of Seeds

5345. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is importing seeds of different agro products to improve the yields;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any observation system to evaluate the quality of such seeds; and

(c) if so, the details of seeds import and the testing procedures therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Under the New Policy on Seed Development read with Plant Quarantine (Regulation of import into India) Order, 2003, the Government is facilitating the import of quality seeds and planting materials into the country with a view to improve productivity.

The Government has put in place an observation system for the evaluation of quality of such seeds. Initially, a small quantity of seed is permitted to be imported for in-house trials by the importer. Subsequently, multi-locational testing is carried out under the

All-India Coordinated Trials by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) before large scale import is permitted. If the performance of the variety is found to be satisfactory in the multilocal trials, the importer can import the seeds in bulk for a period of two years only. During this period, the importer must make arrangements for commercial multiplication in India through transfer of parental lines or breeder seed and seed production technology.

In respect of planting material, permission is granted on a case-to-case basis on the recommendation of the State Director of Horticulture/Agriculture, subject to post entry quarantine and such regulations as may be laid down by the Plant Protection Adviser, Government of India. In case of vegetable seed, free import is permitted subject to quarantine regulations.

The details of the recommendations by the Export and Import (EXIM) Committee of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for import of seeds and planting material is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Import of Seeds and Planting Materials recommended by EXIM Committee of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation

Sl. No.	Name of Seeds/ Planting Material	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
Import				
1.	Watermelon Seed	64.730 MT	0.050	-
2.	Berseem Seed	2,062.00 MT	2,930 MT	7,594.00
3.	Strawberry Plants	4.18 lakh	24,865 lakh	11.24 lakh
4.	Oil Palm Sprouts	27.55 lakh	16.5 lakh	31.30 lakh
5.	Hybrid Cotton	5.00 kg.	12.00 kg.	9.00 kg.
6.	Maize Seed	12.00 kg.	2.00 kg.	450.00 kg.
7.	Cabbage Seed	0.5 MT	—	100 kg.

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Cucumber Seed	0.1 MT	—	—
9.	Papaya Seed	0.850 MT	0.645 MT	0.651 MT
10.	Banana Tissue Culture Plant	0.215 lakh	—	0.10 lakh
11.	Sweet Sorghum	0.052 MT	0.95 MT	—
12.	Sunflower Seed	0.0116 MT	0.500 MT	0.050 MT
13.	Chicory seed	28.520 MT	2.10 MT	—
14.	Fruit Plants (Apple, Grapes Berry, Citrus and Kinnoo etc.)	0.936 lakh	25.17 lakh	29.12 lakh
15.	Bamboo Sucker	—	15,000 Nos.	—
16.	Grass Seed	—	4,350 lbs	—
17.	Pea Seed	—	200 kgs.	—
18.	Date Palm	—	4.9 lakh	0.30 lakh
19.	Neem Seed	—	1,500 kg.	—
20.	Sweet Corn Seeds	—	2.033 MT	69.4 MT
21.	Astomeria Plant	—	—	6,000 Nos.
22.	Baby corn seed	—	—	10.20 MT
23.	Soyabean Seed	—	—	75.00 kg.
24.	Aster seed	—	—	8.00 kg.

Unemployment Allowance for acquiring Professional Skill

5346. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give unemployment allowance and stipend to those unemployed educated youth who undertake to acquire professional skill through Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Public or Private sectors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds

allocated for the purpose during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) There is no proposal under consideration of the Central Government to give unemployment allowance and stipend to those unemployed educated youth who undertake to acquire professional skill through Industrial Training Institute In Public or Private Sectors.

(b) Does not arise.

**Rationed Items for Andaman and
Nicobar Islands**

5347. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any representations from the Administration of Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for according permission to supply of rationed articles to farmers of the Union Territory;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Andaman and Nicobar Islands Union Territory Administration has requested for increasing allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) during 2007-08 and 2008-09. In this request, there is also a mention that the additional allocations requested are in view of free distribution of dry ration to Tsunami affected population including affected cultivators.

Allocations of foodgrains under TPDS for Antyodaya and Below Poverty Line (BPL) families are made by the Government @ 35 kg per month per family, the number of such families being on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and March, 2000 population estimates of Registrar General of India (RGI) or the number of Antyodaya and BPL families actually identified by the State Government or UT Administration and ration cards issued to them, whichever is less.

As per the above norms, the estimated number of BPL families in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is 28,000. However, the UT Administration has actually issued ration cards to 16,000 BPL and Antyodaya families. Therefore, the allocation of foodgrains is being made for these 16,000 families of BPL and Antyodaya families.

Allocation to the UT for Above Poverty Line (APL) category of ration card holders is being made depending upon the off-take of foodgrains under this category during earlier years. The above position has been explained to the UT Administration.

For Tsunami affected population in the UT, foodgrains were also allocated under Sampooma Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) special component under which foodgrains were allocated as part of the relief measures. Since SGRY Scheme has now been subsumed into the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, there is no provision for allocating foodgrains as part of wages or for calamity relief under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Under this Scheme, from 1st April, 2008, payments of wages is being done only in cash.

[Translation]

New Ordnance Factories

5348. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish new ordnance factories;

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

(c) the time by which these proposed ordnance factories are likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) A proposal to set up an ordnance factory to manufacture new generation carbines at Korwa in Sultanpur district of Uttar Pradesh has been approved in 2007. There is no other proposal under consideration for establishing new ordnance factories.

(c) Ordnance Factory at Korwa will be established by October 2010.

Food Security Authority

5349. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to set up a Food Security Authority so as to address the problems related to shortage of foodgrains in the country;

(b) if so, the time by which the said Authority is likely to be set up; and

(c) the details regarding jurisdiction and functioning of the said Authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Losses to Milk Producers

5350. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH
DEO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large Milk Powder and other Milk related products are being dumped into the country at cheaper rates, causing huge losses to milk producers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the milk producers in the country are too small land holders, sometimes landless and are not in a position to face the challenge; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken so far to protect dumping and to produce more milk alongwith the achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and

(b) India is self sufficient in milk as it is the largest producer in the world. It is also a net exporter of dairy products. Till recently Ministry of Commerce was providing incentives on export of casein and skim milk powder. Though some dairy items like Skim Milk Powder, Milk food for babies, Butter Milk, Yoghurt, Whey Powder, Cheese, Butter, Cream, Butter oil, Ice Cream, Evaporated Milk etc. are imported into the country, there is a ceiling of 10000 MT on import of Skim Milk Powder under Tariff Rate Quota. Beyond this an import duty of 60% is levied on the value of their import making imports uncompetitive. Given above, possibility of dumping milk powder and other milk related products does not appear to exit.

(c) Such challenge does not exist presently in view of (a) and (b) above.

(d) Question does not arise in view of (a) to (c) above.

Thefts and Destruction of Optical Fibre Cables

5351. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the cases of thefts and destruction of Optical Fibre Cables in the country especially in the competitive areas of private telecom operators;

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

(c) the number of cases detected in semi urban and urban areas where private operators have launched their services or in the process of launching such services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Sir, there are very few theft cases of Optical Fiber Cables (OFC) in BSNL. However, there have been frequent damage of OFC in some Circles mainly due to road widening/digging activities by NHAI, state agencies such

as PWD, Forest Deptt., Irrigation Deptt. and Private Telecom Operators.

there are no theft cases of Optical Fiber Cables in MTNL.

(b) Circle-wise details of damages during last year (2007-08) is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) No. of OFC damage cases detected during the year 2007-08 by BSNL are:

Semi Urban Areas	993
Urban Areas	446
Total	: 1439

Statement

Circle-wise details of damages of OFCs during the year 2007-08 of BSNL

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	No. of cases
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10
2.	Bihar	62
3.	Assam	93
4.	Chhattisgarh	14
5.	Gujarat	9
6.	Haryana	731
7.	Himachal Pradesh	354
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	3
9.	Jharkhand	41
10.	Karnataka	8
11.	Kerala	21
12.	North East-II	32

1	2	3
13.	Orissa	20
14.	Punjab	128
15.	Rajasthan	48
16.	Tamil Nadu	8
17.	Uttaranchal	4
18.	West Bengal	34
Total		1620

[Translation]

Cultivation of Foodgrains and Cash Crops

5352. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cultivations of foodgrains crops, in acreage has been declining in comparison to the cultivations of cash crops; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. Table below gives the area coverage under foodgrains crops and cash crops (oilseeds, sugarcane, cotton, jute and mesta taken together) in the country during the last three (2004-05 to 2006-07) and the current year (2007-08):

Year	Area Coverage (Million hectare)	
	Foodgrains	Cash Crops
2004-05	120.08	40.89
2005-06	121.60	41.64
2006-07	123.71	41.74
2007-08*	124.26	41.79

*Advance Estimates

Area coverage under foodgrains and cash crops has increased during 2004-05 to 2007-08.

(b) does not arise.

[English]

Training Standard in IAF

5353. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether lack of proper training has been identified as one of the major causes of crash of IAF aircrafts;

(b) if so, whether the Government has decided to enhance the training standards in Indian Air Force; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Upgradation of the skills of the pilots and enhancement/augmentation of training standards in the Indian Air Force, keeping in view the modernisation of the fleet as well as technological development is a continuous process.

Increase in Capacity of Mobile towers

5354. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to increase the capacity of the various existing mobile towers in the country especially in Basirhat sub-division of the North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. To increase the capacity of existing mobile towers, the Government has recently issued Guidelines on Infrastructure Sharing amongst the service providers. BSNL has planned to add 33.5 million lines capacity in the country by up gradation of equipment in existing towers and setting up of new towers in the next one year. The details of GSM Base Transceiver Station (BTS) under Basirhat Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) where the capacity of existing towers shall be augmented are enclosed as Statement. The augmentation in these towers has also been planned to be completed in next one year in a progressive manner.

Statement

Details of GSM BTS Under Basirhat SDCA

Sl.No.	Name of BTS
1.	Baduria
2.	Basirhat-I
3.	Basirhat-II (Collegeparao)
4.	Basirhat Market
5.	Haroa
6.	Malancha
7.	Nazat
8.	Swarupnagar
9.	Taki-I

Sl.No.	Name of BTS
10.	Sandeshkhali
11.	Bhebia
12.	Chakla
13.	Katiahat
14.	Irinda
15.	Basirhat Hospital More
16.	Sarberia
17.	Bithari
18.	Gopalpur (Basirhat)
19.	Kachua
20.	Kholapota

[Translation]

Provision of Free Roaming Facility

5355. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide free roaming facility or any such other facility to Bhart Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the said scheme is likely to be introduced;

(c) whether the BSNL and MTNL issue more connections than their capacity thereby choking the lines and causing a lot of difficulties for the public;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the existing provisions of Telecommunications Tariff Orders (TTO), tariff for telecom services are under forbearance, except with regard to Fixed Line Service in Rural Areas, National Roaming Service in Cellular Mobile Service and Leased Line Service.

(c) to (e) In GSM based mobile network it is generally possible to have more number of subscriber than the dimensioned capacity if actual total usage does not exceed the dimensioned traffic handling capacity. The total subscriber base of BSNL is slightly higher than the equipped capacity. The network performance depends on the actual usage by the subscribers at any given point of time. Presently, the said service of BSNL is working satisfactorily and is, in general, meets the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) at present. However, congestion has been observed in the network sometimes at some places for which BSNL already initiated action for augmentation of its network. The same would enhance coverage, capacity and Quality of Service. The network is also being continuously optimized for its performance and monitoring of the network has been strengthened by BSNL to ensure performance as per QoS parameters by TRAI.

MTNL network services are working satisfactorily. There was some temporary congestion in the cellular mobile network due to upgradation and capacity expansion in MTNL Delhi which has now been commissioned and network is working satisfactorily.

Free Technical Education to Youths

5356: SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently decided to impart free technical education to the youths in various States in order to provide employment to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government for implementation of the said proposal in the country particularly in Jharkhand, State-wise;

(c) the details of the institutions engaged in imparting the proposed free technical education in the country, State-wise; and

(d) the number of youths likely to be benefitted under the said schemes, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Ministry of Labour & Employment is implementing a scheme "Skill Development Initiative" for school leavers, existing workers to improve their employability. The scheme is 100 % funded by the Government. One million persons would be trained all over the country including the State of Jharkhand during five years.

In addition, Craftsmen Training Scheme is being provided through a network of 5465 Industrial Training Institutes/Centres in the country with a seating capacity of 7.49 million trainees. Government has recommended a tuition fee of Rs. 100/- per month to be charged from the trainees, however, no fee is charged from SC/ST and physically challenged trainees in 1913 Government Industrial Training Institutes.

Revival of Cotton Mills

5357. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified the various cotton mills for revival in the country, particularly in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon, State-wise and mill-wise;

(c) the time by which the said amount is likely to be released; and

(d) the number of cotton mills proposed to be merged if any, with other mills, State-wise and mill-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) The Government of India has approved modernization of 22 mills. Out of these 22 mills, one mill situated in the State of Rajasthan has been considered to be set up as a new green field mill with spinning and weaving activity, namely, New Udaipur Cotton Mills. This mill is to be relocated at Beawar (Rajasthan).

(b) The detail showing proposed expenditure, State-wise and mill-wise is enclosed as Statement.

(c) These 22 mills will be modernized by March, 2009, subject to conclusion of sale of assets.

(d) Two mills, namely Kohinoor No. 1 and INDU No. 6, were merged with Tata Mills in the State of Maharashtra in the year 2006.

Statement

Cost of Modernization Sanctioned for 22 Mills by B.I.F.R. and G.O.I.

Sl. No.	Name of the Mills	State	Mod. Cost (Rs. in lacs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Minerva Mills	Karnataka	6328.80
2.	Algappa Tex. Mills	Kerala	1529.12
3.	Cannanore Spg. and Wvg. Mills, Can.	Kerala	2019.90
4.	Kerala Laxmi Mills	Kerala	2064.29

1	2	3	4
5.	Vijayamohini Mills	Kerala	1366.57
6.	Cannanore Spg. and Wvg. Mills, Mahe	Pondicherry	1759.15
7.	Podar Mills	Maharashtra	3689.37
8.	Barshi Tex. Mills	Maharashtra	1322.33
9.	Finlay Mills	Maharashtra	3807.03
10.	Tata Mills	Maharashtra North	5342.77
11.	India United Mill No. 5	Maharashtra North	3185.09
12.	Cambodia Mills	Tamil Nadu	734.77
13.	Coimbatore Murugan Mills	Tamil Nadu	1065.41
14.	Pankaja Mills	Tamil Nadu	1301.76
15.	Pioneer Spinners Mills	Tamil Nadu	1006.97
16.	Sri Rangavilas S. and W. Mills	Tamil Nadu	2865.71
17.	Kaleeswarar Mills 'B' Unit	Tamil Nadu	1021.90
18.	Udaipur cotton Mills	Rajasthan	2755.66
19.	Rajnagar Textile Mills No. 1	Gujarat	4169.19
20.	Arati Cotton Mills	West Bengal	2773.38
21.	Burhanpur Tapti Mills	Madhya Pradesh	1468.84
22.	New Bhopal Tex. Mills	Madhya Pradesh	1418.31

[English]

**Lower Quantity of
Packaged Goods**

5358. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the manufacturers of branded items have reduced the weight of the goods in packets whereas the prices have remained the same as before;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) The attention of the Government has been drawn to media reports which state that manufacturers have reduced quantities of packaged goods while holding price constant.

In respect of commodities not listed in the Third

schedule of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977, the manufacturers can pack in any quantities. However for commodities listed in the Third schedule to the Rules, Rule 5 provide that if a commodity specified in the Third Schedule is packed in a size other than that specified in that schedule, a declaration 'Not a Standard pack size under the Standard of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rule 1977', or 'non standard size under the Standard of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rule 1977', is made on the package by the manufacturer.

To bring awareness to the consumers in this regard, an advertisement was issued on all India basis in the print media in the recent past. Apart from that the Department has also sent an advisory to Controller of Legal Metrology of all States/Union Territories for proper enforcement of the provisions of the Rules.

[Translation]

Commission on Agricultural Produce

5359. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Swaminathan Commission has in its report recommended the constitution of Agricultural Produce and Price Commission in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to constitute such commissions in the States;

(d) if so, whether the Government has invited suggestions in this regard from the States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) The National Commission on Farmers did not make any recommendation for the constitution of "Agricultural Produce and Price Commission" in the States.

[English]

Development of Eco-Friendly Technology

5360. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects undertaken and grants released for undertaking research in the field of textiles particularly development of eco-friendly technology of the sector during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the facilities available for testing eco-friendly technology and products related to textile industry in various laboratories across the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) The information is, being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Private Partnership for Setting up Textile Parks

5361. SHRI. J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of the Government to involve private parties to set up some integrated textile parks in the country during Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the number of private parties with locations which have so far shown interest in the scheme, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide any subsidy to private parties for setting up textile parks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the benefits likely to be accrued therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) The Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP) was approved

in July 2005 to facilitate setting up of Textiles Parks with appropriate support infrastructure facilities. SITP has been continued in the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(b) So far thirty (30) textiles park projects have been sanctioned under the SITP. Location of these parks, State-wise, is as under:—

State	Number of Projects	Location
Andhra Pradesh	5	Pochampally, Vishakhapatnam, Mahboobnagar, Hindupur, Nellore
Bihar	1	Bhagalpur
Gujarat	7	Surat (4), Kutch (Mundra SEZ), Kheda, Sanand
Karnataka	1	Dodballapur
Maharashtra	5	Ichalkaranji (3), Tarapur, Baramati
Punjab	1	Dhaura (Barnala)
Rajasthan	3	Kishanganh (2), Pali
Tamil Nadu	6	Palladam, Cuddalore, Perundurai, Komarapalayam, Karur, Madurai
West Bengal	1	Kolkata
Total	30	

(c) SITP provides for giving assistance @ 40 % of the project cost (common infrastructure, common facilities and factory buildings) subject to the limit of Rs.40 Crore.

(d) Setting up of textiles parks facilitates additional investment, textiles; production and employment generation.

[Translation]

Import Policy

5362. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate new comprehensive/integrated policy for importing wheat and edible oils:

(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 AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (c) The Government is continuously reviewing the policy regarding export and import of wheat, edible oils and other foodgrains. Necessary action is taken for adjustments in the import/export duties, restrictions on import/export and incentives for import/export etc. from time to time,

[English]

Allocation of Universal Access Service Licences

5363. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the Government has recently allocated 120 universal access service licences in Telecom Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the cumulative price of these licences was based on 2001 fees;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has any proposal to place new commercial value of recently allocated 120 universal access service licences in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Subsequent to acceptance of recommendations dated 28-8-2007 of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), inter-alia, that there should be no cap on the number of access provider in any service area, 120 new Unified Access Services (UAS) licences have been granted in February-March, 2008 to 16 companies in 22 services area as per the existing guidelines dated 14-12-2005 for grant of UAS licences. Entry fee for Unified Access Services Licensing regime was finalized in November 2003 for grant of UAS licences in the respective service areas and has been detailed in these guidelines.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise in view of (e) above.

Guidelines on Mergers and Acquisitions

5364. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

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

(a) whether the Government has announced fresh guidelines for Mergers and Acquisitions (M and As) in the cellular and unified telecom licence space in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the guidelines are different from the recommendations made by the TRAI on August 28, 2007 in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) On 22nd April, 2008, Government has issued fresh guidelines for intra service area Merger of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS)/Unified Access Services (UAS) Licences. The guidelines are broadly in line with the recommendations made by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on August 28, 2007. Copy of the Guidelines issued vide letter No. 20-100/2007-AS-I dated 22nd April, 2008 is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

*No.20-100/2007-AS-I
Government of India*

*Ministry of Communications and Information
Technology, Department of Telecommunications
Sanchar Bhawan, 20, Ashok Road, New Delhi.*

22nd April, 2008

Subject: Guidelines for intra service area Merger of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS)/ Unified Access Services (UAS) Licences

The intra service area Merger of CMTS/UAS Licences shall be permitted as per the guidelines mentioned below for proper conduct of Telegraphs and Telecommunication services, thereby serving the public interest in general and consumer interest in particular:—

1. Prior approval of the Department of Telecommunications shall be necessary for merger of the licence.
2. Merger of licences shall be restricted to the same service area.
3. Merger of licence(s) shall be permitted in the following category of licences:
 - (i) Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) Licence with Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) Licence;
 - (ii) Unified Access Services Licence (UASL) with Unified Access Services Licence (UASL);
 - (iii) Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) Licence with Unified Access Services Licence (UASL);

Merged licences in all the categories above shall be in UASL category only.

4. The relevant service market be defined as wire line and wireless services. Wireless service market shall include fixed wireless as well.
5. Exchange Data Records (EDR) shall be used in the calculation of wireline subscribers and specifically Visitor Location Register (VLR) data, in the calculation of wireless subscribers for the purpose of computing market share based on subscriber base.
6. For determination of market power, market share of both subscriber base and adjusted gross revenue of licensee in the relevant market shall be considered to decide the level of dominance for regulating the M and A activity.
7. The duly audited Adjusted Gross Revenue shall be the basis of computing revenue based market share for operators in the relevant market.
8. The market share of merged entity in the relevant market shall not be greater than 40%

either in terms of subscriber base separately for wireless as well as wireline subscriber base or in terms of Adjusted Gross Revenue.

9. No M and A activity shall be allowed if the number of UAS/CMTS access service providers reduces below four in the relevant market consequent upon such an M and A activity under consideration.
10. Consequent upon the Merger of licences in a service area, the post merger licensee entity shall be entitled to the total amount of spectrum held by the merging entities, subject to the condition that after merger, licensee shall meet, within a period of 3 months from date of approval of merger by the Licensor, the prevailing spectrum allocation criterion separately for GSM and CDMA technologies, as in case of any other UAS/CMTS licensee(s).

In case of failure to meet the spectrum allocation criterion in the above mentioned period of 3 months, post merger Licensee shall surrender the excess spectrum, if any, falling which it may be treated as violation of terms and conditions of the licence agreement and action accordingly shall be taken. In addition, after the expiry of above mentioned period of 3 months, the applicable rate of spectrum charge shall be doubled every 3 months in case of excess spectrum held by post merger licensee.

Further, the spectrum transfer charge, as may be specified by the Government, shall be payable within the prescribed period.

11. On merger, spectrum enhancement charge shall also be charged as applicable in case of any other UAS/CMTS licensee.
12. Discretion to choose the band to surrender the spectrum beyond the ceiling will be of the new entity.
13. All dues, if any, relating to the licence of the

merging entities in that given service area, will have to be cleared by either of the two licencees before issue of the permission for merger of licences.

14. In case consequent to merger of licences in a service area, the licensee becomes a "Significant Market Power" (SMP) post merger, then the extant rules and regulations applicable to SMPs would also apply to the merged entity.
15. The annual license fee and the spectrum charge are paid as a certain specified percentage of the AGR of the licensee. On the merger of the two licenses, the AGR of the two entities will also be merged and the license fee will be therefore levied at the specified rate for that service area on the resultant total AGR. Similarly, for the purpose of payment of the spectrum charge, the spectrum held by the two licensees will be added/merged and the annual spectrum charge will be at the prescribed rate applicable on this total spectrum.

However, in case of holding of spectrum for various technologies by the entity subsequent to M and A, spectrum charges and license fee etc. or any other criterion being followed by the licensor shall be applicable as in case of any other UAS/CMTS licensee.

16. For regulating acquisitions of equity stake of one access services licensee Company/ legal person/promoter company in the enterprise of another access services licensee in the same license area, present guidelines on Substantial Equity shall continue i.e.

"No single company/legal person, either directly or through its associates, shall have substantial equity holding in more than one LICENSEE Company in the same service area for the Access Services namely: Basic, Cellular and Unified Access Service. 'Substantial equity' herein will mean 'an equity of 10% or more' A promoter company/ Legal person cannot have stakes in more than one LICENSEE Company for the same service area."

17. Any permission for merger shall be accorded only after completion of 3 years from the effective date of the licences.

18. The duration of licence of the merged entity in the respective service area will be equal to the remaining duration of the Licence of the two merging licencees whichever is less on the date of merger.

For example, if licence of company 'A' is merging with Licence of company 'B', and the remaining duration of licence of 'A' or 'B' whichever is less will be applicable for the merged entity in the respective service area.

19. The dispute resolution shall lie with Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal as per TRAI Act 1997 as amended by TRAI (Amendment) Act 2000.
20. LICENSOR reserves the right to modify these guidelines or incorporate new guidelines considered necessary in the interest of national security, public interest and for proper conduct of telegraphs.
21. These guidelines are issued in supersession of earlier guidelines issued vide Office Memo No.20-232/2004-BS-III dated 21st February, 2004.

(R.K.Gupta)

Assistant Director General (AS-I)

For and on behalf of the President of India

Ph. 23036574

Setting up of Postal Finance Marts

5365. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalized a scheme for setting up of Postal Finance Marts (PFMs) in the country;

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

(c) whether Post Offices where PFMs are proposed to be set up during the Tenth Five Year Plan have been identified:

(d) if so, the details thereof; State-wise especially in Karnataka; and

(e) the total financial outlay for the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Postal Finance Mart seeks to offer all the financial products and services of the Department under

one roof—"One Stop Shop for Financial Services"—in a fully computerized Post office supported by technology. The reason behind setting up Postal Finance Marts' (PFM) is to provide specialized value added financial services, in conformity with market standards, in a customer friendly environment, in an ergonomically improved Post Office.

(c) Yes, Sir. 313 PFMs have been set up during the 10th Five Year Plan.

(d) State-wise details including Karnataka may be seen in the enclosed Statement.

(e) An expenditure (outlay) of Rs. 12.41 crores was incurred for setting up 313 PFMs during the 10th Plan.

Statement

Number of Postal Finance Marts

Sl. No.	Circle	2005-06	2006-07
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	11
2.	Assam	1	7
3.	Bihar	7	8
4.	Chhattisgarh	3	3
5.	Delhi	5	10
6.	Gujarat	7	8
7.	Haryana	4	6
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5	5
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	5	3
10.	Jharkhand	5	5
11.	Karnataka	10	10
12.	Kerala	7	8
13.	Madhya Pradesh	9	9
14.	Maharashtra	16	11

Sl. No.	Circle	2005-06	2006-07
15.	North-East	6	8
16.	Orissa	7	6
17.	Punjab	5	5
18.	Rajasthan	6	6
19.	Tamil Nadu	20	10
20.	Uttar Pradesh	8	10
21.	Uttarakhand	2	3
22.	West Bengal	5	9
Total		153	180

List of Postal Finance Marts

Sl.NO.	Circle	2005-06	2006-07
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad GPO	Hyderabad Jubilee HO
		Secunderabad HPO	Trimulgherry HO
		Vijayawada HPO	Nizamabad HO
		Guntur HO	Sangareddy HO
		Kurnool HO	Anantapur HO
		Karimnagar HO	Tirupathi HO
		Daba Gardens LSG PO	Khammam HO
		L.B. Colony SO	Nellore HO
		Warrangal HO	Rajahmundry HO
		DH Sutton SO	Kakinada HO
		2.	Assam
	North Lakhimpur HO		
	Silchar HO		

SI.NO.	Circle	2005-06	2006-07
			Tezpur HO
			Jorhat HO
			Nagaon HO
			Karimganj HO
3.	Bihar	Patna GPO	Hajipur HO
		Bankipore HO	Ara HO
		Muzaffarpur HO	Biharsharif HO
		Chhapra HO	Sasaram HO
		Gaya HO	Samastipur HO
		Bhagalpur HO	Madhubani HO
		Darbhanga HO	Purnea HO
			Motihari HO
4.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur HO	Raipur Ganj SO
		Durg HO	Korba HO
		Bilaspur HO	Rajnandgaon HO
5.	Delhi	Sansad Marg HO	Inderprastha HO
		New Delhi GPO	Kalkaji HO
		Sarojini Nagar HO	Ashok Vihar HO
		Lodi Road HO	Ramesh Nagar HO
		Delhi GPO	Narayana HO
			Krishna Nagar HO
			Malka Ganj MDG
			Lajpat Nagar MDG
			Janak Puri SO
			Hauz Khas SO
6.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad GPO	Nadiad HO

Sl.NO.	Circle	2005-06	2006-07
		Vadodara HO	Navsari HO
		Surat HO	Valsad HO
		Revadi Bazar HO	Navrangpura HO
		Fatehganj HO	Mahesana HO
		Rajkot HO	Himatnagar HO
		Takhatেশwar PO, Bhavnagar	Palanpur HO
			Jamnagar HO
7.	Haryana	Ambala GPO	Ambala City HO
		Karnal HO	Faridabad NIT HO
		NH-IV Faridabad SO	Panipat HO
		Model Town Rohtak SO	Gurgaon HO
			Hisar HO
			Kurukshetra HO
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla GPO	Solan HO
		Mandi HO	Kullu HO
		Una HO	Dharamsala HO
		Hamirpur HO	Bilaspur HO
		Palampur HO	Chamba HO
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar HO	R.S. Pora HO
		Udhampur HO	Rajouri HO
		Gandhinagar HO	Leh HO
		Kathua HO	
		Anantnag HO	
10.	Jharkhand	Ranchi G.P.O.	Dumka HO
		Doranda HO	B. Deoghar HO
		Jamshedpur HO	Daltonganj HO

Sl.NO.	Circle	2005-06	2006-07
		Hazaribagh HO	Ramgarh Cantt. HO
		Dhanbad HO	B.S. City HO
11.	Karnataka	Hubli HO (Created in 2004-05)	Indiranagar SO
		Bangalore G.P.O.	Rajajinagar HO
		Banashankari II Stage PO	Koramangala 3rd Block SO
		R.T. Nagar, HO	J.P. Nagar SO
		Vijayanagar MDG	Bijapur HO
		Chitradurga HO	Karwar HO
		Balmatta SO	Gulbarga HO
		Yadavagiri SO	Hassan HO
		Belgaum HO	Puttur HO
		Bidar HO	Mandya HO
12.	Kerala	Trivandrum GPO	Attingal HO
		Kollam HO	Thiruvalla HO
		Chengannur HO	Emakulam HO
		Thrissur HO	Kottayam HO
		Irinjalakuda HO	Alappuzha HO
		Palakkad HO	Kannur HO
		Calicut HO	Thalassery HO
			Ottapalam HO
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal GPO	RS Nagar PO, Bhopal
		C.T.T. Nagar HO, Bhopal	Chhindwara HO
		Sagar Cantt. HO	Hoshangabad HO
		Rewa HO	Shahdol HO
		Indore GPO	Dewas HO
		Indore Nagar HO	Guna HO

Sl.NO.	Circle	2005-06	2006-07
		Ujjain HO	Ratlam HO
		Jabalpur HO	Mandsaur HO
		Lashkar HO, Gwalior	Gwalior RS SO
14.	Maharashtra	Mumbai GPO	Nashik HO
		Dadar HO	Aurangabad HO
		Malbar Hill PO	Ghatkopar MDG
		Ghatkopar MDG	Borivali HO
		KC Park PO	Mahal SO
		Nagpur GPO	Amravati HO
		Congres Nagar PO	Panaji HO
		Aurangabad HO	Kolhapur HO
		Nashik HO	Ratnagiri HO
		Dhule HO	Sangli HO
		Shivajinagar HO	Pune HO
		Satara HO	
		Ahmednagar HO	
		Panji HO	
		Sangli HO	
		Kolhapur HO	
15.	North East	Aizawl HO, Mizoram Division	Lunglei SO, Mizoram Division
		Dharmanaga HO, Dharamnagar, Tripura	Kallashahar MDG, Dharamnagar, Tripura
		Imphal HO, Manipur	Churachand Pur SO, Manipur
		Agartala HO, Agartala	R.K. Pur HO, Agartala
		Kohima HO, Nagaland	Mokokchung SO, Nagaland
		Shillong GPO, Meghalaya	Tura HO, Meghalaya
			Naharlagun SO, Arunachal Pradesh

SI.NO.	Circle	2005-06	2006-07
16.	Orissa	Bhubaneswar GPO Cuttack GPO Berhampur HO Sambalpur HO Koraput HO Rourkela HO Bhanjnaragar HO	Balasore HO Bhadrak HO Puri HO Dhankanal HO Keonjharagar HO Jagat Singh Pur HO
17.	Punjab	Sector-16 SO, Chandigarh Sector 27 SO, Chandigarh Ludhiana HO Basti Nau SO, Jalandhar Majith Mandi SO, Amritsar	Golden Temple SO, Amritsar Rajpura Town SO, Rajpura CPO Ludhiana SO, Ludhiana Phillaur SO, Jalandhar Pathankot MDG
18.	Rajasthan	Shastri Nagar HO, Jaipur Alwar HO Ajmer HO Kota HO Shastri Nagar HO Jodhpur Bikaner HO	Jawahar Nagar HO, Jaipur Bharatpur HO Udaipur HO Bhilwara HO Sriganganagar HO Pali HO
19.	Tamil Nadu	Anna road HO Ambattur HO Arantangi PO Boiler Project PO Cuddalore HO Coimbatore HO Dharmapuri HO Erode HO	Anna Nagar PO Jawahar Nagar PO Nandanam PO T. Nagar HO Kallakurici HO Thanjavur HO Sivakasi HO R.S. Puram HO

Sl.NO.	Circle	2005-06	2006-07
		Karur HO	Pollachi PO
		Kovilpatti HO	Tirupur PO
		Madurai HO	
		Nagercoil HO	
		Pattukkottai HO	
		Pudukottai HO	
		Salem HO	
		Trichy HO	
		Tirunelveli HO	
		Teynampet HO	
		Tiruvallikeni HO	
		Udhagamandalam PO	
20.	Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad HO	Aligarh HO
		Sultanpur HO	Jhansi HO
		Ghaziabad H.O	Mathura HO
		Noida HO	Varanasi HO
		Lucknow GPO	Bareilly City HO
		Raebareli HO	Meerut Cantt. HO
		Kanpur G.P.O.	Kuraghat HO
		Sanjay Place PO	Amethi SO
			Faizabad HO
			Mahanagar SO
21.	Uttarakhand	Dehradun GPO	Roorkee HO
		Dehradun Cantt. HO	Haldwani HO
			Shrinagar SPO
22	West Bengal	Park Street HO	Howrah HO

Sl.NO.	Circle	2005-06	2006-07
		Kalyani HO	Asansol HO
		Belegkata HO	Contai HO
		Serampore HO	Bankura HO
		Burdwan HO	Tollygunge HO
			Baruipur HO
			Ranaghat HO
			Jalpaiguri HO
			Gangtok HO

Technology Mission on Cotton

5366. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) has yielded attractive return to the cotton farmers;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to extend TMC during the Eleventh Plan period; and

(d) if so, the detail thereof alongwith the allocation made for the purpose during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government of India launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) in February 2000 with the objective of improving the production, productivity and quality of indigenous cotton, and reducing the cost of cultivation in mission mode. The Mission comprises four Mini Mission, which are jointly being implemented by the Ministries of Agriculture and Textiles. Research and Development on cotton and dissemination of technology to farmers are being undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture through Mini Missions I and II respectively. Improvement in Marketing Infrastructure and the Modernization of Ginning and Pressing factories are implemented by the Ministry of

Textile. (Cotton Corporation of India Ltd.) through Mini Mission III and IV respectively. Under Mini Mission III and IV of the TMC, the cotton farmers availed attractive return which are as follows:

Mini Mission-III (development of market yards):

- (i) The market yards developed under TMC project have been provided with pucca platforms, roads, sheds, godowns, etc. As an outcome of these developments, quality of cotton is not damaged in these market yards and the farmers get proper remuneration of their good quality produce.
- (ii) Each market yards developed under TMC has been provided with weighbridge, thus, farmers get accurate weighing of their produce.
- (iii) Grading facilities provided in each market yard ensure that farmers get the price for their produce as per their quality. In case of any dispute, farmers may get their cotton tested in grading laboratories.
- (iv) Most of the market yard have been provide with Farmers' Information centres (FICs), by which farmers may improve their yield and also sell their cotton at the best market price available in the market yard of their vicinity.

- (v) All TMC-developed market yard have been provided with Fire Fighting arrangements. Thus, the risk of fire in the market yard is now almost negligible and the farmers are benefited by getting an escape from such potential hazards.
- (vi) Farmer have been provided with facilities like Farmers' Rest House, Canteen, Drinking Water, Toilet facilities, Input Supply Shop etc. which help them to meet their requirements for good quality food for them during their market visits and also good quality inputs at reasonable price for their produce.

Mini Mission-IV (modernized G and P factories)

- (a) The cotton processed in modernized units, sells at a better price and has better market value in Indian as well as overseas markets because it has less trash content and negligible contamination level. Its backward Integration leads to the better payment capacities of purchasers. This in turn yields better remuneration to the farmers.
- (b) The mills which were importing cotton from overseas markets have now started using Indian cottons which is available at comparatively cheaper rates as compared to the world market prices. Mills also escape, other hassies that they had to face while making such purchases from the overseas markets. They are now ready to pay better price to Indian farmers for their good quality cottons.

(c) and (d) Mini Mission III and IV of the TMC scheme has been continued in the XI Plan for two years i.e upto 31-3-2009 in terms of targets and completion of the project. A sum of Re. 241.35 crore. has been allocated in the XI Plan, out of which a sum of Rs. 50 crore. was provided in the Budget Estimates 2007-08 and a sum of Rs. 50 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2008-09.

[Translation]

**Free Accident Insurance
Cover by MTNL**

5367. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) proposes to provide free accident insurance cover to its subscribers as provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in the country; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. MTNL Mumbai is offering one year life insurance scheme to its customers on experimental basis. However, no such scheme has been introduced in Delhi. The details of the scheme introduced in Mumbai are as under:

1. MTNL and TATA AIG entered into the agreement to provide personal accident insurance cover to MTNL subscribers on 28th January, 2008.
2. The coverage amount is Rs. 50,000/- and it is valid for a period of one year from the date of allotment of Group Policy Account (GPA) Number on consent basis.
3. The scheme is applicable to individual post-paid subscribers of GSM, CDMA (Mobile and FW) and Landline customers, who are in the age-group of 18-65 years.
4. TATA AIG will call the subscribers over phone and explain the free offer by MTNL and after obtaining their consent, Group Policy Account (GPA) Number will be conveyed to them. No physical document will be sent. The subscriber has to keep this number for future claim, if any.
5. This scheme is applicable to both existing and new subscribers.

6. Under the agreement, TATA AIC would maintain strict confidentiality of the data and scrub National Do Not Call (NDNC) registry regularly.

[English]

Delay in Cases of BSNL/MTNL

5368. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Undertakings like Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have court cases against them causing hindrances and delays to execute the planned works and schemes in time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has any machinery to oversee these cases and efforts to get expeditious disposal of stay orders which cause delays regarding tender and contract of works to be executed in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of major funding cases alongwith the status which have stay orders against BSNL for more than one year in the Country; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Some times, court cases are filed against BSNL putting restriction on placement of purchase/work orders. Most of such cases are filed by the suppliers contractors, who could not win the contract in open transparent tenders invited by BSNL.

As on date, no court is pending in MTNL which is causing hindrances and delays in planed works.

(b) In the past there has been a court case in tender inquiry No. 301 for procurement of 2G/3G Combo

Network Phase V, filed by M/s Motorola. It delayed the procurement of Mobile equipment by the BSNL. However, the case was subsequently withdrawn by M/s Motorola.

One case, i.e. M/s Tejas Vs BSNL regarding procurement of STM-16 (MADM) is pending before the Hon'ble HC of Delhi, wherein, no stay has yet been granted by the Hon'ble Court.

(c) and (d) BSNL has adequate arrangements in place for handling the court cases through the services of Panel Advocates and Central Government Standing Counsels. Wherever required, Senior Advocates, Solicitor General and Additional Solicitor General are also engaged for defending and contesting the court cases of BSNL.

There is a legal cell in MTNL headed by General Manager (GM) in Delhi and DGM in Mumbai to monitor all court cases and ensure their speedy settlement.

(e) As on date, no such major case having stay orders against the BSNL is pending in the court.

(f) As per (c) and (d) above.

Construction of Buildings for Telephone Exchanges

5369. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of buildings constructed for the telephone exchanges by the Government and the expenditure incurred thereon during each of the last three years, as on date, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) whether the buildings constructed for telephone exchanges are functioning at present;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) State-wise details of buildings constructed by MTNL—for Telephone exchanges in the last 3 years along with expenditure and status are given in the

enclosed Statement.

The information in respect of BSNL is being collected and will be Laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

*State-wise details of Buildings constructed by MTNL for Telephone Exchanges,
Expenditure involved and the present status*

Delhi

Sl. No.	Location	Expenditure in lakhs			Status of Buildings Constructed [Reply of Part (c)]
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Saraswati Vihar	232.17	51.96	24.55	24 K work in progress
2.	Sec.-19 Dwarka	20.07	16.46	Nil	2 K RSU commissioned
3.	Minto Road	132	20	7.15	17.5 K commissioned
4.	Shadipur	318	198	30	Trg. Centre working, 10K RSU work in progress
5.	Narela DSIDC	496	32	Nil	6.5 K RSU work in progress
6.	Sec-9 Rohini	550	52	Nil	23 K RSU work in progress
7.	Temp. RSU Bawana Sec.-III	Nil	11.19	8.87	2 K RSU commissioned
8.	Temp. RSU Bawana Sec.-V	Nil	5.64	31.43	2 K RSU work in progress.

Mumbai

Sl. No.	Name of Building	Expenditure in lakhs			Status of Buildings Constructed [(Reply of Part (c))]
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Cumballa Hill	189.10	8.60	0.00	Functioning as Tel. Exch.

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Nityanand Nagar	140.80	70.50	19.48	Functioning as Tel. Exch.
3.	Bengal Chemical	104.10	0.00		Functioning as Tel. Exch.
4.	Bandra Kurla Complex	0.00	61.50		Functioning as Tel. Exch.
5.	Saki Vihar	0.00	0.00		Functioning as Tel. Exch.
6.	Charkop II	0.00	0.00		Functioning as Tel. Exch.
7.	Dahisar	0.00	0.00		Functioning as Tel. Exch.
8.	Eksar I Borivali	14.80	3.10		Functioning as Tel. Exch.
9.	Sec II CBD Belapur	52.20	43.30		Functioning as Tel. Exch.
10.	Plot 17A Sec 19 Vashi	0.70	0.00		Functioning as Tel. Exch.
11.	Rabale New Mumbai	81.31	0.90		Functioning as Tel. Exch.
12.	Juhu Danda	246.90	117.60	109.76	Near completion
13.	Plot 33 Sec 10 Sanpada	127.00	202.70	96.85	Functioning as Tel. Exch.
14.	Hakoba	11.80	0.01	150.90	Under construction
15.	Hingwala Lane	20.50	48.30		Functioning as Tel. Exch.
16.	Pahadi Gorgoan	31.10	113.70	71.08	Functioning as Tel. Exch.
17.	Plot 7B Sec 21 Khargahar	78.70	0.90		Functioning as Tel. Exch.
18.	Plot 21 ESC 5A New Panvel	66.10	0.70		Functioning as Tel. Exch.

Forecasting of Agricultural Production

5370. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether projects like Crop Acreage and Production Estimation (CAPE) and Forecasting Agricultural Output Using Space, Agro-meteorology and Land-based Observation (FASAL) in coordination with the Department of Space for authentic forecasting of agricultural production by remote sensing is on the anvil;

(b) if so, the details therefore;

(c) the details of the funds incurred on such projects and progress thereof as on date; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) A Plan scheme 'Crop Acreage and Production Estimator. (CAPE)' was introduced by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in collaboration with Department of Space (DOS) in 1998. This aims at developing and upgrading the Methodology of area and pre-harvest production assessment of crops using remote sensing technology. A New project/scheme

called "Forecasting Agricultural Output Using Space, Agro-meteorology and Land based Observation" (FASAL) has been launched in August 2006. This project aims at integrating agro-meteorology, land space borne measurements, using the techniques of econometrics, to make early and in-season multiple forecasts of area and production of major crops. The earlier scheme CAPE has been merged with FASAL.

(c) An amount of Rs. 17.5 crores has been incurred on these projects during last 5 years. CAPE project is being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) through Department of Space (DOS) for district level pre-harvest production forecasting of certain principal crops viz" wheat, rice, sorghum, cotton, potato, mustard and groundnut since 1998, Based on the experience of CAPE, since 2006, FASAL is being implemented to arrive at in-season multiple crop forecasts of selected crops at State and National levels. The CAPE project is based predominantly on the analysis of data of Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS), along with limited collateral information. Whereas, FASAL project utilizes econometric inputs and agro-meteorological information in the early stages of sowing and crop growth; subsequently ingests spectral inputs from IRS data; and finally, when the crop canopy emerges dominantly on the surface, utilizes more of the IRS data, along with weather/meteorological and other collateral information for the multiple, in-season acreage estimation and production forecasting. Institute of Economic Growth, India Meteorological Department, concerned State agencies, such as State Remote Sensing Application Centers (S-RSACs), Agriculture Universities and ICAR Institutions are also involved in this effort.

(d) FASAL project is expected to be implemented in three phases of two years each.

Rotten Stocks

5371. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

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

(a) whether huge foodgrains stocks are rotting in Government warehouses and in the godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) and are no more fit for human consumption;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor indicating quantity of foodgrains spoiled during each of the last three years and the current year and the manner in which it is proposed to be utilised; and

(c) the details of corrective steps initiated to check recurrence of such wastages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) However, the quantity of foodgrains accrued in FCI godowns due to damage during storage, transit and natural calamities during each of the last 3 years and the current year is as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Quantity of damaged foodgrains (figures in lakh MTs)
1.	2005	0.92
2.	2006	0.30
3.	2007	0.34
4.	2008 (upto March, 2008)	0.15

There are standard guidelines for utilization of damaged foodgrains after categorization of the same into Feed-I, Feed-II, Feed-III, industrial use, manure and dumping depending upon the percentage of sound grains and other factors.

(c) Government has taken following corrective steps to check reoccurrence of such wastages:

(i) Godowns/warehouses are constructed and maintained on scientific lines for proper storage of foodgrains.

- (ii) Regular prophylactic and curative treatments of stocks of foodgrains are carried out for the control of insect pests.
- (iii) Regular periodic inspection of the stocks by qualified and trained staff is carried out and immediate remedial measures are taken, if shortcomings are observed.
- (iv) The foodgrains are stored on elevated plinths using proper dunnage material in Cover and Plinth (CAP) storage.
- (v) The stacks are covered with specially fabricated low density polythene covers and tied with nylon ropes.
- (vi) Procedure of 'First in First Out (FIFO)' is followed so as to avoid the longer storage of the foodgrains.
- (vii) Pre-monsoon fumigation of food grain stocks is carried out in godowns and warehouses.

Loss of Jobs in I.T. Sector

5372. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:

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

(a) whether there has been loss of jobs in the Information Technology Sector during the last six months in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. As per National Association of Software and service Companies (NASSCOM) IT-BPO sector was one of the leading employers in FY 2007-08, adding an estimated 375,000 professionals over the previous year.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Task Force on Flood and Soil Erosion Control

5373. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a task force to suggest ways and means to check floods and soil erosion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the work done by the task force so far and the main points of the report submitted so far in this regard; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Due to severe floods in July, 2004 in the States of Assam and Bihar, the Government of India constituted in August, 2004, a Task Force for Flood Management and Erosion Control headed by the Chairman, Central Water Commission to look into the problem of recurring floods in Assam and its neighboring States as well as Bihar, West Bengal and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The Task Force submitted its report on 31st December, 2004.

(c) and (d) In its report, the Task Force recommended various short term and long term measures for control of flood and erosion amounting to Rs. 4982 Cr to be completed by the end of XI Plan. The works of about Rs. 500 Cr were approved in X Plan and for balance works, a scheme namely, 'Flood Management Programme' with an estimated cost of Rs. 8000 Cr has been approved to provide central assistance to State Governments during XI Plan period.

**Ground Water Management by
States**

5374. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH
DEO:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the guidelines issued by the Union Government to the States for proper management of ground water;

(b) whether some of the States are not implementing these guidelines over a period of time;

(c) if so, the details thereof and names of these States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Water Resources has circulated a draft Model Bill on 'Regulation and Control of the Development and Management of Ground Water' to the States and Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation.

So far, 10 States/Union Territories namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal and UTs of Chandigarh, Lakshadweep and Puducherry have enacted legislation on ground water.

Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has issued direction under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to the States/UTs having Over-exploited and Critical blocks to take necessary measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water/rain water harvesting, ensure inclusion of Roof top Rain Water Harvesting in building bye-laws and to promote conservation of ground water in these areas through mass awareness, water management training etc.

[English]

Defunct Mobile Tower

5375. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the area covered by the number of mobile towers installed by the BSNL in Karnataka for Global Mobile System-based mobile services;

(b) whether some of the mobile towers have become defunct during the last six months;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Sir, in Karnataka, 76,245 sq. kms. of area is covered by 1,745 mobile towers installed by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

(b) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

**Directory of Mobile Phone
Subscribers**

5376. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

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

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for preparing a directory of all pre-paid and post-paid mobile phone numbers in view of the demand of intelligence agencies and officials deputed in VVIP security;

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

(c) whether the Government has held any discussion with the mobile companies and cellular operators in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the said mobile companies and cellular operators in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) No Sir.

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

[English]

**Veterinary and Animal
Sciences University**

5377. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is setting up Veterinary and Animal Science University in the States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Agricultural Education including that of Veterinary and animal Sciences is a State subject and hence setting up universities in agriculture and veterinary and animal science falls within the purview of concerned State Government.

Mobile Phone Subscribers

5378. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)/ Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) mobile phone subscribers in the country as on date, Statewise;

(b) the target for installation of mobile phone connections in the country has been set up during 2008-09;

(c) whether BSNL has not been able to streamline the commercial and service aspects of its mobile services in the country; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Sir, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has 3,62,11,786 mobile phone users in its area of operation as on 31-3-08.

The number of mobile phone connections working in MTNL as on 31-03-08 is 32,41,851.

Circle-wise details is as per enclosed Statement.

(b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has plans to add 1,26,00,000 connection of cellular mobile (GSM) in its area of operation during 2008-09.

MTNL plans to add a switching capacity of 10,00,000 and total net connections of 9,50,000 all types (PSTN, GSM and WLL) in 2008-09.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Statement

*Details of Mobile Cellular Connections
as on 31-3-2008*

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Cellular Connection As on 31-3-2008
1	2	3
BSNL		
1.	Andaman Nicobar	52468
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2240741

1	2	3
3.	Assam	817954
4.	Bihar	1075094
5.	Chhattisgarh	578278
6.	Gujarat	2065893
7.	Haryana	1221215
8.	Himachal Pradesh	554692
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	817905
10.	Jharkhand	554883
11.	Karnataka	1789660
12.	Kerala	2154757
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1263683
14.	Maharashtra	3186295
15.	North East-I	268802
16.	North East-II	361918
17.	Orissa	1006084
18.	Punjab	1930959
19.	Rajasthan	2257723
20.	Tamil Nadu	2400878
21.	Uttaranchal	624170
22.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	4253263
23.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	1409671
24.	West Bengal	1364228
25.	Kolkatta TD	1024063
26.	Chennai TD	936509

1	2	3
MTNL		
1.	Delhi	1478440
2.	Mumbai	176311
Total		37866537

[Translation]

**Setting up of Post and
Telegraph Office**

5379. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state;

(a) the number of Post and Telegraph Offices set up and closed during the last three years, as on date in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of Post and Telegraph offices functioning in the country at present, State-wise;

(c) the number of villages in which Postal and Telegraph services are not being provided, State-wise;

(d) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Government to provide Post and Telegraph facilities in all the villages of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) During the last three years, 16 new Post Offices and one Telecom Centre were opened in the country. Details of Post Offices and Telegraph Offices opened and closed during the last three years (year-wise) are enclosed at Statements I to V.

(b) State/Circle-wise details of Post Offices and Telegraph Offices functioning in the country are enclosed as Statements VI and VII.

(c) to (e) Postal facilities in terms of regular delivery of mail at the doorstep of every customer, collection of letters from letterboxes and selling of stamps/stationery is provided by the Department of Posts in every village. Telegraph services are available for all villages. Telegrams can be booked on phone by

dialing 1585 from any BSNL telephone as well as from local STD PCOs. Telegrams are delivered through telegraph messengers/post in all parts of the country including villages. As regards telephone facilities, there is a scheme of Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility under which 53073 villages have already been covered.

Statement-I

Number of New Post Offices and Telecom Centres Opened during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
		Telecom Centres	Sub Post Offices	Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices	Sub Post Offices/Up-gradation of Extra Departmental Post Offices
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh				
2.	Assam		1		
3.	Bihar		1		
4.	Chhattisgarh				
5.	Delhi				
6.	Gujarat				
7.	Haryana		1		
8.	Himachal Pradesh		1		
9.	Jammu and Kashmir		1		
	Ladakh			2	3
10.	Jharkhand				
11.	Karnataka				
12.	Kerala				
	Lakshadweep				1

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Madhya Pradesh		2		
14.	Maharashtra				
15.	North East		1		
16.	Orissa				
17.	Punjab				
18.	Rajasthan				
19.	Tamil Nadu	1			
20.	Uttar Pradesh				
21.	Uttarakhand		2		
22.	West Bengal				
Total		1	10	2	4

Statement-II

*Circle-wise number of Post Offices closed during
2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08*

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	1	Nil	1
2.	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Bihar	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Gujarat	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Haryana	8	2	5	15 Closed/ merged
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	2	4

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10.	Jharkhand	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	Karnataka	Nil	2	Nil	2
12.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2	Nil	Nil	2
14.	Maharashtra	1	1	Nil	2
15.	North East	6	Nil	Nil	6
16.	Orissa	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
17.	Punjab	8	1	39	48 Closed/ merged
18.	Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
19.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
20.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
21.	Uttarakhand	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
22.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total		26	8	46	80

Statement-III*No. of Telegraph Offices closed, Telecom Circle-wise Years 2005-2006*

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	CTOs	TOs	TCs	COs
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0	2	0	385
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	3	0
6.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0
7.	Haryana	0	0	0	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	7
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0
10.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0
11.	Karnataka	0	0	0	1236
12.	Kerala	0	0	0	0
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	7	172
14.	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0
15.	North East-I (Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura)	0	0	0	0
16.	North East-II (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland)	0	0	2	6
17.	Orissa	0	0	0	0
18.	Punjab	0	0	1	0
19.	Rajasthan	0	0	0	104
20.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	3	134
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	0	0	0	0
22.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	0	0	7	36
23.	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0
24.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0
25.	NTR New Delhi	0	0	0	0
Total		0	2	23	2080

Statement-IV*No. of Telegraph Offices closed, Telecom Circle-wise Year 2006-2007*

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	CTOs	TOs	TCs	COs
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0	16	0	725
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	3220
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	3
6.	Gujarat	0	0	0	214
7.	Haryana	0	1	0	177
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	359
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0
10.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0
11.	Karnataka	0	0	0	1453
12.	Kerala	0	0	0	1093
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	15	496
14.	Maharashtra	0	12	21	944
15.	North East-I (Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura)	0	0	0	48
16.	North East-II (Arunachal Pradesh Manipur and Nagaland)	0	0	0	0
17.	Orissa	0	0	0	256
18.	Punjab	0	0	0	321
19.	Rajasthan	0	0	2	551
20.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	1	1181

1	2	3	4	5	6
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	0	1	8	0
22.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	0	0	7	27
23.	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	8
24.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0
25.	NTR New Delhi	0	2	2	0
Total		0	32	62	11076

Statement-V*No. of Telegraph Offices closed, Telecom Circle-wise Year 2007-2008*

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	CTOs	TOs	TCs	COs
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	12	0
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	0	10	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	9	2	0
6.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0
7.	Haryana	0	0	0	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0
10.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0
11.	Karnataka	0	15	20	0
12.	Kerala	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0	49	4	0
14.	Maharashtra	0	5	0	387
15.	North East-I (Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura)	0	0	2	46
16.	North East-II (Arunachal Pradesh Manipur and Nagaland)	0	2	0	0
17.	Orissa	0	15	0	0
18.	Punjab	0	1	0	5
19.	Rajasthan	0	1	1	141
20.	Tamil Nadu	0	1	4	0
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	0	2	0	0
22.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	0	17	0	0
23.	Uttarakhand	0	5	3	0
24.	West Bengal	0	15	1	0
25.	NTR New Delhi	0	1	0	0
Total		0	148	49	579

Statement-VI
Category-wise Post Offices (as on 31-3-2007)

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	HOs		SOs		EDSOs		EDBOs		Total		Total No. of POs
		Urban	Rural									
1.	Andhra Pradesh	97	3	994	1353	12	19	196	13485	1299	14860	16159
2.	Assam	19	0	222	382	0	35	57	3291	298	3708	4006
3.	Bihar	30	1	367	644	18	81	17	7896	432	8622	9054
4.	Chhattisgarh	10		195	128	0	0	18	2773	223	2901	3124
5.	Delhi	12	0	405	4	10	9	62	68	489	81	570
6.	Gujarat	34	0	634	636	0	41	59	7513	727	8190	8917
	Daman and Diu	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	12	4	15	19
	Dadra Nagar Haveli	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	34	1	37	38
7.	Haryana	16	0	294	177	3	11	12	2140	325	2328	2653
8.	Himachal Pradesh	15	3	101	343	4	14	0	2299	120	2659	2779
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	9	0	175	74	11	11	32	1379	227	1464	1691
10.	Jharkhand	13	0	226	209	11	17	22	2593	272	2819	3091
11.	Karnataka	60	0	923	808	14	33	248	7751	1245	8592	9837
12.	Kerala	45	6	485	959	69	394	308	2790	907	4149	5056
	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	6	0	3	0	1	0	10	10
	Mahe	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	4	0	4
13.	Madhya Pradesh	42	0	693	326	33	35	80	7120	848	7481	8328

14. Maharashtra	59	0	1083	962	10	108	107	10250	1259	11320	12579
Goa	2	0	45	57	0	3	7	144	54	204	258
15. North East											
Arunachal pradesh	1	0	17	31	0	0	0	251	18	282	300
Manipur	1	0	11	42	0	0	0	643	12	685	697
Meghalaya	2	0	25	35	0	0	1	423	28	458	486
Mizoram	1	0	23	17	2	3	32	327	58	347	405
Nagaland	1	0	15	27	0	0	10	275	26	302	328
Tripura	3	0	29	53	2	7	24	598	58	658	716
16. Orissa	35	0	519	639	10	59	15	6884	579	7582	8161
17. Punjab	21	0	445	326	0	8	18	3082	484	3416	3900
Chandigarh	1	0	42	2	0	1	0	6	43	9	52
18. Rajasthan	47	2	627	690	14	30	30	8924	718	9646	10364
19. Tamil Nadu	91	0	1448	1265	131	83	354	8712	2024	10060	12084
Pondicherry	1	0	23	9	0	0	10	52	34	61	95
20. Uttarakhand	13	0	190	181	5	76	12	2239	220	2496	2716
21. Uttar Pradesh	73	0	1637	839	123	248	154	14592	1987	15679	17666
22. West Bengal	45	0	945	713	47	285	73	6641	1110	7639	8749
Andaman Nicobar	1	0	10	16	1	5	0	68	12	89	101
Sikkim	1	0	12	10	0	4	0	183	13	197	210
Total	801	15	12866	11969	532	1623	1959	125439	16158	139046	155204

Statement-VII*No. of Telegraph Offices (CTOs, TOs, TCs and Cos) working as on 30-04-2008*

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	CTOs	TOs	TCs	COs
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	9	0	0	0
3.	Assam	3	26	12	232
4.	Bihar	12	18	12	138
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	1	1	79
6.	Gujarat	5	11	0	0
7.	Haryana	3	13	1	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	2	0	0
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	5	4	39
10.	Jharkhand	6	13	9	0
11.	Karnataka	5	49	7	1442
12.	Kerala	3	36	100	744
13.	Madhya Pradesh	4	3	16	0
14.	Maharashtra	10	68	6	123
15.	North East-I (Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura)	2	4	4	59
16.	North East-I (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland)	0	5	0	59
17.	Orissa	3	12	5	465
18.	Punjab	5	19	9	6
19.	Rajasthan	5	34	22	0
20.	Tamil Nadu	14	52	35	479
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	5	55	53	0
22.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	4	13	48	21

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	CTOs	TOs	TCs	COs
23.	Uttarakhand	1	10	16	120
24.	West Bengal	2	26	13	1974
25.	NTR New Delhi	1	18	15	0
Total		106	494	388	5980

[English]

Cases of Theft of Parcels

5380. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has noticed the cases of theft of parcels delivered from the post offices in the country;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received in this regard during the last two years as on date;

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

(d) whether the compensation has been provided by the Government for the stolen articles is sufficient;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide sufficient amount as compensation to the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) 144 complaints regarding theft/loss of parcels were received during the last two years.

(c) to (f) Suitable disciplinary action is taken against the officials found responsible for lapses on their part. In case of Registered Parcels an ex-gratia compensation limited to Rs. 100/- is paid. In case of Insured Parcels the compensation is paid to the extent of actual loss caused or amount of insurance whichever is less.

However, in case of unregistered Parcels, no compensation is payable as per Departmental rules. An amount of Rs. 17287/- was paid as compensation in the complaints decided in the relevant period.

Food Regulatory Authority

5381. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Food Regulatory Authority in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the country's food requirements are growing and the country has become a net importer of food;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also proposed to bring nearly 12 million hectares of land under bio-fuels cultivation by 2017; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to encourage the farmers to produce foodgrains to meet the requirement of foodgrains of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Food Regulatory Authority is

being constituted under section 4 of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. As per the provisions, the Food Authority shall be responsible for enforcement of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 enacted by Parliament and for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import of articles of food to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.

(c) and (d) The requirement of rice and wheat are growing in the country. However, India is a rice exporting country. In case of wheat, Government took decisions

to import 55 and 18 lakh tonnes of wheat for the Central Pool during 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively in order to meet the requirement of wheat for the TPDS and welfare schemes.

(e) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has informed that there is no proposal to bring 12 million hectares of land under bio-fuel crops. However, bio-fuel plantations comprising Jatropha and Karanj have been undertaken in the country with government assistance.

(f) In order to encourage farmers to grow more wheat and paddy, the procurement prices have been increased as follows:

(in Rs. per qtl.)

	Wheat		Paddy			
	RMS 2007-08	RMS 2008-09	Common		Grade A	
			KMS 2006-07	KMS 2007-08	KMS 2006-07	KMS 2007-08
MSP	750	1000	580	645	610	675
Bonus	100	—	40	100	40	100
Procurement Price	850	1000	620	745	650	775

No Fly Zones

5382. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal for consideration to accord No Fly Zone status for all Nuclear establishments in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the existing No Fly Zones in the country and the details of pending request for No Fly Zones as on date; and

(d) the criteria fixed for declaration of No Fly Zone in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) No Fly Zones are declared on the basis of the assessment made by the security agencies while taking into account its impact on civil aviation. The review of such zones is carried out on a continuous basis keeping in view the emerging threat perception.

Macro Management scheme

5383. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated during the last three years

under Macro Management Scheme, State-wise, particularly in Karnataka;

(b) the funds utilised by the States, Year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to popularise Macro Management Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The details of funds allocated and utilization under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) Scheme during the last three years, Statewise, are attached at Statements I and II respectively.

(c) The MMA Scheme is in operation since 2000-01. As per the evaluation of MMA Scheme conducted by the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, the Agriculture Finance Corporation Ltd., and the NABARD Consultancy Limited (NABCON), the scheme has been successful as it gives the State Governments a leeway to exploit the States' potential as per their felt needs and priorities through judicious allocation of funds. Besides this, the positive impact of interventions under the scheme on promoting high-yielding varieties, encouraging value addition in farm output, increasing farmers' income and assisting employment generation are indicative of its popularity among the farmers and the implementing agencies.

Statement-I

State-wise Allocations under Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	States	Allocation 2005-06	Allocation 2006-07	Allocation 2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3300.00	4210.00	5200.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1420.00	2200.00	2650.00
3.	Assam	1720.00	2000.00	2050.00
4.	Bihar	1700.00	170.00	2400.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	1800.00	2300.00	2350.00
6.	Goa	200.00	260.00	300.00
7.	Gujarat	2200.00	2810.00	4350.00
8.	Haryana	1600.00	2040.00	2250.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1600.00	2040.00	2300.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	3000.00	4000.00	4240.00
11.	Jharkhand	1300.00	1660.00	1700.00

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Karnataka	4700.00	5990.00	7010.00
13.	Kerala	2400.00	3060.00	3450.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3900.00	4980.00	6500.00
15.	Maharashtra	6850.00	8730.00	12450.00
16.	Manipur	1600.00	2200.00	2650.00
17.	Mizoram	1800.00	2500.00	3000.00
18.	Meghalaya	1600.00	1800.00	1850.00
19.	Nagaland	1800.00	2500.00	3000.00
20.	Orissa	2000.00	2550.00	3300.00
21.	Punjab	1100.00	0.00	1300.00
22.	Rajasthan	5800.00	7390.00	8600.00
23.	Sikkim	1422.00	1900.00	2400.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	3600.00	4590.00	5450.00
25.	Tripura	1700.00	2000.00	2400.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	5800.00	7400.00	8100.00
27.	Uttaranchal	1700.00	2170.00	2650.00
28.	West Bengal	2500.00	3190.00	3500.00
29.	Delhi	50.00	0.00	50.00
30.	Pondicherry	100.00	0.00	50.00
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	280.00	25.00	40.00
32.	Chandigarh		0.00	0.00
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	20.00	10.00	30.00
34.	Daman and Diu		0.00	0.00
35.	Lakshadweep	200.00	25.00	30.00
Total		70762.00	88700.00	107600.00

Statement-II**State-wise Expenditure under Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme
during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	States	Expenditure 2005-06	Expenditure 2006-07	Expenditure* 2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3093.73	5866.23	2866.58
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1880.69	2146.86	893.2
3.	Assam	377.80	2467.06	Not Yet Received
4.	Bihar	1114.09	2083.55	2184.62
5.	Chhattisgarh	4045.45	2797.03	811.17
6.	Goa	286.83	418.97	160.05
7.	Gujarat	3903.82	5571.82	2160
8.	Haryana	1642.27	2643.52	826.2
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1696.54	2644.37	902.32
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2715.83	2505.96	Not Yet Received
11.	Jharkhand	1874.02	Not Yet Received	Not Yet Received
12.	Karnataka	8374.68	6402.65	2884.91
13.	Kerala	3571.97	3428.38	709.99
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3991.42	3878.78	3250
15.	Maharashtra	10256.30	11626.63	5190.9
16.	Manipur	2039.25	2354.91	1325
17.	Mizoram	1070.00	2227.00	1025.45
18.	Meghalaya	1233.55	991.96	936.85
19.	Nagaland	2155.50	2221.04	1500
20.	Orissa	2000.00	3704.93	1729.91

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Punjab	1279.22	1482.04	Not Yet Received
22.	Rajasthan	7938.26	9572.25	5356.56
23.	Sikkim	1372.94	1823.57	1367.34
24.	Tamil Nadu	4501.23	6491.77	3276.47
25.	Tripura	1835.32	1853.25	1895.48
26.	Uttar Pradesh	6262.07	6950.17	8817
27.	Uttaranchal	1944.77	2646.17	2047.57
28.	West Bengal	3134.79	2765.21	1414.99
29.	Delhi	19.62	0.00	Not Yet Received
30.	Pondicherry	23.42	7.25	9.05
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	33.32	12.50	19.52
32.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4.85		5.73
34.	Daman and Diu		3.13	Not Yet Received
35.	Lakshadweep	23.25	11.46	Not Yet Received
Total		85696.80	99600.42	53566.86

*Provisional

NTC Lands for Commercial Development

5384. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Textile Corporation (NTC) has identified surplus lands in various parts of the country for commercial development;

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

(c) the amount of revenue likely to be generated to NTC as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State-wise and location-wise details of surplus land of 1383.19 acres available with NTC for sale as on 31-03-2008 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The amount of revenue likely to be generated from sale of remaining land (1383.19 acres) depends on market value from time to time and location of the property. However, as per the original projection in the draft rehabilitation scheme, a rough estimate of revenue likely to be generated through sale of land is Rs. 1755 crore.

Statement**Details of Surplus Land Available for Sale Mill-wise/
State-wise as on 31-3-2008**

Sl. No.	Name of the Mills State-wise	Surplus Land Available for Sale (in Acres)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh		
1.	Adoni Mills, Adoni	7.17
2.	Tirupati Mills, Reningunta	48.66
3.	Anantpur Mills, Tadapatri	9.25
Karnataka		
4.	Mysore Mills, Bangalore	7.22
5.	MSK Mills, Gulbarga	40.12
6.	Minerva Mills, Bangalore	2.00
7.	Sree Yellamma, Tolahunse	98.80
Kerala		
8.	Alagappa Mills, Algappanagar	5.38
9.	Kerala Luxmi Mills, Trichur	13.25
Punjab		
10.	Kharar Textile Mills, Kharar	18.10
11.	Dayalbagh Mills, Amritsar	9.84
12.	Panipat Woollen Mills, Kharar	12.60
Rajaasthan		
13.	Mahalaxmi Mills, Beawar	5.17
Gujarat		
14.	Ahmadabad New Tex. Mills	7.45
15.	Ahmadabad Jupiter, Ahmd.	4.97

1	2	3
16.	Jehangir Mills, Ahmadabad	3.15
17.	Rajnagar No.1, Ahmadabad	4.29
18.	New Maneckchowk, Ahmd.	8.99
19.	Mahalaxmi Mills Bhavnagar	16.32
20.	Petlad Textile, Petlad	29.28
21.	Viramgam Textile Viramgam	14.10
22.	Fine Knitting Mills Ahmadabad	8.38
Madhya Pradesh		
23.	New Bhopal Tex. Mills	71.30
24.	Burhanpur Tapti Mills	39.88
25.	Indore Malwa, Indore	84.21
26.	Hira Mills Ujjain	96.45
27.	Kalyanmal Mills Indore	33.85
Chhattisgarh		
28.	Bengal Nagpur Mills,	52.10
Maharashtra		
29.	RBBA Mills, Hinghanghat	6.04
30.	Savatram Ram Prasad Mills, Akola	1.03
31.	Vidarbha Mills, Achalpur (Plot No 1, 2 and 6)	9.36
32.	Model Mills, Nagpur	0.90
33.	RSRG Mills, Akola (Plot No.3)	13.11
34.	Tata Mills, Mumbai	9.98
35.	Indu Mills No.1, Mumbai	8.71
36.	Indu Mills No.6, Mumbai	11.96

1	2	3
37.	Jam Mills, Mumbai	7.99
38.	Indu Mills No 4, Mumbai	7.79
39.	Sita Ram Mills, Mumbai	8.43
40-41.	Kohinoor Mills No.1 and 2, Mumbai	21.72
42.	Barshi Mills, Barshi	32.86
43.	Finlay Mills	10.40
44.	Madhusudan Mills, Mumbai	18.05
45.	Mumbai Textile Mills, Mumbai	7.17
46.	Bharat Mills, Mumbai	8.37
47.	Digvijay Mills, Mumbai	9.33
48.	Aurangabad Mills, Aurangabad	10.41
49.	Podar Process, Mumbai	2.39
Tamil Nadu		
50.	Kalleswarar 'A' Mills (site No.2)	15.88
51.	Sri Rangavilas Mills, Coimbatore	7.53
52.	Coimbatore Murugan Mills, Cmb	1.47
53.	Somasundaram Mills, Coimbatore	6.87
54.	Coimbatore Spg. and Wvg. Mills	20.00
Uttar Pradesh		
55.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Naini	6.19
56.	Bijli Cotton Mills, Hathras	1.74
57.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Kanpur	46.59
58.	Lord Krishna Mills, Saharanpur	24.70
59.	Swadeshi Mills, Maunathbhanjan	9.20
60.	Atherton Mills, Kanpur	23.47
61.	Luxmi Rattan Mills, Kanpur	13.80

1	2	3
62.	New Victoria Mills, Kanpur	29.64
63.	Muir Mills, Kanpur	49.20
64.	Sree Vikram Mills, Lucknow	9.86
65.	Raibareilley Textile Mills, Raibareilley	30.42
West Bengal		
66.	Bengal Fine Tex. Mills No. 2 Kattaganj	19.04
67.	Aarti Cotton Textile Mills, Howrah	6.25
68.	Manindra B.T. Tex, Mills, Cossimbazar	30.86
Assam		
69.	Associated Industries, Chandrapur	50.00
Bihar		
70.	Bihar Cooperative Tex. Mills Mokameh	22.20
Total		1383.19

[Translation]

Women Self Help Group In Silk Sector

5385. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to involve Women Self Help Groups in the production and marketing of silk and silk products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any feasibility study has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

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

(e) whether the Government has taken any steps to provide technology to said groups in order to promote the production and marketing of silk and silk products in the country particularly in the rural and remote areas; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated and released for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government through Central Silk Board is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz. "Catalytic Development Programme (CDP)" in collaboration with all State Sericulture Departments. Under the scheme, guidelines have already been issued to States to involve reputed NGOs, Voluntary Service Organisations, Self Help Groups, Village Panchayats in identification of stakeholders. In respect of Vanya sector components, it is proposed to take-up the schemes through selected groups such as Vana Samrakshana Samithis, Forest Management Groups, Self Help Groups, Women Groups, Rearers' Groups in selected Clusters in the Projectmode. Further, women sericulturists are

being organized into SHGs under the special SGSY Project for the development of Sericulture in different States.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Sericulture Cluster Development Projects are being implemented by CSB and State Governments for the intensive development of Sericulture in selected Clusters by utilizing the funds available under CDP. Under these projects preference is given to Women Self Help Groups for the cocoon and silk production. The main objective of the Cluster Development Project is to transfer the improved Technology developed by the Research Institutes to the stake-holders of silk industry, including women beneficiaries to improve the quality and productivity of silk.

The following Table gives the list of State-wise Clusters developed, physical achievements made, total approved Outlay and CSB's share of expenditure during the Xth Plan.

#	States	Physical Achievements			Financial Allocation and Expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)	
		Number of Clusters developed	No. of Beneficiaries covered	Development of Plantation (in Acres)	Total Outlay	CSB's Share of Funds released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Kerala	3	480	406.8	305.00	37.32
2.	Bihar	3	497	247.5	293.05	60.66
3.	Himachal Pradesh	2	104	113.0	116.76	23.23
4.	Mizoram	2	200	200.0	358.64	92.40
5.	Assam	2	200	300.0	203.65	108.78
6.	West Bengal	2	75	38.0	265.87	9.63

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	Sikkim	1	200	25.0	427.93	21.49
Total		15	1,756	1,330.3	1,970.90	353.51

[English]

Uniform Call Rate

5386. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to establish telephonic communication from one part of the country to the other by local call;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether the ISD call rates both mobile and landline from India to Middle East countries are very much on the higher side as compared to ISD call rates from India to USA, UK, Canada or any other countries in the world;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government has any proposal to reduce the ISD call rates from India to Middle East countries;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) No Sir. At present there is no proposal to establish

telephonic communication from one part of the country to the other by local call.

(d) and (e) Tariffs for telecom services in the country are governed by the frame work laid down in the Telecommunication Tariff Order, 1999 as amended from time to time. As per the existing provisions of TTO, tariff for telecom services are under forbearance except with regard to Fixed Line service in Rural Areas, National Roaming Service in Cellular Mobile Service and Leased Line Service.

The ISD call rates from India to Middle East countries is either at par with/or on lesser side as compared to any country in the world except USA, Canada, UK Srilanka, Singapore, Hongkong, Thailand, Malasia and Indonesia.

The trends and recent charges in ILD call charges as provided by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is enclosed as Statement-I. The ISD charges in respect of BSNL and MTNL are enclosed as Statement-II and III.

(f) At present there is no proposal in BSNL and MTNL to reduce the ISD call rates from India to Middle East countries.

(g) Does not arise in view of (f) above.

(h) Tariffs are being reviewed from time to time on the basis of needs of the customers, prevailing market conditions, termination/carriage charges payable for carrying the international call to different foreign destinations and TRAI regulations.

Under certain plans customer can make ISD calls at very competitive rates.

Statement-I*Trends in ILD Call Charges as provided by TRAI*

(Rupees per minute)

Country	from 1-4-1999 to 30-9-2000	1-10-2000 to 31-3-2002	1-4-2002 to 19-7-2002	20-7-2002 upto October 2003
SAARC countries and other Neighbouring Countries	30.00	25.20	21.60	18
Countries in Africa, Europe, Gulf, Asia and Oceania	49.20	40.80	32.40	24
Countries in the American Continent and Other places in Western Hemisphere	61.20	49.20	40.80	24

Recent Changes in ILD Call Charges as Provided by TRAI

(Rupees per minute)

Country	From Oct. 2003 to 9th April 2004	With effect from 10th April to 20th Oct' 2004	With effect from 21st Oct' 2004	With effect from 21st May 2005	With effect from 1st October, 2006
United Kingdom	7.20	7.20	7.20	7.20	7.20
USA and Canada	9.60	7.20	7.20	7.20	7.20
Rest of Europe	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60
South East Asia	12.00	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60
Sri Lanka	21.18	18.00	12.00	12.00	7.20
Rest of the world	24.00	18.00	18.00	12.00	12.00

Statement-II*ISD Calls rates for calls made from BSNL landline/mobile*

Country	Pulse in sec.	Rs. per minute*
USA, Canada, UK, Sri Lanka	10	7.2

Country	Pulse in sec.	Rs. per minute*
Europe, (other than UK), Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Hong Kong, Kuwait, Bahrain, UAE, Oman, Qatar	7.5	9.6
Rest of World	6	12.00

*Based on unit call rate of Rs. 1.20, for other unit calls rates, the amount will be charged accordingly.

Statement-III

ISD Calls rates for calls made from MTNL landline/mobile

Country	Calls from landline (Pulse in Sec.*)	Calls from Mobile (Rs. per minute)
USA, Canada, UK, Singapore, Hongkong, Thailand, Malasiya, Indonesia	9.5	6.3
Europe, Gulf SAARC and Africa	6.5	9.2
Rest of World	3.3	18.00

*Pulse rate is Rs. 0.40 to Rs. 1.20 depending upon plan chosen.

Food Safety

5387. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert group from Japan visited India and agreed to provide technical assistance for food safety; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):

(a) As per the information available no such visit has taken place in the year 2008.

(b) Does not arise.

Silk Mark Organisation of India

5388. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the main functions, aims and objectives of Silk Mark Organisation of India (SMOI);

(b) the total membership alongwith the number of organisations that have so far applied for membership of SMOI, State and Union Territory-wise;

(c) the number of members added alongwith the number of products labelled under Silk Mark Scheme so far, State and Union Territory-wise;

(d) the revenue collected through Registration Fees from Members during each of the last three years, State wise; and

(e) the steps taken to bring awareness among the people about the Scheme SMOI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) Silk Mark is a measure initiated by the Ministry of Textiles through the Central Silk Board to protect the Indian consumers from spurious varieties of silks prevailing in the market. It has been found that many of the retail outlets sell artificial silk in the guise of pure silk and thus, in the process mislead the consumers. The Central Silk Board, a Statutory Body of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, introduced this initiative during June 2004 for the protection of the interests of the consumers and other stake holders of the silk value-chain by bringing out "Silk Mark" Scheme through the Silk Mark Organisation of India (SMOI).

Aims and Objectives:

- to protect the interests of the consumers and other stake holders of the silk value-chain with regard to purity of silk.

- Generic promotion of Indian silk in domestic and international markets.

Major Function/responsibilities:

- Popularisation of Silk Mark Label, Enrollment of Members and Authorised Users and their training.
- To Organise and participate various national/ International level exhibitions, Trade Fairs, Silk Mark Festival, Expos etc.,
- To conduct Awareness Programmes for the consumers and the industry along with other publicity campaigns
- Market Intelligence and Surveillance

Since inception, in a span of about three years, the SMOI has initiated many activities to spread the reach of the Silk Mark in the country and make the people aware about Silk Mark.

(b) to (d) Statewise total number of membership made under SMOI, number of Silk Mark products labeled under Silk Mark Scheme so far and the Statewise revenue collected through Registration Fees from Members during the last three years are given below:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

SMOI Zones	Particulars States covered	No. of Members added	No. of Silk Mark labelled Products reached Market (in Lakh Nos.)	Revenue collected through Registration, Sale of Silk Mark Labels etc. during the Years		
				2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	82	1.500	1.50	2.20	1.95
Guwahati	North Eastern States	75	0.600	0.20	3.00	2.10
Delhi	Delhi, Chandigarh, Haryana	26	0.250	0.15	1.50	1.45
Bangalore	Karnataka, Kerala	184	17.530	12.43	22.00	22.81

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chennai	Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry	228	21.500	15.40	28.00	15.00
Mumbai	Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat	154	3.900	1.50	3.21	4.10
Kolkata	West Bengal, Orissa, Jharkhand Bihar	76	1.500	0.50	3.00	1.80
Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal	26	0.460	0.10	0.50	0.75
Srinagar	Jammu and Kashmir	25	0.360	0.10	0.45	0.60
Total		876	47.590	31.88	63.86	50.56

The Silk Mark Scheme is being given a new thrust for the brand promotion of Silk involving all the stake holders i.e., from farmers to exporters. Approximately 47.6 lakh Silk Mark labelled products have reached the market.

(e) Some of the important steps taken to bring awareness among the people about the SMOI Scheme are as under:

I. Awareness Programme:

Since the Organisation is primarily promoted to protect the interest of the consumers it has been conducting awareness campaign in many cities of India. In the last four years of its operation, SMOI has conducted more than 419 programmes/events including Road Shows. The places at which these programmes were organized by SMOI is given below:

#	Chapter	Places of Awareness Programmes/Events
1.	Chennai	Madurai, Paramakudi, Chennai, Kancheepuram, Trichy, Oddanchathiram, Tenkasi, Sivakasi, Nagerkoll, Virudunagar, Mayavaram, Cuddalore, Erode, Salem, Coimabatore, Palani, Sirkali, Dindugal, Tutucorin, Pattukottai, Coutralam, Neyveli, Kumbakonam, Villupuram, Tanjore
2.	Hyderabad	Hyderabad, Pochampalli, Warangal, Nalgonda
3.	Guwahati	Guwahati, Nalbari, Sualkuchi, Boko, Dull yazan
4.	Mumbai	Mumbai, Thane, Ahmedabad, Bhandara, Nagpur, Sangli, Surat, Pune, yeola
5.	New Delhi	New Delhi, Dehradun, Noida
6.	Bangalore	Hindupur, Bangalore, Davangere, Dharmavaram, Mysore
7.	Varanasi	Varanasi, Mubarkpur
8.	Srinagar	Srinagar, jammu

#	Chapter	Places of Awareness Programmes/Events
9.	Kolkata	Kolkata, Berhampore, Bhubaneswar
10.	Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur

II. Participation in exhibitions and Fairs:

Joint Programmes with Consumers Forums, Consumer Clubs and various others associations are being organised in the following major cities—Bangalore, Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kancheepuram, Kolkata, Guwahati, New Delhi, Varanasi etc.

iii. Organising Silk Mark Expo in major cities:

To create mass awareness among consumers, Silk Mark Expo are being organised exclusively for Authorised Users of Silk Mark in major cities. So far three such Expo have been organised in Mumbai, Pune and Bangalore and it has been planned to conduct the same in other major cities like Ahmedabad, Chennai, Hyderabad, Mysore, Kochi, Chandigarh, Delhi etc.

iv. Surveillance Visits:

In order to ensure that the consumers do not lose confidence in Silk Mark and to enhance the credibility of Silk Mark, a two tier surveillance mechanism has been put in place. The surveillance mechanism envisages the following:

The Silk Mark Executive visits the Authorized User premises regularly once in two months. The executive verifies the no. of label consumed and draws 5% of the Silk Mark labeled products at random for verification. The drawn products are subjected to testing of purity, and other quality parameters as listed in the quality manual.

v. Advertisements/Publicity support:

Regular advertisements are released in the press and audiovisual media to enhance the Visibility of Silk Mark and create awareness and inspire confidence among consumers and Authorised Users of Silk Mark. The Authorised Users are also provided With appropriate

publicity material for prominent display in their retail outlets.

vi. Training support to Authorised Users of Silk Mark:

SMOI guide the persons concerned in adopting the Quality Standards required, control mechanism to be adopted etc. while using the label.

Agricultural Projects

5389. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agricultural projects being funded by foreign countries and international agencies;

(b) the present status of the ongoing agricultural projects, State-wise;

(c) whether external assistance has been sought by the States for any fresh projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Employees and Labourers on Contract basis in Central Government

✓ 5390. SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees and labourers are being recruited in various Ministries and Departments on contract basis in contravention of labour laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of employees and labourers so recruited during each of the last three years and thereafter, State-wise, Ministry and Department-wise;

(c) the mechanisms put in place for identification of establishment engaging contract labour;

(d) whether the pay, allowances and other benefits being provided to such employees and labourers are in accordance with the rules enshrined in Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the salaries of such employees and labourers are paid directly to them;

(g) if not, whether reports of exploitation of such employees and labourers by labour contractors have been received by the Government during each of the last three years and thereafter, State-wise, Ministry and Department-wise; and

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

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

[English]

Agro Based Industries

5391. SHRI P.C. GADDIGODAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up agro based industries like sugar, groundnut and sunflower etc. in the country particularly in Bagalkot District of Karnataka; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration of this Department to set up any agro based industry like sugar, groundnut and sunflower etc. in the country. However, it has been reported by Government of Karnataka that the following Food Parks have been approved by Government of India in Karnataka:—

- (i) Bagalkote
- (ii) Hiriyur in Chitrdurga District
- (iii) Jewargi in Gulbarga District
- (iv) Malur in Kolar District.

Further, Government of Karnataka has intimated that M/s Green Food Park Ltd., is setting up food park at KIADB Industrial Area, Navnagar, Bagalkot District on 100 acres plot. As per the norms of Government of India, the Food Park should allot plots for establishing a minimum of 20 Food Processing Industries for processing groundnut, sunflower etc., could be set-up in the park area.

Utilisation of Postal Network

5392. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to utilise vast postal network in the country for providing value added services like micro finance, banking and information based services etc; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Department of Posts is providing various services other than postal services in collaboration with other Government and non Government agencies to optimally utilize the network. These services are broadly as below.

- I. The Department has started a pilot to provide financial inclusion in rural areas under the scheme of Business Correspondent in collaboration with the State Bank of India.
- II. A Pilot for extending disbursement of micro credit to self help groups has also been started in collaboration with the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development.
- III. The Department has started Passenger Reservation Service in collaboration with the Ministry of Railways.
- IV. The Department is providing a platform to facilitate payment of various bills by the customers for telecommunication companies and other utility service providers.
- V. The Department is distributing financial instruments like Mutual Funds etc on behalf of financial institutions like UTI, SBI, Franklin Templeton, Reliance Mutual Funds etc. The Department is also distributing the Non Fife products of Oriental Insurance Company Ltd.
- VI. The Department provides the facility of receiving remittances from 205 countries through the International Money Transfer Service.
- VII. The disbursement of wages to the beneficiaries of the NREG Act 2005 is done through the post offices in some states.
- VIII. The payment of Old Age Pension under the National Social Assistance Programme is being undertaken by the Department of Posts in some states.

[Translation]

Crops Bereft of Grains

5393. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers have suffered heavy losses due to crop bereft of grains in Bihar and other States of the country;

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

(c) whether the government proposes to take stern action against the seed distributing officials and to take effective steps to provide compensation and aid to the concerned farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Tempering in STD/ISD/PCO Booths

5394. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Bill Meters installed in local STD/ISD/PCOs of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and other private companies in public places especially in the premise of Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi have been tempered with the said PCO operators are charging more rates telephone calls than prescribed rates;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken/propose to take steps to inspect and keep a watch on the said telephone booths in public places especially in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi premise especially the booths of private operators.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/being taken by the government, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) **Private Companies:**

PCOs of private companies are not monitored by the Government.

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL):

No case tempering of Local/STD/ISD/PCOs has come to the notice during this year in general and in the premises of Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi in particular.

Two cases of over charging by PCO operators have come to notice in MTNL, Delhi. However, no case of overcharging by PCO operators in the premises of Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi has come to the notice of MTNL.

The following actions are taken for proper functioning of PCOs in MTNL:

1. The regular inspection and surprise checks of Local/STD/ISD/PCOs are conducted.
2. The complaints are investigated on priority basis/necessary action for issue of warning and disconnection of PCO is taken accordingly.

[English]

Halkan Premises

5395. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has develop Halkan premises for smooth movement of Agriculture products as reported in Jansatta dated March 16, 2008;

(b) if so, the details and the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to develop more such centres in the country;

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

(e) the funds proposed by the Government for the said purpose in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The project in the Halkan premises in Nashik District of Maharashtra is relating to development of a centre for perishable cargo near Ojhar Airport being implemented by Mis CONCOR (a Ministry of Railways undertaking) with the assistance of Agricultural and Processed food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for promoting export of fruits and vegetables. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by APEDA with M/s CONCOR for this purpose in June, 2006. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 2.13 crore and is likely to be completed by September, 2008.

(c) to (e) The information is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Cold Storage and Centres for Perishable Cargo Projects at Airports/Seaports

Centres for Perishable Cargo at International Airport

1. Cochin

Implementing Agency-Cochin International Airport Ltd.

Likely date of Completion-January 2008

Total Project Cost-Rs. 23.45 crore

APEDA Assistance-13.09 crore

Amount released-Rs. 8.86 crore

Amount to be released by 31-03-08-Rs 4.23 crore

STATUS

- Civil work completed
- Other equipments of refrigeration, Panels etc. are under installation.
- Material handling equipments and electrical will be completed by December, 2007.
- Electrical contract has been recalled because of some escalation demanded by earlier selected contractor.
- X-ray machines delivered at site.

- Automation to be completed by December end.
- Ball mats are erected.
- Cold storage chambers are under completion.
- Project is likely to be completed by January 2008.
- Training and trial run to start in January end. Facility to be fully functional by March 2008.
- In a recent letter received from Government of Kerala, dated 14-11-2007 requested for release of additional amount of Rs. 3.41 crore to CIAL. In this regard we have requested CIAL to submit the actual expenditure alongwith certified copies of bill which are awaited.

2. Goa

Implementing Agency-CONCOR

Likely date of Completion-September 2008

Total Project Cost-Rs. 2.37 crore

APEDA Assistance-Rs. 2.37 crore

Amount released-Nil

Amount to be released by 31-03-08-Rs. 2.37 crore

STATUS

- MoU signed with M/s. CONCOR in June, 2006
- Land has been acquired.
- An interim shed has been created to handle perishables products.
- Draft tenders are floated inviting tenders.
- Bids opened on 15th October, 2007
- Advance required to be released.
- Projects is likely to be completed by September, 2008.

KOLKATTA

Implementing Agency-AAI

Likely date of Completion-December 2007

Total Projed. Cost-Rs.6.75 crore

APEDA Assistance-Rs. 6.75 crore

Amount released-Rs.1.35 crore

Amount to be released by 31-03-08-Rs. 5.40

STATUS

- An advance of Rs. 1.35 crore released
- Civil work is completed
- Tenders for electrical and mechanical and air conditioning material handling etc. have been issued.
- Contractors (M/s. Voltas) selected and project awarded.
- As per recent letter dated 19-11-2007 AAI requested to release Rs. 2.00 crore approx.
- Likely to be completed by December, 2007

3. Bagdogra

Implementing Agency-SJDA

Likely date of Completion-September 2008

Total Project Cost-Rs. 2.99 crore

APEDA Assistance-Rs. 2.99 crore

Amount released-Nil

Amount to be released by 31-03-08-Rs. 2.99 crore

STATUS

- MoD has been signed with SJDA.
- 2.3-acre and has been acquired by SJDA and 0.76 acre is under acquisition.
- Land development and construction of boundary wall is under implementation.

- Tendering process is on and likely to complete by December 2007.
- Advance payment is processed for released.
- M/s. SJDA has requested for 20% of the project cost request has been processed and to be released.
- Civil portion of Perishable Cargo Complex building is almost completed.
- M/s. SJDA is going to float EOI by December end for selection of suitable agency for operation and maintenance of the facility.
- Likely to be completed by September, 2008.

Centres for Perishable Cargo at International Airports initiated

1. Ahmedabad

Implementing Agency-GAIC

Likely date of Completion-September 2008

Total Project Cost-Rs. 7.61 crore

APEDA Assistance-Rs. 1.65 crore

Amount released-Nil

Amount to be released by 31-03-08-Rs.1.65 crore

STATUS

- M/s. GAIC has submitted revised report with cost of Rs. 760.17 lakhs.
- GAIC has agreed to compensate viability gap from State resources.
- Technical committee in its meeting on 24-8-2007 recommended the project.
- Project proposal put up before Authority in its meeting on 18.9.2007. However, it would be considered in next board meeting due to paucity of time.
- Project is likely to be completed in 12 months.

2. Guwahati

Implementing Agency-CONCOR

Likely date of Completion-December 2008

Total Project Cost-Rs. 4.00 crore

APEDA Assistance-Rs. 4.00 crore

Amount to be released by 31-03-08-Nil

STATUS

- Techno Economic Feasibility study has been completed
- A copy of report submitted to M/s. CONCOR for comments, which are still awaited.
- M/s. CONCOR has agreed to operate all projects at North Eastern Airports.
- M/s. CONCOR has submitted a business plan on 28th September, 2007 for subsidy from NE fund. The same is under examination of APEDA.
- Project is likely to be completed by December, 2008.

Centres for Perishable Cargo at International Seaport Initiated

1. Haldia (Seaport)

Implementing Agency-Deptt. of FPI and H, Government of W.B

Likely date of Completion-December 2008

Total Project Cost-Rs. 5.51 crore

APEDA Assistance-Rs. 5.51 crore

Amount to be released by 31-03-08-1.20 crore

STATUS

- MoU has been signed in July, 2006.
- Deptt. of FPI and H, Government of West Bengal has requested for additional fund for meeting consultancy fee.

- The proposal was put up before Authority meeting on 18-7-2007. However, it would be considered in next Board meeting due to paucity of time.
- Likely to be completed by December, 2008.

Walk In type Refrigerated Containers

1. Dimapur, Aizwal, Imphal and Agartala

Implementing Agency-CONCOR

Likely date of Completion-December 2007

Total Project Cost-Rs. 0.26 crore (Rs. 6.5 lakhs each)

APEDA Assistance-Rs. 0.26

Amount to be released by 31-03-08-Rs.0.26 crore

Status

- MoU has been signed vwith M/s. CONCOR in March, 2007.
- Land has been offered for Agartala and Dimapur.
- Request for land made by Mis. CONCR to M/s. AAI.
- Project is likely to be completed by December, 2007.

2. Jaipur

Implementing Agency-RSAMB

Likely date of Completion-October 2007

Total Project Cost-Rs. 0.19 crore

APEDA Assistance-Rs. 0.19

Amount to be released by 31-03-08-Rs. 0.19 crore

STATUS

- MoU has been signed on 6th October, 2006.
- Container has been installed in June, 2006 and is in operation. Daily 1 ton cargo is being handled.

- Payments are yet to be released.

3. Jaipur (Purchase of 4 Refrigerated Vans)

Implementing Agency-RSAMB

Likely date of Completion-Installed

Total Project Cost-Rs. 1.08 crore

APEDA Assistance-Rs. 1.026 crore (95%)

Amount to be released by 31-03-08-Rs. 1.026 crore

STATUS

- MoU has been signed.
- The necessary equipments have been purchased they have been purchased they have been on chasis vehicles.
- Payments are yet to be released.
- Likely to be completed within next month

4. Bhubaneswar

Implementing Agency-APICOL

Likely date of Completion-March 2008

Total Project Cost-Rs. 0.10 crore

APEDA Assistance-Rs. 0.10 crore

Amount to be released by 31-03-08-Rs. 0.10 crore

STATUS

- Award letter has been issued to M/s. Sandeep Instruments and Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. for installation of walk in type cold rooms.
- State Government is in the process of acquiring land.
- Container at Bhubaneswar Airport is delivered.
- Payment of the container is over due.

5. Jammu

Implementing Agency-State Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Likely date of Completion-March 2008

Total Project Cost-Rs. 0.10 crore

APEDA Assistance-Rs. 0.10 crore

Amount to be released by 31-03-08-Rs. 0.10 crore

STATUS

- APEDA has agreed in principal to install walk in type container.
- A draft copy of MoU alongwith specifications of equipments of forwarded to State Govt. through AGM (V.K. Kaul).

Irregularities and Corruption in Recruitment

5396. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether alleged cases of irregularities and corruption have come to the notice of the Government in the recruitment of soldiers in defence forces in the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) No serious case of irregularities and corruption in the recruitment of soldiers in Defence Forces has come to the notice of the Government during the last three years. However, eight complaints regarding recruitment were investigated by the Army Hqrs. during the period.

Government has been vigilant against any mal-practices in recruitment of soldiers in Defence Forces. Any complaint received alleging irregularities in recruitment is promptly investigated and if any individual is found blameworthy, stringent action is taken as per laid down laws, rules and procedures.

Subsidy on Organic Fertilizers

5397. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation has sought the Ministry Rs. 10,000 crore for introduction of high yielding seeds and a subsidy on organic fertilizers produced by converting urban organic waste; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government has not received any proposal from a delegation seeking Rs. 10,000 crores for introduction of high yielding seeds and subsidy on organic fertilizers produced by converting urban organic waste.

However, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on the Balanced and Integrated use of Fertilizers, subsidy is being provided for establishment of urban city waste compost units of minimum of 100 tonnes per day capacity, @ one-third of the estimated cost subject to a maximum of Rs.50 lakhs (for machinery and building only). Also under, National Project on Organic Farming, 25% back ended subsidy limited to Rs. 40 lakhs is being provided for setting up of fruits and vegetables market waste compost units.

Abuse of Financial Powers In Military Acquisitions

5398. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the latest CAG report financial powers have allegedly been abused in the military

acquisitions as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated March 15, 2008;

(b) if so, the details of such cases pointed out by the CAG;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Reports Nos. 4 and 5 of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 2007 presented to Parliament on 14th March 2008 contain, inter alia, Paras relating to acquisition of VIP Boeing Business Jets, acquisition of Landing Platform dock, avoidable loss due to acceptance of defective ammunition, upgradation of an aircraft and misuse of special financial powers delegated to Army Commanders. The extant instructions provide for submission of Action Taken Notes on the audit observations to the Ministry of Finance for onward transmission to the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

[Translation]

Lateral Entry of Army Personnel

5399. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government proposes to launch any scheme in regard to the lateral entry of army personnel below the rank of officers in other departments with a view to provide opportunities to fulfill professional aspirations in defence services to an extent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c): The Group of Ministers (GOM), appointed in pursuance of the Kargil Review Committee, had recommended lateral transfer of Army personnel to Para Military Organizations in their Report on 'Reforming

the National security System' with the primary aim of keeping a young profile of the Army in peak combat effective state capable of meeting the challenges of future conflict.

The VI Central Pay Commission, in their report submitted to the Government recently, have also recommended a scheme of lateral transfer of defence personnel to Central Police Organizations/defence civilian organizations after rendering 7-17 years of service in the defence, with a view to, inter-alia, provide lifetime employment to defence personnel.

The Government has not taken any decision in this regard.

[English]

Setting up of Mail Regulatory and Development Authority

5400. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government has declined to accord approval for the recently mooted proposal for setting up a Mail Regulatory and Development Authority to regulate the functioning of courier service in the country; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has decided to amend the Indian Postal Act, 1898;

(d) if so, the Status of the Act alongwith the main changes proposed to be made in the Postal Act Amendment Bill; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) The India Post Office (Amendment) Bill is still under examination and final decision is yet to be taken by the Government on various proposals.

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

(c) There is proposal to the effect but final decision has not been taken.

(d) The Indian Post Office (Amendment) Bill 2008 is still under formulation stage and has not yet been put up to the Cabinet for final decision.

(e) The Bill is likely to be introduced only in the monsoon session of the Parliament at the earliest.

Construction of Dibrugarh Airport

5401. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for allowing a plot of land belonging to Army and Air Force for construction of Dibrugarh Airport in Assam was received from the Airport Authority of India;

(b) if so, the date of receipt of the proposal and response of the Ministry;

(c) whether the said proposal has been cleared; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The proposal of Airport Authority of India (AAI) for transfer of Defence land was received on 30-3-2005. The proposal has been considered and the operational and administrative issues concerning the defence forces have been conveyed to Airport Authority of India for incorporation into AAI's proposal.

Food Production

5402. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per capita food production in the country during 2006-07 has declined to the levels of 1970 due to multiplying population and stagnation in growth of agriculture production;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for stagnation in foodgrains production;

(c) whether the country face a prospect of acute

food shortage in the near future due to declining production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the strategy chalked out to increase food production in the Eleventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The per capita foodgrains production in the country was 200.4 kilogram during 1970-71 and 195.3 kilogram during 2006-07 and is estimated to be 201.3 kilogram during 2007-08. The foodgrains production in the recent past has increased from 198.36 million tonnes during 2004-05 to 208.60 million tonnes during 2005-06, 217.28 million tonnes during 2006-07 and further to 227.32 million tonnes during 2007-08 (3rd Advance Estimates released on 22-04-2008).

(c) and (d) No. Sir. Country is likely to remain self-sufficient in foodgrains production in the near future. In order to increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Food Security Mission" (NFSM) has been launched in the country from Rabi 2007-08. It aims at adding the production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Plan, i.e. by 2011-12 through area increase and productivity enhancement in targeted districts. Besides, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with an objective to incentivise the States to increase investment in agricultural and allied sector has been launched.

Crash of MiG Aircraft

5403. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the wake of numerous air crashes involving MiG variants, a comprehensive review of operations was undertaken to upgrade the MiGs under operation with the Indian Air Force (IAF);

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

(c) the latest position of the MiG aircraft fleet with the IAF alongwith the plans to renovate, upgrade or dispose of the MiG fleet;

(d) whether even the upgraded Bison aircraft have failed to become fully operational and safe and a large part of the fleet is grounded for want of maintenance and spares; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) Currently, the Indian Air Force (IAF) is operating MiG 21 aircrafts and its variants. Upgradation of aircrafts in terms of avionics and weapon systems to improve the operational capability, is a continuous exercise. Replacement/phase out plan for MiG aircraft has already commenced. The oldest variant of MiG 29 aircraft is currently being phased out in a planned manner keeping in tune with their operational life and availability of new aircraft for induction. IAF has a regular maintenance schedule to ensure operability of the Bison aircraft. In order to improve the serviceability of Bison fleet of MiG aircraft, IAF has already gone into a Long Term Maintenance Contract with various foreign firms and overhaul facilities are also being set up at HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited).

Vaidyanathan Committee Report on Rural Cooperative Credit Institutions

5404. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vaidyanathan Committee on Rural Cooperative Credit Institutions has submitted its Report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to implement the recommendations of the Committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Vaidyanathan Committee constituted by the Government of India for Revival of Rural Cooperative Credit Institutions (Short Term and Long Term) has submitted its reports to the Government. Major recommendations of the Committee are enclosed as Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details are enclosed as Statement-II.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement-I

I. The major recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee in respect of Rural Short term cooperative credit structure (STCCS) are as under:

- The financial restructuring should include assistance for wiping out accumulated losses, covering invoked and unpaid guarantees given by the State Governments, increasing the capital to a specified minimum level, retiring government share capital and providing technical assistance.
- The financial restructuring should be contingent upon commitment to and implementation of the legal and institutional reforms.
- The origin of losses should be the criteria for determining the liability of various stakeholders.
- Being member driven organizations, entire share capital of the cooperatives should logically be contributed only by their members and state govt. contribution, if any, needs to be returned forthwith.
- The Cooperatives be provided financial assistance for computerization and

- installation of sound accounting and monitoring systems to remain competitive.
- The financial assistance will be strictly conditional and be released on implementation of the recommendations for legal and institutional reforms. The purpose is to enable the cooperatives to become autonomous, member managed and self-reliant entities without any government involvement or interference.
 - To ensure improvement in management and governance of cooperatives, suitable amendments may be made in the relevant acts such as Cooperative Societies Acts of various states, Banking Regulation Act, NABARD Act, etc.
 - The legal amendments, inter alia, should facilitate ensuring full voting membership rights to all users of financial services including depositors, full regulatory powers for Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in case of cooperative banks, application of prudential norms for all cooperatives including Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) etc.
 - RBI to prescribe fit and proper criteria for election to Boards of Cooperative Banks, for induction of professionals on the Boards and for minimum qualifications for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to be appointed etc.
- II. The major recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee in respect of Rural Long term cooperative credit structure (LTCCS) are as under:—
- Provision of financial assistance to cover accumulated losses, cost of special audit and technical assistance.
 - Government of India to bear all losses arising out of Long Term loans for agriculture, one third of losses on account of loans to direct non-agriculture, resources to raise the CRAR to 7 per cent and entire cost of special audits including the human resource development efforts and implementation costs.
 - State Governments to bear all dues payable by them to the LTCCS.
 - Allow Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (PCARDBs) to access all types of deposits from members.
 - Allow PCARDBs to provide all types of loans to its members.
 - Allow PCARDBs to borrow from any regulated financial institution including federal units of the STCCS.
 - All State equity in the LTCCS may be retired.
 - Convert branches of unitary State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (SCARDB) into autonomous PCARDBs.
 - Allow SCARDBs State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks to mobilise public deposits under suitable regulatory and supervisory arrangements.
 - Allow PCARDBs to federate themselves with an upper tier of their choice.
 - The SCARDB should join hands with the State Cooperative Bank (SCB) in its state and set up a support service unit on mutually acceptable terms to provide such services to lower tiers in both the structures.
 - CRAR of minimum 7% be stipulated, to be increased to 12% in 5 years.
 - As no unit under the LT CCS is a bank under the Banking Regulation Act, the use of the word "bank" or its derivative's may be prohibited.

Statement-II**(a) Execution of Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) by States:—**

Twenty States i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil

Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal have signed MoUs.

(b) Release of Capitalisation assistance:—

An amount of Rs. 3,325.12 crore has been released by NABARD as Government of India share for recapitalisation of PACS in seven states as under:—

(Rs. Crore)

State	Total Recapitalisation Assistance	Gol share released	State Government share released	Cooperative Credit Structure share
Andhra Pradesh	1776.52	1078.21	167.35	123.47
Gujarat	144.35	121.74	10.13	12.48
Haryana	482.96	432.05	20.31	30.60
Madhya Pradesh	652.79	561.59	38.44	52.76
Maharashtra	671.69	510.71	16.74	144.25
Orissa	337.88	279.97	36.84	21.08
Uttar Pradesh	581.63	340.85	44.12	196.66
Total	4647.82	3325.12	333.93	581.30

(c) Amendments to Cooperative Societies Act:—

- Acts Amended through Legislative Process:** Six States, viz., Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh.
- Ordinance promulgated:** Maharashtra
- Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand:** Draft amendments to the Cooperative Societies Act have been vetted by NABARD and modifications suggested to State Governments.
- West Bengal has drafted the proposed amendments.

(d) Status regarding Implementation of Vaidyanathan Committee on revival of Long Term Cooperative Credit Institutions:—

A series of meetings were convened by the Government of India during 2007-08 to discuss the recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee on Revival of Long Term Cooperative Credit Structure and finalize the revival package. The Central Government and the State Governments have reached an agreement on the content of the package to implement the Prof. Vaidyanathan Committee's report on reviving the long-term cooperative credit structure. The cost of the package is estimated at Rs. 3,074 crore, of which the Central Government's share is estimated to be 86 per cent amounting to Rs. 2,642 crore.

Manufacturing of Aircraft

5405. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Aeronautic Limited (HAL) has received order from aircraft manufacturer Airbus Industries for the supply of 2,000 doors for its single aisle family of aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to manufacture A-318, A-319, A-320 and A-321 aircraft in the country in collaboration with Airbus Industries.

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Hindustan Aeronautic Limited (HAL) has concluded an agreement with Airbus Industries for supply of 2000 shipsets of forward passenger doors worth US\$ 150 million during March, 2008.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

**Re-Employment to Ex-Servicemen
in BSNL**

5406. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) particularly in Kerala region are not recruiting Ex-Servicemen on security posts and many posts have been converted to Housekeeping for recruiting Civilians;

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

(c) whether BSNL terminated the services of many Ex-servicemen on completion of four years;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor indicating the guidelines of Directorate General Resettlement (DGR) in this regard; and

(e) the remedial steps taken by the Government to provide re-employment to these servicemen in BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA):(a) and (b) Sir, security guards in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) including Kerala are being deployed as per Department of Public Enterprises guidelines. All Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are required to obtain the security services through Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR) sponsored agencies or State Ex-servicemen corporation. No security posts have been converted for Housekeeping for recruiting civilians.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. BSNL has not terminated the services of ex-servicemen in security service for reasons of completing four years of service. As per DGR guidelines, an agency is sponsored initially for two years. The same agency is re-sponsored by DGR for another two years, provided its performance is satisfactory.

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

Mobile to Farmers at Cheap Rates

5407. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to provide mobiles to farmers for Rs. 500 so that they can find out better price for their product;

(b) if so, whether any consultations in this regard have been held with the Agriculture Ministry and Labour Ministry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

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

Import of Agriculture Products

5408. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of agriculture products has increased tremendously during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor indicating the quantum of said product imported during the said period, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to check the increase in import of the said products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Expedition to North Pole

5409. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Navy proposes to undertake an expedition to the North Pole;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated cost of the project and its composition;

(c) whether there is also any proposal to undertake such exercises alongwith Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) A team comprising of ten members inclusive of three officers and seven sailors of Indian Navy undertook an expedition to North Pole in the last week of March 2008. The team reached North Pole on 9th April, 2008. An expenditure of Rs.1.19 crore approximately was incurred on this expedition. This includes the expenditure on support agency fee, food,

flag off/in, team kits, special clothes and equipment, travel, leading working up etc.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Relief Fund for Kargil War

5410. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the money collected from various donations for relief to those hit by the Kargil war has not reached the victims;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Issue of Telecom Licences

5411. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has cleared the decks for 120 telecom licences and issued a letter of intent despite certain allegation regarding adhoc and irregular spectrum allocation made from the different quarters;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the facts of the Letter of Indent issued in this regard;

(c) the time by which these licences are likely to be issued;

(d) whether a number of licence applications are still pending with the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which all the applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA):

(a) to (c) Subsequent to acceptance of recommendations dated 28-8-2007 of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), *inter-alia*, that there should be no cap on the number of access provider in any service area, 120 new Unified Access Services (UAS) licences have been granted in February-March, 2008 to 16 companies in 22 service areas against the Letters of Intent (LoIs) issued to them on 10-1-2008. Further, as per terms and conditions of the UAS licence, the allocation of spectrum is subject to availability and as per guidelines issued from time to time.

(d) and (e) 343 applications from 26 companies for grant of UAS licences in 22 service areas are pending with the Government. Processing of these pending applications shall be done in due course as per the prevailing UAS licensing guidelines after following due procedure and no time frame can be fixed at this stage.

Setting up of Software Units

5412. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has invited Indian Information Technology (IT) and business process outsourcing companies to set up more units in its IT parks at par with those established in cities like Bangalore, Chennai and Pune;

(b) if so, whether a delegation from Wuxi, an emerging economic zone in the Yangtze river delta, met representatives of software industries and expressed a desire to convert their district into a Bangalore of China;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the extent to which India has agreed for this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (f) As per National Association of Software and service Companies (NASSCOM), Chinese Government has set up a comprehensive plan to attract IT services business. Many provinces of China are bringing delegations to India on a regular basis. Several provinces (including Wuxi) in China are attempting to create IT-BPO hubs and are trying to attract Indian companies to set up operations there. Some Indian companies have established centers in China, primarily to serve the local operations of their existing global clients, tap the Japanese and Korean markets and position themselves to tap the growing domestic market opportunity in China.

Arjun Battle Tank

5413. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether manufacture of Arjun battle tank was cleared in 1974 at a cost of Rs. 15.5 crore and has since escalated to Rs. 306 crore;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in the manufacture of the tank and the steps taken to expedite its manufacture; and

(c) the details of the problems with the tank that have been brought to notice and remedial action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir, In its meeting held on 26-3-1974 the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs approved project for design and development of Main Battle Tank with an outlay of Rs. 15.50 crores, The same was enhanced to Rs. 305.60 crores due to changes in the General Staff Qualitative Requirements and cost escalations caused by inflation,

(b) There has been some delay in issue of tanks to Army due to design modifications and removal of defects noticed during various trials by Army. The manufacture of Arjun tank is being regularly monitored through Working Group headed by Director General Mechanised Forces and Steering Committee under the

Co-chairmanship of Secretary (Defence Production) and Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri.

(c) Following defects have been noticed during the ongoing Accelerated User Cum Reliability Trials by Army:—

- (i) Failure of power packs
- (ii) Low accuracy and consistency
- (iii) Failure of Hydropneumatic Suspension Units
- (iv) Shearing of Top Rollers
- (v) Chipping of Gun Barrels.

The rectification of defects and performance of tanks are being closely monitored.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 2.00 P.M.

11.03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of
the Clock.*

14.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen of
the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

RE: REQUEST FOR RE-CONSIDERING THE
DECISION TO REFER THE MATTER
RELATING TO 32 MEMBERS TO
COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

[English]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, yes, there is no business now.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Whenever a meeting

is held in the chamber of the hon'ble speaker and whatever is discussed there, the same is not disclosed. The decision taken therein is not made "public unless the same is brought to the notice of the House. It is surprising to me that when we were attending the meeting, a news channel was flashing the news that the decision taken by the Speaker had been withdrawn. It is very much surprising and this is a very irresponsible attitude of the news channel. So, I would like you to give some rulings in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to express my views.

MR. SPEAKER: You please endorse it.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I would like to mention the following. The leaders of the political parties in Lok Sabha met in the Chamber of the hon. Speaker this morning and assured him of full co-operation in the smooth running of the House. In view of the same, the leaders requested the hon. Speaker that he may please re-consider the decision to refer the matter relating to 32 Members to the Privileges Committee.

Sir, accordingly, I request you to please re-consider the matter and let the impasse be over.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Sir, I join the Leader of the Opposition...(Interruptions) Sorry, Leader of the House in making the same request to you to re-consider it.

MR. SPEAKER: He is anticipating!

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All have endorsed it.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker,

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

Sir, when it was being discussed in the chamber, the entire country had no knowledge of it at that time. So, I had requested you to allow the hon'ble leaders of all the parties to express their views in the House on whatever happened in the chamber...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please endorse it.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Since in the chamber the leaders who...*...so that there would be smooth functioning of the House (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not accepting it.

[English]

I am not accepting it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: For the smooth functioning of the House those people...*... are not mentioning that matter. Ram Gopal ji rightly said as to how the matter discussed in the chamber came in media?... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more. Nothing more.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: ...* Paying respect to the Chair, these people should clarify this matter.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am making my observation. Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, please take your seat.

[Translation]

This is not the proper way. This will not be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The Chair is supreme and this matter should be brought to the notice of the country. This is not a personal matter. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I earnestly request you to please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

14.02 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY SPEAKER

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am extremely thankful to the hon. Leaders for their kind assurance about the smooth running of the House in future which is my only concern. In view of the request that has been made, I decided to re-consider the matter and I shall withdraw the same.

[Translation]

PROF. VIIAJY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please expunge this word from the proceeding.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, that has been done.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): When this matter has been reported by the media, it should also be brought to the notice of the House. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you have given assurance.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more is to be recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: No wrong practice should have way in the House....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not be agitated. Nothing is being recorded. Do not record anything.

(Interruptions)...*

14.04 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the BEML Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8761/2008]

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Dynamics Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8762/2008]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): On behalf of Prof. Saif-ud-din-soz I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the WAPCOS Limited and the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8763/2008]

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8764/2008]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (I) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Board For Workers Education, Nagpur, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Board For Workers Education, Nagpur, for the year 2006-2007.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8765/2008]

- (3) A copy of the Apprenticeship (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 262 in Gazette of India dated the 1st December, 2007 under sub-section (3) of section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8766/2008]

- (4) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 263 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st December, 2007 specifying for the purpose of the Apprentices Act, 1961, two State Councils for Technical Education, in respect of the Trade, Test or Examination with Trades or Subjects mentioned in the Notification, issued under section 2 of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8767/2008]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): On behalf of Shri Kantilal Bhuria, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Orissa Agro-Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Annual Report of the Orissa Agro-Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2002-2003 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8768/2008]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Maharashtra Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) Annual Report of the Maharashtra Agro-Industries Development Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8769/2008]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Oil seeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, Gurgoan, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

working of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, Gurgoan, for the year 2006-2007.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8770/2008]

(5) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Seeds Corporation Limited and the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8771/2008]

(6) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 747(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 28 March, 2008 declaring Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 as special order under section 12 A of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, issued under section 12 A of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8772/2008]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): On behalf of Shri Taslimuddin, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cooperative Store Limited (Super Bazar), New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cooperative Store Limited (Super Bazar), New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8773/2008]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Veterinary Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Veterinary Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8774/2008]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): On behalf of Shri E.V.K.S. Elangovan, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jute Manufactures Development Council, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jute Manufactures Development Council, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8775/2008]

- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Textile for the year 2007-2008.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8776/2008]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Food Corporation of India and the Department of Food and Public Distribution, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, Public Distribution, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8777/2008]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 9 of the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982:—

- (i) The Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 115(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 2008.
- (ii) The Sugar Development Fund (Second Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 279(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th April, 2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8778/2008]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Andhra Pradesh State Irrigation Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of Andhra Pradesh State Irrigation Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments

[Shri Jay Prakash Narayan Yadav]

of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8779/2008]

14.07½

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

41st And 42nd Reports

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH(Maharajganj, Bihar): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions:—

- (1) Forty-first Report on the representations concerning the Ministries of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (Department of Heavy Industry), Coal and Textiles.
- (2) Forty-second Report on the representations concerning the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

14.08 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

[English]

- (I) **Status of Implementation of the recommendations contained in 16th Report of Standing Committee on Defence on Demands for Grants (2007-08), pertaining to the Ministry of Defence***

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): Mr. Speaker Sir, I am laying a statement on the status of implementation of recommendations

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. LT 8780/2008.

contained in the 16th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the direction of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha contained in Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II dated September 01, 2004.

The 16th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence (14th Lok Sabha) relates to 'Demands for Grants (2007-2008) of the Ministry of Defence'. The Report was presented to the Lok Sabha on 28-4-2007 and laid in Rajya Sabha on 3-5-2007.

Action Taken Statements on the recommendations/ observations contained in the 16th Report were sent to the Standing Committee on Defence on 22-8-2007.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee in their 16th report is indicated in the Annexure-I to my Statement which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of the Annexure. I would request that these may be considered as read.

14.08½

[English]

- (II) **Status of Implementation of the recommendations contained in 48th Report of Standing Committee on Information Technology on Real Estate Management pertaining to the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology***

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, in pursuance of Direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha, I would like to lay detailed Action Taken Report on the recommendations in the Forty-eighth Report of Standing Committee on Information Technology pertaining to Department of

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. LT 8781/2008.

Posts on the Table of the House without taking the valuable time of the House.

14.09 hrs.

[English]

**AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS FOR
ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES**

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the amendments (Hindi and English versions) made by the Speaker to Regulation 1, 2, 4 and 6 of the Regulations for holding of elections to Committees by means of single transferable vote.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, the Supplementary List of Business has not been circulated...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: At least give some power to the Speaker, it is the issue of the Deputy Speaker.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your cooperation.

...(Interruptions)

14.09½ hrs.

**COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION
FUND BILL, 2008***

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 5.5.2008.

REGUPATHY): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Fund and crediting thereto the monies received from the user agencies towards compensatory afforestation, additional compensatory afforestation, penal compensatory afforestation, Net Present Value and all other amounts recovered from such agencies under the Forest (Conser-vation) Act, 1980; constitution of an Authority for administration of the Fund and to utilize the monies so collected for undertaking artificial regeneration (plantations), assisted natural regeneration, protection of forests, infrastructure development, Green India Programme, wildlife protection and other related activities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Fund and crediting thereto the monies received from the user agencies towards compensatory afforestation, additional compensatory afforestation, penal compensatory afforestation, Net Present Value and all other amounts recovered from such agencies under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; constitution of an Authority for administration of the Fund and to utilize the monies so collected for undertaking artificial regeneration (plantations), assisted natural regeneration, protection of forests, infrastructure development, Green India Programme, wildlife protection and other related activities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: I introduce* the Bill.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

*Introduced with the Recommendation of the President

**Treated as laid on the Table.

- (i) **Need to bring the prices of Petrol and diesel in Alwar at par with the rates prevalent in Delhi and NCR.**

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (ALWAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire Alwar district of Rajasthan has been included in the National Capital region. Bahrod, Nimrana, Bhiwadi, Khuskheda, Chaupanki etc. areas of the districts are witnessing fast industrialization and residential colonies are being developed there. It is on account of inclusion in NCR that the residents of Alwar district have to purchase diesel and petrol at higher rates because more tax is to be paid on purchase of diesel and petrol in Alwar district as comparison to other districts of Rajasthan.

I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Petroleum that petrol and diesel should be made available in Alwar district at the rate at which it is sold in remaining NCR Delhi and Haryana.

- (ii) **Need to construct a Railway Over Bridge at Dhaula in Amreli Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat**

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are eleven railway crossings on the way to Ahmedabad from my parliamentary constituency Amreli, however, it is only Dhaula area where we find frequent traffic jams. There are two railway crossings in this area. Double decker goods trains which are very long are operating on this line and it takes even an hour to cross it. It is on account of this that there is traffic jam on Amreli-Ahmedabad route and people have to wait for a long time here. So, a railway overbridge should be constructed on this crossing, so that, the traffic on the route may be streamlined.

Therefore, through the House, I would like to request the Government that a railway overbridge should be constructed on Amreli-Ahmedabad road in Dhaula area.

- (iii) **Need to take steps for commissioning of Kudankulam Atomic Power Project in Tamil Nadu**

[English]

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): The Kudankulam Atomic Power Project was conceived nearly 15 years ago and is supposed to have commenced power generation last year itself. Work is on for the 2000 MW first phase of the project. There is inordinate delay in the execution of the project. I want the Government to take immediate steps to persuade the Russian Engineers to speed up the project and also for early commission.

The people of South Tamil Nadu are deeply upset over delay in clearing the II phase of the Kudankulam project set to create 4000 MW. Further, the Russian Government has already told India that it is willing to set up this 4000 MW project.

I want Government of India not to wait for Indo-US Nuclear Treaty before giving clearance to the II phase of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project. I want to draw the attention of this august House that South Tamil Nadu where Kudankulam is situated, is one of the poorest regions of the country having no industry or organization worth mentioning.

I urge upon the Government of India to take all possible steps for the early execution of the project.

- (iv) **Need to retain Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Telugu languages as a medium of examinations conducted by Union Public Service Commission**

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): On 29-04-2008 Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal laid a statement before the Lok Sabha about the inclusion of Bhojpuri and Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

In the statement he categorically mentioned about the examinations conducted by Union Public Service

Commission in regional languages which come under Eighth Schedule.

At present the Eighth Schedule consists of 22 languages inclusive of Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada.

As per Hon'ble Minister's statement the candidates appearing in the Civil Services (Main) Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission are allowed to write the examination in any of the languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. Further, he had stated that the present link between the Eighth Schedule language may be delinked from the UPSC's scheme of examination keeping in view of the problems faced by the Commission in conducting the examination in all the languages listed in the Eighth Schedule.

I want to bring to the kind notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister that large number of rural poor students appearing in UPSC examinations in their mother tongue like Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada and Telugu have got through.

I feel the present proposal of UPSC to delink the above languages may prevent the South Indian poor youths from entering into Civil Services and it is a great injustice to them.

I urge upon the Government of India to direct the UPSC not to cancel the examination conducted through regional languages like Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Telugu which come under Eighth Schedule.

(v) Need to name the upcoming Jaipur International Airport as Swai Man Singh International Airport.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the work for making Jaipur airport an International airport is being carried out expeditiously. The Government have sanctioned Rs. 95 crore for this. Regarding the naming of this airport, I have submitted several times that like other State where international aerodromes have been named after various leaders,

there is a need to name Jaipur international aerodrome as Sawai Man Singh International Airport.

(vi) Need to expedite the construction of Ramganjmandi-Bhopal railway line

[English]

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar): The Ramganjmandi-Bhopal railway line work needs to be expedited as there is delay in the Rs. 727 crore railway line project. The railway line will assist the common man in the following ways:

- (i) It will provide another alternative route for the trains going to South.
- (ii) It will help in transportation of agricultural goods from the largest Dhania Mandi in Asia to rest of the world.
- (iii) It will help in the early implementation of the Kali Sindh Power Project of 1000 Mega Watt.

The state Government has already requested the Railway Ministry to expedite the construction of the project.

I urge the Railway ministry to speed up the process to ensure construction of this railway line passing through Jhalwar district.

(vii) Need to expedite completion of various sanctioned Railway Projects in Bareilly Parliamentary constituency, Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Railway to start work on the following important sanctioned projects of Railways department at the earliest.

1. The construction of railway overbridge at Heartman Crossing, Kudeshiam fatah, Ijhat Nagar crossing and Katghar crossing, all under north eastern railway located in the middle of the Bareilly city. It has already been said about

[Shri Santosh Gangwar]

all these things and this work has been approved by the Railway department.

2. The gauge conversion work of Kathgodown (Lal Kuan), Bahedi, Bareilly, Mathura Agra line on priority basis.
3. The gauge conversion of Bareilly, Pillbhit, Mailati-Gola-Sitapur-Lucknow route.

(viii) Need for gauge conversion of Gwalior Sheopur-Kalan railway line in Central Railway

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Morena): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Gwalior-Sheopur Kalan railway line is a hundred year old narrow gauge line. The survey for the gauge conversion of the said line has been completed. The said railway line is very important as it connects Kota city of Rajasthan. So, I would like to request the Central Government to release fund for the gauge conversion of the said line and work in this regard may be started at the earliest.

(ix) Need to expedite the proposal for development of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): The Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal to Government of India for development of various infrastructure linkages for overall development of Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) as also for development of road linkages for DMIC.

I urge the Government for speedy actions on these proposals.

(x) Need to set up Processing units for mango-based products in the country

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): The export of Indian Mangoes have started again following the lifting of ban imposed by certain countries after a gap of two decades.

The export of 160 tonnes of mangoes in 2007 to USA and 30-40 tonnes to Japan following the lifting of ban in 2006 severely affected the availability for domestic consumption. To make things worse the ambitious target fixed for this year by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) of India to boost up the exports to Japan, America, China, Australia and to other European markets at 2000 tonnes is 1250% more than that of the last year. This will deprive the domestic consumers to relish these savoury mangoes.

The Government should not fail to understand that these mangoes are purchased and processed by the soft drink multinationals to produce sauces and juices under different tantalizing names which is marketed internationally including in our country. I, therefore, request the Government to consider setting up of Preservation and Processing Units to produce juices and pulps for domestic market which will go a long way in generating employment opportunities, availability of nutritious soft-drinks and guaranteeing remunerative prices for the mango-growers.

(xi) Need to approve the proposal permitting Members of Parliament to install five hundred India Mark-II handpumps in their Parliamentary Constituencies to address the problem of shortage of drinking water.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chall): Mr. Speaker, Sir, keeping in view the problems regarding lack of irrigation facilities and shortage of drinking water in Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party delegation in this very budget session met the hon'ble Prime Minister in his office at Parliament House. They submitted him a letter seeking approval on the proposal permitting Members of Parliament to install five hundred India Mark-II handpumps in their parliamentary constituencies to address the said problems. In their letter it was stated that the fund was available in the Ministry of Rural Development for the purpose. If the hon'ble Prime Minister approves the proposal, 500 handpumps could easily be available to each of the Members of

Parliament to address the problem of shortage of drinking water. However, the hon'ble Prime Minister gave his verbal consent in this regard. I request the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and the Prime Minister to implement the contents of the letter submitted by the delegation and provide the Members of parliament with 500 hand pumps for their parliamentary constituencies at the earliest to address the problem of shortage of drinking water.

(xii) Need to ensure availability of drinking water in Jaunpur Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV (Jaunpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an acute shortage of drinking water in my parliamentary constituency, Jaunpur. From the geographical point of view Jaunpur district is surrounded by four big rivers and small canals. It has 21 development block where there are no means of transportation in the villages located along the rivers, there is no adequate availability of drinking water and power supply. There is a little supply of power in the district. There is no facility of drinking water. It lacks the India Mark-II handpumps.

I, therefore, demand from the Government to ensure availability of pure drinking water in Jaunpur parliamentary constituency, Uttar Pradesh.

(xiii) Need to deploy Disaster Management Team in flood-prone Samastipur district-Bihar

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Samastipur is one of the two most flood affected districts of Bihar. In the year 2007, about 115 people got drowned in flood water. The reason for it was timely non-availability of motor boats, divers and other resources for saving the people, due to which they could not be saved. A Disaster Management Commission was constituted. The Commission, under its control has deployed Disaster Management Teams in the States of Assam and West Bengal. Horrifying situation emerges in the districts of Darbhanga, Sitamarhi, Khagaria etc. like that of Samastipur in Bihar by floods. So, Samastipur being a centre point of

floodprone areas, the disaster management team should also be deployed over there.

(xiv) Need to celebrate the Centenary Year of Late Shri C.N. Annadurai

[English]

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruppattur): Perarignar Anna, as he is called late Thiru C.N. Annadurai, the founder leader of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam has the distinction to have upheld at a crucial hour in our Nation's history the unity and integrity of the country. Driven by the ideal of social reform when he was Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu he came with a legislation to make 'Self-respect Marriages' legal and that has been upheld by the Supreme Court recently. In order to strengthen the Federal polity of the Indian Union he has seeded the concept of state autonomy which has given rise to the setting up of Inter-State Council by the Union Government. The year 2009 is to be celebrated as the great Anna's centenary year as announced by Government of Tamil Nadu. The centenary celebrations are to commence from the 15th of September this year. All those who have contributed to the National life and the Nation-building must be remembered and revered. Hence I urge upon the Centre to celebrate the same as a year long National Celebration to inculcate the spirit of renaissance in the minds of the younger generation throughout the country. The Union Government must enact law to give legal sanction to 'Self-respect Marriages' apart from issuing a commemorative postal stamp on the eve of the birth centenary of that great leader. I urge upon the Union Government to commence the preparations for the socially relevant Anna centenary celebrations in this era of social justice.

(xv) Need to clarify the terms of loan Waiver Scheme announced by the Government

[Translation]

SHRI ANIL SHUKLA WARSI (Bilhaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India have decided to waive off the loans of the farmers, but keeping in view

[Shri Anil Shukla Warsi]

the principal amount (dues and the amount liable to be paid in future) and the interests accrued thereon (over due, panel etc.) as on 31-03-2008, there is a need to clarify the terms and extent of loan waiver announced for the farmers.

(xvi) Need to regularise the services of Gramin Dak Sevaks working in the Department of Posts in rural areas

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): The rural post offices render a public utility and essential service as the Department of Posts, basically a service department, caters to the need of communications of all cross sections of the society well within their reach and without much eye to the profit and loss. Deplorable and primitive service conditions govern the employees who manned the rural postal system. They are called the Agents, Part time workers, Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS), a misnomer, making it appear that their services are remunerated by payment of a commission, not the real wages compared to Government servants though they perform all the duties of a regular postal employees. The GDS employees have been denied the proper wage structure and service conditions. The GDS employee is still termed as a part time employee as there is no time factor for the 90% of work performed by him in the new areas except to the traditional services. There is not time factor for the work performed by them or no entity is given to the duties of delivery and conveyance except for a meagre amount of Rs. 100 as a combined Duty Allowance, which is gross injustice as they come out of the barriers of all distinct categories performing the duties of all the other posts. I urge upon the Government to upgrade these Gram Dak Sevaks as regular employee of postal organization as they have been working more than 20 years in the same position in the Department of Post and Telegraphs. We must offer a better wage structure at par with Class-IV employee in the Government of India. They should be paid house rent, office maintenance allowance and leave and medical facilities.

(xvii) Need to provide a stoppage for Nellai Express at Sattur Railway Station in Virudhunagar district, Tamil Nadu

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI (Sivakasi): The Nellai Express train runs daily between Chennai and Thirunelveli. It starts at 9 o' clock from Chennai. This is the last train service from Chennai to South Tamil Nadu. It is a first train to reach Chennai from South Tamil Nadu. Sattur is the only municipality which is left out from the stoppages given for this train in South Tamil Nadu. I urge the Railway Ministry to provide a stoppage for Nellai Express in both directions for Sattur Railway Station in Virudhunagar district.

(xviii) Need to sanction supplementary funds as plan support to Autonomous Hill Development Council (AHDC) for Leh and Kargil region of Jammu and Kashmir

SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN (Ladakh): The people of Ladakh region are grateful to Government of India for having constituted Autonomous Hill Development Council for both Leh and Kargil districts of Ladakh region in Jammu and Kashmir. Establishment of Hill councils have enthused a sense of participation in the people of Ladakh, and development process in this sensitive border region has received a tremendous boost. Both the council at Leh and Kargil are functioning extremely satisfactorily and discharging their functions with responsibility and setting examples in accountability. However, they are hampered in their functioning due to constraints for funding. Both the councils have not received any special financial allocation except Rs. 40 crores each sanctioned by Hon'ble Prime Minister for raising Council Infrastructure during the past more than 12 years of their existence. These councils are being treated as just another Districts of Jammu and Kashmir State in the matter of allocation of funds. I strongly urge upon Government of India to sanction supplementary funds as plan support to enable Councils to meet the aspirations of people of Ladakh and I also urge both the State and Central Govt, to review the AHDC (Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils) Act to make it more effective and sufficiently empower them for more effective functioning.

14.10 hrs.

RE:REQUEST FOR RE-CONSIDERING THE
DECISION TO REFER THE MATTER
RELATING TO 32 MEMBERS TO
COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES—*contd.*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South-Delhi):
There should be clarification by all means regarding
apology which has been discussed here ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you do so? What I have
said is on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Those words have been deleted.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, now you should make it clear from
the Chair about the meeting held in your chamber,
discussion took place therein and what Shri Devendraji
said over there....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have explained all the things that
happened over there.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. You were
not there.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What the hon. Leader of the
House has been pleased to observe and what the hon.
Leader of the Opposition has been pleased to endorse
are very clear. There is nothing more and nothing less.
I have expressed my grateful thanks to all the hon.
Leaders for their kind cooperation and because of the

request made which I deeply cherish-I am thankful for
that-I have decided to reconsider the matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, a new issue
arose that the people had tendered apology.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: They have not tendered apology

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: You should make it
clear...*(Interruptions)*. The House is being misled. The
country is being misled. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: So, the situation
should be clear and it should be made by none other
than you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Listen to me.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: In the minds of some hon.
Members, there is an impression that some apology has
been officially tendered. This is not a question of any
retribution. Nothing is there for "pro" and "against". No
question of apology was discussed. Whatever has been
discussed, has been mentioned here. I am again saying,
my only concern, believe me, is to see that the House
runs properly, for which I seek your earnest cooperation.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more to be recorded on
this.

...*(Interruptions)*...*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more to be recorded.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not record.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to make a very important announcement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, probably you will be happy now. I think you will be happy now.

...(Interruptions)

14.12 hrs.

VALEDICTORY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Thirteenth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha is coming to close today.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, we strongly object to this. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The first part of this Budget Session commenced on 25th February, 2008 with the Address by the hon. President to the Members of both the Houses assembled together in the Central Hall. The House adjourned on 19th March, 2008 to enable the Standing Committees to examine the Demands for Grants of various Ministries/Departments and submit their Reports thereon. The second part of the Budget Session commenced on 15th April, 2008 after the recess.

During the Session, we had 28 sittings spread over 162 hours 09 minutes. Of these, 16 sittings were held in the first part and 12 sittings were held in the second part of the Session.

*Not recorded.

The House discussed the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, a copy of which was laid on the Table of the House on 25th February, 2008 for over three days. It was passed on 5th March, 2008 after a debate lasting for more than 12 hours and 33 minutes. Before the conclusion of the debate, 51 amendments were moved and negatived.

The Budget (Railways) and Budget (General) for the year 2008-09 were presented on 26th and 29th February, 2008 respectively.

The House had a combined discussion inter alia on the Budget (Railways) for 2008-09, Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 2008-09, Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2007-08, and Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2005-06, lasting for 14 hours and 53 minutes, before the demands were voted and the related Appropriation Bills passed. The Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2008-09 were discussed in the second half of the Session on 16th and 17th April, 2008. Six cut motions were moved and negatived before the Demands were voted in full and the related Appropriation Bill was passed.

The House also held combined discussion lasting over 16 hours and 24 minutes on the Budget (General) for 2008-09, Demands for Grants on Account (General) 2008-09, and the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2007-08, before the said Demands were voted and the related Appropriation Bills were passed.

During the second half of the Session, the Demands for Grants for 2008-09, in respect of the Ministries of Home Affairs, Defence, Rural Development and Information and Broadcasting, were discussed for 24 hours and 25 minutes before being voted in full. All the other outstanding Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 2008-09 of the remaining Ministries were submitted to the vote of the House and voted in full on 24th April, 2008 and the related Appropriation Bill was passed.

The Budget in respect of the State of Karnataka for the year 2008-09 and the Supplementary Demands

for Grants (Karnataka) for the year 2007-08 were presented to Lok Sabha on 10th of March, 2008. The General Discussion on Budget in respect of the State of Karnataka for 2008-09, Demands for Grants on Account (Karnataka) for 2008-09 and the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Karnataka) for 2007-08 was taken up together on 11th March, 2008. After discussion, the Demands were voted in full and the related Appropriation Bill was passed.

The House also discussed the Finance Bill, 2008 for about 9 hours and 5 minutes before it was passed to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2008-09.

During the Session, 17 Government Bills were introduced and one Bill was withdrawn. In all, the House passed 20 Bills which included five Ordinances replacing Bills. Some of the important Bills passed were the Delimitation (Amendment) Bill, 2008; The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2008; the Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2008; the Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Bill, 2008; the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2008; The Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Bill, 2008 and the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

The House had a meaningful and structured debate lasting over 6 hours and 52 minutes on a matter of Public Importance under Rule 193 i.e. the situation arising out of continued rise in the prices of essential commodities and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto. The concerned Minister replied to the debate.

During the Session, three important matters were raised by way of Calling Attention in response to which the concerned Ministers made Statements. As many as 51 Statements were made by the Ministers on various other important subjects.

Coming to the Private Members' Business, 23 Private Members' Bills were introduced during the Session. One Bill, namely, The Electoral Reforms Commission Bill, 2006 seeking to set up an Electoral

Reforms Commission with a view to initiate comprehensive reforms in the existing electoral system, moved by Shri C.K. Chandrappan remained part discussed.

A Private Members' Resolution regarding Free and Compulsory Education up to the Higher Secondary level moved by Shri Ram Kripal Yadav was further discussed on 17th April, 2008 and was negatived. Another Resolution regarding legislation for the overall development of persons belonging to the Denotified Tribes and Nomadic Tribes moved by Shri Haribhau Rathod remained part discussed.

During the Session, 560 Starred Questions were listed, out of which 105 Questions could be answered orally. Thus, on an average, about 3.75 Questions could be answered per day. Written replies to the remaining Starred Questions along with 5413 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table. One subject under Half-an-Hour Discussion was also taken up.

In this Session, the Committees presented 62 Reports.

About 307 matters of urgent public importance were raised by the Members after the Question Hour and by sitting late in the evening. Hon. Members also raised 298 matters under Rule 377.

In this Session, while we lost over 28 hours and 30 minutes of time due to interruptions and forced adjournments, the House also sat late for 36 hours and 38 minutes to compensate for the lost time.

I once again take this opportunity to emphasize that I have always favoured within the parameters of rules and procedures of business, debates and discussion on the issues affecting the public at large and the common man in particular.

It is this very purpose that our democracy and the parliamentary institutions strive to achieve. However, instances of interruptions, forced adjournments and defying the authority of the Chair do not help our common goal of public welfare and executive accountability. It is through debates and discussions that National Policies and Budget priorities

[Mr. Speaker]

can be influenced which, in turn, would justify our role as Parliamentarians.

Finally, I would like to thank deeply the hon. Deputy-Speaker and my colleagues in the Panel of Chairmen for their cooperation in the completion of business of the House. I am extremely grateful to the hon. Prime Minister, the Leader of the House, the hon. Leader of the 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 also like to thank, on behalf of all of you, our friends in the Press and 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.

14.20 hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members may now stand up as the tune of Vande Mataram would be played.

The National Song was played

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

14.21 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.

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