Fourteenth Series, Vol. XXXIV, No. 24

Friday, April 25, 2008
Vaisakha 5, 1930 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Thirteenth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)

Gazetteers & Do...
Parliament Li...
Acc. No. 24-22
Date 17/10/2005

(Vol. XXXIV contains Nos. 21 to 28)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 80.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

P.D.T. Achary
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

Dr. R.K. Chadha
Joint Secretary

Hamam Das Takker
Director

Vandana Trivedi
Joint Director-I

Prabhakar Mohanty
Joint Director-II

Nalin Kumar
Assistant Editor

CONTENTS

[Fourteenth Series, Vol. XXXIV, Thirteenth Session, 2008/1930 (Saka)]

No. 24, Friday, April 25, 2008/Vaisakha 5, 1930 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 461 to 463, 465 to 467, 469 and 470	3—48
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 468, 471 to 480	48—96
Unstarred Question Nos. 4549 to 4778	97—425
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	425—434, 449—450
MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA	435—437
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE	
67th and 68th Reports	437
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS	
27th and 28th Reports	437—438
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS	
Statements	438
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE	
Statements	438—440
STATEMENT BY MINISTER	
Situation in Jammu and Kashmir	440—444
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	445—449
SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS	
Re: Restoration of foodgrains quota allocated to Kerala by the Union Government under P.D.S.	450—456

*The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
FINANCE BILL, 2008	469—519
Motion to Consider	469
Shri P. Chidambaram	469
Shri Kharabela Swain	469—478
Shri Sandeep Dikshit	479—487
Shri Rupchand Pal	488—498
Shri Mohan Singh	498—505
Shri P.S. Gadhavi	505—514
Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary	515—518
Shri Bikram Keshari Deo	518—519
MOTION RE: 36TH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS	519—520
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS—*Introduced*	520—532
(i) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2007 (Insertion of new Article 21B)	520
by Shri L. Rajagopal	520
(ii) Disruption of Proceedings of Parliament (Disentitlement of Daily Allowance to Members and Termination of Membership) Bill, 2008	
by Shri L. Rajagopal	521
(iii) Insurance Agents Welfare Bill, 2007	
by Shri Basu Deb Acharia	521—522
(iv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2007 (Amendment of Article 73)	
by Adv. Suresh Kurup	522
(v) Sculptors, Artists and Artisans of Rural Areas Welfare Bill, 2008	
by Shri Hansraj G. Ahir	522—523
(vi) Commission for the formation of State of Vidarbha Bill, 2008	
by Shri Hansraj G. Ahir	523
(vii) Anganwadi Workers (Regularisation of Service and Other Benefits) Bill, 2008	
by Shri Hansraj G. Ahir	523—524

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(viii) Cotton Growers (Remunerative Price and Welfare) Bill, 2008	
by Shri Hansraj G. Ahir	524
(ix) National Minimum Pension (Guarantee) Bill, 2008	
by Shri C.K. Chandrappan	525
(x) Working Elephants (Protection and Welfare) Bill, 2008	
by Shri C.K. Chandrappan	525
(xi) Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (Amendment of the Schedule)	
by Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana	526
(xii) Minimum Wages (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (Amendment of Section 3)	
by Shri Prabodh Panda.	526
(xiii) Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2008	
by Shri Haribhau Rathod	527
(xiv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (Amendment of Article 15, etc.)	
by Shri Haribhau Rathod	527
(xv) High Court of Kerala (Establishment of a Permanent Bench at Thiruvananthapuram) Bill, 2008	
by Shri C.K. Chandrappan.	528
(xvi) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (Amendment of Eleventh Schedule)	
by Shri C.K. Chandrappan.	528—529
(xvii) Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (Amendment of Section 2, etc.)	
by Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey	529
(xviii) Domestic Workers (Conditions of Service) Bill, 2008	
by Shri Mohan Singh	529—530
(xix) Flood Control Bill, 2008	
by Shri Mohan Singh	530
(xx) Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Amendment Bill, 2008 (Amendment of Section 2)	
by Shri L. Rajagopal	530—531

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(xxi) Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2008	
by Dr. K.S. Manoj	531
(xxii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (Amendment of the Seventh Schedule)	
by Shri Anant Kumar Hegde	532
(xxiii) Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Amendment Bill, 2008 (Amendment of Sections 2 and 6)	
by Shri Anant Kumar Hegde	532
ELECTORAL REFORMS COMMISSION BILL, 2006	533—572
Motion to consider	533
Shri Kharabela Swain	533—540
Shri Mohan Singh	540—545
Shri Gurudas Dasgupta	545—549
Shri Sandeep Dikshit	549—556
Dr. K.S Manoj	556—559
Shri Satyanarayan Jatiya	560—565
Shri B. Mahtab	565—571
Prof. M. Ramadass	571—572
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	
49th Report	560
ANNEXURE-I	
Member-wise Index to Starred Questions	575
Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	576—582
ANNEXURE-II	
Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions	583—584
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	583—584

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

THE SPEAKER
Shri Somnath Chatterjee

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER
Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN
Shri Giridhar Gamang
Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya
Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan
Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey
Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan
Shri Arjun Sethi
Shri Mohan Singh
Shrimati Krishna Tirath
Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav

SECRETARY GENERAL
Shri P.D.T. Achary

LOK SABHA

Friday, April 25, 2008/Vaisakha 5, 1930 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I would like to bring to your notice... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you after Question Hour.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the situation is very grave there... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I know the importance of the matter, Mr. Acharya. After Question Hour, I will allow you.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, it is a very grave matter... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you.

[Translation]

What difference does it make in one hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker Sir. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Malhotra, I will allow you after Question Hour. I have requested Mr. Dhindsa and he has agreed. I request you that let the Question Hour go on. I earnestly appeal to all of you to please allow the Question Hour. I am not minimizing the importance of the matter. An impression has grown in this country that disruption of Parliament makes your point important. I know that you want the Parliament to carry on with the business.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not listen to me, what can I do?

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Government is not listening. The Government is indifferent... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: After the Question Hour, I will allow the hon. Members to raise their important matters.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, this should be the first issue... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is there in first and second.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Already three minutes of the Question Hour have gone.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, after Question Hour, this should be the first issue... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: After Question Hour, I will allow you. I have committed myself to you. What more can I do?

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What will I do. I cannot go there. I want to go there. Please lead me to that place.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. C. Krishnan, please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not record one word of any hon. Member who is speaking without my permission.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 461, Shri K.S. Rao—Not present.

[Translation]

Rajgopal ji, you please ask supplementary question.

---

*Not recorded.

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Jurisdiction of MRTP Commission

*461. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is some overlapping in the jurisdiction of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) and the Competition Commission of India in the matter of regulation and investigation of fraudulent practices in the corporate sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Competition Act, 2002, as amended, (the 'Act') has been enacted, *inter alia*, to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect the interests of consumers and to ensure freedom of trade carried on by other participants in markets, in India, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Act provides for setting up of the Competition Commission of India, the Competition Appellate Tribunal and the appointment of a Director General for the purposes of assisting the Commission in conducting inquiry into contravention of any of the provisions of the Act and for performing other functions under the Act.

The Competition Act, 2002, as amended, is intended to provide more comprehensive regulation of competition in markets in keeping with the changes and developments in the national and international economy and replace the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act (MRTP), 1969 (54 of 1969), which was enacted to provide that the operation of the economic system did not result in the concentration of economic power to the common detriment, for the control of monopolies, for the prohibition of monopolistic and restrictive trade practices, etc.

With the coming into force of the relevant provisions of the Competition Act, 2002, the MRTP Act, 1969 would stand repealed and the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) established under the MRTP Act, 1969 shall stand dissolved. However, the MRTPC may continue to exercise jurisdiction and power under the repealed Act for a period of two years from the date of commencement of the relevant provisions of the Competition Act, 2002, as amended, in respect of all cases or proceedings filed before the commencement of the Competition Act as if the MRTP Act, 1969 had not been repealed. During this period of two years, the MRTPC would, however, not take up any fresh cases under the MRTP Act, 1969. Once MRTPC is wound up as above, the residual cases under consideration with MRTPC or under investigation or alleged violations of the MRTP Act, 1969 would be transferred to appropriate regulatory bodies in accordance with the provisions of the Competition Act, 2002, as amended. As such, no overlapping of jurisdiction between MRTPC and the competition Commission is perceived.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Mr. Speaker Sir, we have been witnessing, day in and day out, price rise in all essential commodities. In every sector, including, steel, cement, and power, the prices are sky-rocketing today. In fact, that is the reason and it is important, today in the modern India, especially with the advent of privatization, that Competition Act gets more teeth and more powers and comes into force immediately.

Sir, after so many legal tangles, this Government has passed the Competition Act 2007, but it has not so far notified it. The problem is the concept of dominance of cartalisation has been taken away from MRTPC and placed on the CCI.

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question, please.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: But since the Competition Act has not been notified, the MRTPC is not able to take any action. It means, now we do not have any legal action against cartalisation.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister how he is planning to address this problem till the Competition Act is notified.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Sir, the Competition Commission of India was established on 14th October 2003, but because of the legal tangles in Supreme Court, the Commission could not be made fully functional. Now, all the steps have been taken and I hope that very soon we will see that the Commission starts functioning.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, of course, I am not quite satisfied with the answer because as of now, in the absence of notification, MRTPC cannot take up any new cases and the new cases cannot go to the MRTPC. There is no competition.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why he says that there are some legal complications, but it will be done now.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, what I am saying is that today there is no mechanism. Today, in fact, all of us, including our Left Front colleagues have been agitating against the price rise and this is the result of the absence of the notification of the Act.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the reasons for not empowering the Competition Commission to deal with competition issues in the regulated sector.

The best corporate tradition of the other countries is that the Competition Authority has a power to deal with all the behavioural issues while the specific regulator deals with the structural issues in the regulated sector. So, I wish to know from the hon. Minister as to why CCI is denied this power.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Sir, we have CCI, we have sectoral regulators, and in case the Competition Commission of India feels that there are certain issues related to competition, they can consult them, they can refer to them and get their report. Between the sectoral regulator and the Competition Commission of India, they can exchange their views. In fact, there is nothing like that there is any intentional delay, and because of some legal tangles, it could not be made functional.

MR. SPEAKER: You have said that.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, one of the provisions of the Competition Act is to protect the interest of the consumers. But till the Competition Commission is put in place, there were a lot of complaints about cartelization, first by the cement industry, and later by others. The latest one is the cartelization by the steel industry, which has been admitted by a section of the Government. I say 'a section of the Government' because the Finance Minister is openly saying that cartelization is taking place in respect of steel but the Steel Ministry, and the Steel Minister himself is coming out in public and saying that there is no cartelization. I would like to know as to what is the position of the Competition Commission, which is saying, "In such a situation, I am toothless, I am nothing to do when the two Ministries are differing on cartelization."

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is not functioning at all.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Sir, as of today, the Competition Commission of India is not functional. The hon. Member should understand that it is not functional today. When it becomes functional, of course, the Competition Commission of India will take necessary steps. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: What will they do in the interim situation? ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: They will either agree with the Finance Minister or with the Steel Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Q. 462—Shri Haribhau Rathod.

Loan Waiver Scheme for Farmers

+

*462. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has issued guidelines to the various banks to implement the loan waiver scheme for farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the guidelines are likely to be followed by banks;

(c) whether the Government has received any memorandum from the public for the modification in the above scheme; and

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

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

Statement

(a) and (b) The guidelines which are in the process of being drafted will be issued by Reserve Bank of India

(RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to enable completion of implementation of the debt waiver and debt relief scheme by June 30, 2008.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The suggestions broadly relate to:

i. varying the land holding criteria taking into account the irrigation status or productivity;

ii. doing away with the land holding criteria;

iii. inclusion of those farmers in the scheme who have taken loans from moneylenders; and

iv. extension of the benefits of the debt waiver/ debt relief scheme to farmers who have paid their loans in time.

These suggestions are under examination.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not satisfied with the written reply given by the hon'ble Minister. Loan waiver sheme for farmers was announced on 29 February in this House with much fanfare. Immediately thereafter on the next day hoardings were placed all over the country publicizing Rs. 60 thousand crore loan waiver of farmers. Two months have elapsed since then, however, till now RBI or NABARD have not prepared any guidelines in this regard. The farmers of the entire country are worried on account of this. When the scheme was announced, the guidelines in this regard were also announed at that time. If the guidelines are accepted as it is, only 15 per cent farmers are going to be benefited on account of this. It has been mentioned in it as loan distributed upto 31st March, 2007 and loan outstanding as on 31st December, 2007, however, it should have been that. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You had asked about the guidelines and the hon'ble Minister has given its reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: The clause relating to loan outstanding is very difficult. There will be misunderstanding. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The scheme has not yet been launched and irregularities took place before hand.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Whatever loan is outstanding on the day when the hon'ble Minister had announced should be the criteria and not the third or fourth criteria. Now the farmers have no faith in the announcements of the Government *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your supplementary now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your supplementary questions.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Recently, the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sharad Pawar has said in Maharashtra that now the loan of the money lenders as well *...(Interruptions).* That is why it is happening. Now neither banks nor the money lenders are giving loans where as after one month next preparation is to be done. The guidelines are not being given. In this situation where will farmers go? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. Let the Minister give reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: I have not yet completed my question. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If your question is not complete will we remain sitting here?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: 12 People have died in my constituency during the last three days. It is a very serious issue. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Are you asking the questions or not?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: My specific question to hon'ble Minister is this *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Till now, you have not even thought what question do you want to put?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: I would like to know the date on which the guidelines will be issued by the Government. The Government should give specific date on which the guidelines will be issued.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: After speaking for five minutes, he has asked one simple question.

[Translation]

He has already mentioned about it in reply.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I think, the apprehensions raised by the hon. Member are completely unjustified. In the Budget Speech, in paragraph 73, I had stated quite clearly that the loans will be waived by June 30, 2008.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. Probably, he has not read the answer.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I stand by that statement. Please wait till June 30, 2008. By June 30, 2008, the loans will be waived.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have deliberately taken March, April, May and June as a four-month period in order to hold consultations, to receive suggestions and to draft the guidelines. I still have a lot of time. So, I repeat my assurance that by June 30, 2008, as announced in the Budged Speech, the loans will be waived.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask second Supplementary.

[Translation]

Do you have your second supplementary question?

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Mr. Speaker Sir, the farmers have broadly suggested for varying the land holding criteria taking into account the irrigation status or productivity, doing away with the land holding criteria, inclusion of those farmers in the scheme who have taken loans from money lenders and extension of the benefit of loan waiver scheme to the farmers who have paid their loans in time. Now the demand of the farmers regarding the loans. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, I would not allow this. You cannot go on making a speech on this.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister will reply only if you ask a question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: My question is that recently hon'ble Sonia Ji had announced in Sangali and Usmanabad, Maharashtra that. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not relevant.

[Translation]

You ask about the Government.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: The Government is running under her leadership. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. Dr. Chinta Mohan.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will you not allow me to ask question? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will show you on T.V. what you are doing?

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not need television. Lakhs of people of my constituency see me without the help of television. Land holding in Vidarbha. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Then it is fine. There is no rule to relay it. We shlal show your performance.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Let me talk about the farmers at least. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please, do not lecture to me.

*...(Interruptions)**

---

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Everything will be deleted.

[Translation]

Please delete everything.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Chinta Mohan–Not present.

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister and as he must be aware that no bank is disbursing loans to the farmers owing to the dues outstanding till December 2007, March 2008, since as long as the payments are not made, banks treat it as default. I would request the hon. Minister to issue instructions to the banks for the speedy disbursal of the loan amount since the farmers are in dire need of loans for the crops.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is when the guidelines would be issued?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: What the guidelines will do, they have stopped giving loans to the farmers.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, there need be no apprehension in this behalf. All banks have been sensitised to announcement made in the Budget Speech. We will finalise the guidelines in consultations with the RBI and NABARD; and these guidelines will be issued. The loans will be waived as announced in the Budget Speech. If there are still any apprehensions in the minds of sections of the people that the banks are not giving loans pending the guidelines, please do not worry. I have called the Chairmen and Managing Directors of all the banks on the 1st May, and I will impress upon them that normal lending operations should continue and these guidelines will be issued.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Minister, you have given relief to the farmers holding an area up to 2 hectares but the rate of suicide by farmers is still very high, especially in Maharashtra. So, do you propose to raise this limit up to five hectares?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, every suggestion that has been received in this behalf is under examination.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Sir, in my State Kerala, there was a mobilization process undertaken by the co-operative banks.

MR. SPEAKER: This is for preparation of guidelines.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: In that process, most of the loans, which were all overdue, were recovered. At that time, the Loan Waiver Scheme of the Central Government was announced. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether those loans, which were restructured, would get the benefit out this Loan Waiver Scheme.

MR. SPEAKER: It would be considered.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I cannot answer one way or the other. The announcement made in the Budget speech was that the loan should remain unpaid on 29th of February, 2008. But if the hon. Member wishes to make a suggestion, I will certainly consider it.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you send it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that Bundelkhand is the most backward area of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The loan waiver announced in the budget is grossly insufficient for the farmers of that area. I would like to know whether any special scheme of loan waiver is being prepared for the Bundelkhand region?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: All I can say is, every suggestion will be considered. But I can only do what is doable and what is affordable. I have great sympathy for those who suffer under special circumstances. I will consider every suggestion with an open mind. But I can only do what is doable and what is affordable.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, a good number of farmers, both marginal and poor, has already made partial payment of their outstanding loans. I would like to know whether they would be covered by the Loan Waiver Scheme or not.

MR. SPEAKER: The Finance Minister will consider it.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Sir, I had requested for allotting me time to raise the problems faced by farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: I have allotted time to all the parties.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Sir, this is farmers' related issue, but you have not given me time to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right. You will come to realize it.

[English]

RGGVY

*463. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana received by the Government from various States, State-wise during the last three years;

(b) the number out of them sanctioned, till date;

(c) whether the Government proposes to modify the Yojana with a view to accelerate the electrification of villages; and

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

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

Statement

(a) Rural Electrification Corporation so far has received 614 proposals under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana from various states. State-wise details are enclosed as Annexure-I.

(b) 551 proposals have been approved by the Monitoring Committee on Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana as on 10.04.2008. State-wise details are enclosed as Annexure-II.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Annexure I

State-wise details of DPRs received under RGGVY

Sl.No.	Name of State	Total No. of Projects received	Total No. of Districts involved	Villages covered for Household Electrification				No. of habitations covered	No. of Rural households (Including BPL HH)	No. of BPL HHs	Total Cost of Project (Rs. crore)
				No. of un-electrified villages	No. of electrified villages	No. of electrified villages	Total No. of villages				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26	22	0	0	27481	27481	76375	3954128	2592140	840.09
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16	16	1798	331	1756	33885	349	76407	40810	550.76
3.	Assam	23	23	4439	4086	13330	21855	43476	1460598	991656	1660.01
4.	Bihar	44*	38	17482	13685	14923	46090	65572	13429032	5421681	4927.47
5.	Chhattisgarh	16	897	80	17012	17989	37099	1275904	1275904	753010	1224.74
6.	Gujarat	25	25	0	0	17934	17934	15923	1595853	955150	360.44
7.	Haryana	18	18	0	0	5985	5985	9139	569686	224073	197.40
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12	12	94	0	10666	10760	10306	36479	12448	293.05
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	14	198	141	6106	6445	23330	306290	139512	636.30
10.	Jharkhand	22	22	16965	2772	7622	27359	80429	2926260	1691797	2683.92
11.	Karnataka	27	26	132	0	28818	28950	47625	2022716	916447	634.35
12.	Kerala	14	14	0	0	1077	1077	1847	458248	206741	321.01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13.	Madhya pradesh	48	48	566	454	48385	49405	48138	3730283	1803617	2545.91
14.	Maharashtra	34	34	6	0	40292	40298	56274	2633742	1876391	713.44
15.	Manipur	6	6	253	446	727	1426	772	107814	67346	229.41
16.	Meghalaya	7	7	1573	370	3536	5479	4611	188648	116447	290.42
17.	Mizoram	8	8	42	95	570	707	707	44334	27417	104.25
18.	Nagaland	11	11	57	42	965	1064	1296	118576	59611	91.95
19.	Orissa	31	30	13662	4233	28992	46887	63023	4746028	3185863	3578.69
20.	Punjab	17	17	0	0	11840	11840	2802	405023	* 148960	154.59
21.	Rajasthan	41	32	807	3655	33484	37496	32168	2233010	1708166	1091.57
22.	Sikkim	4	4	25	0	418	443	1700	28166	11458	57.11
23.	Tamil Nadu	29	29	0	0	13137	13137	74498	1887943	585015	485.60
24.	Tripura	4	4	160	0	642	802	5952	228759	194730	131.47
25.	Uttar Pradesh	71	65	29725	1077	26293	57095	63928	2860271	1655532	4834.05
26.	Uttaranchal	13	13	787	682	141065	15574	24510	357309	281615	643.89
27.	West Bengal	33	18	4607	74	32658	37339	87931	5754035	3248677	3246.67
	Total	614	572	94275	32223	408754	535252	879780	53435542	28916210	32528.57

N.B. *One DPR of West Champaran withdrawn by NHPC/BSEB as another DPR covering electrification of 392 un-electrified besides intensive electrification of 374 already electrified villages of district has been sanctioned for execution during 11th Plan period.

2. Two DPRs of Manipur and one DPR of UP were received after identification of projects for execution during phase I of 11th Plan period under capital subsidy of Rs. 2800 crores. Project of west Midnapur neither in Phase-I nor in Phase-II of 11th plan has been sanctioned by Monitoring Committee in its meeting held on 28.03.08.

Annexure II

State-wise Projects sanctioned for execution under RGGVY

(As on 10.4.2008)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Nos.	Villages covered for household electrification under the project				Habitations covered for household electrification under the project			Total No. of households to be provided access to electricity (incl. BPL)	Total No. of connections proposed to be released to rural households (incl. BPL HH)	No. of BPL HHs to be electrified under the project	Revised project cost due to enhanced BPL cost and agency charges (Rs. in crores)
			No. of un-electrified villages	No. of de-electrified villages	No. of electrified villages	Total No. of villages covered for household electrification	No. of un-electrified habitations to be electrified for household electrification	No. of electrified habitations covered for electrification	Total No. of habitation covered under the project				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26	0	0	27481	27481	14334	62041	76375	4361571	3954128	2592140	840.09
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	15	1768	314	1657	3739	169	159	313	69892	69727	37702	515.07

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3.	Assam	23	4439	4086	13330	21855	27893	15583	43476	3212026	1460598	991656	1660.01
4.	Bihar*	43	13632	9579	6651	29862	32046	4422	36468	6471422	6048602	2762455	3003.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	11	170	59	13352	13581	5581	10940	16521	1064448	982599	489104	569.70
6.	Gujarat	25	0	0	17934	17934	1013	14910	15923	1676055	1595853	955150	360.44
7.	Haryana	18	0	0	5985	5985	2050	7089	9139	608157	569686	224073	197.40
8.	Himachal Pradesh	10	24	0	10216	10240	217	9569	9786	42384	34367	12216	191.14
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	13	197	141	5937	6275	7573	14476	22049	312550	289261	135402	618.98
10.	Jharkhand	22	16965	2772	7622	27359	66635	13794	80429	3183410	2926260	1691797	2683.92
11.	Karnataka	24	132	0	27895	28027	12723	26474	39197	1836403	1836403	852270	561.71
12.	Kerala	1	0	0	38	38	81	0	81	69169	23799	17834	19.76
13.	Madhya pradesh	29	509	281	31731	32521	10562	23201	33763	3124160	2394440	1312143	1413.52
14.	Maharashtra	34	6	0	40292	40298	4758	51516	56274	5640370	2633742	1876391	713.44
15.	Manipur	4	159	336	727	1222	312	393	705	79524	76267	49188	155.77
16.	Meghalaya	7	1573	370	3536	5479	1524	3087	4611	214868	188648	116447	290.42
17.	Mizoram	8	42	95	570	707	115	592	707	44334	44334	27417	104.25
18.	Nagaland	11	57	42	965	1064	744	552	1296	118576	118576	59611	91.95
19.	Orissa	31	13662	4233	28992	46887	38073	24950	63023	5283178	4746028	3185863	3578.69
20.	Punjab	17	0	0	11840	11840	0	2802	2802	405023	405023	148860	154.59
21.	Rajasthan	40	807	2987	32254	36048	8233	23898	32131	4377679	2112623	1639644	998.68
22.	Sikkim	4	25	0	418	443	190	1510	1700	29674	28166	11458	57.11
23.	Tamil Nadu	26			12416	12416	9130	59548	68678	1703610	1692235	545511	447.41
24.	Tripura	4	160	0	642	802	2349	3603	5952	344036	228759	194730	131.47
25.	Uttar Pradesh	64	29725	1077	3287	34089	39393	0	39393	1881852	1694075	1120648	2719.52
26.	Uttaranchal	13	787	682	14105	15574	20381	4129	24510	984647	357309	281615	643.89
27.	West Bengal	28	4499	74	24775	29348	6251	55592	60501	4432005	4000142	2738721	2321.70
	Total	551	89338	27128	344648	461114	312330	434830	745803	51591023	40511650	24070046	25043.58

*Project cost sanctioned for Muzaffarpur and Vaishali is provisional.

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Hon. Speaker, Sir, still there are a number of villages to be electrified in the country. In some cases, the main villages have been electrified but unfortunately, the hamlets of the main villages have been left over. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether these unelectrified hamlets of electrified villages are going to be included under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidhyutikaran Yojana.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: When I replied in the last Session, some of the colleagues in this House made a reference that the norm of '300 habitations' of the hamlet be reduced to 100. This was the suggestion that was made. I am happy to mention here that now we have made it compulsory, and we have reduced the size of the population from 300 to '100 and above', and now henceforth hamlets with '100 and above' population will be electrified in the country.

You know that a number of times I have mentioned in the beginning, in the Tenth Plan when the Scheme was started in the month of May, 2005 that our projection was 1,25,000 villages to be electrified, and so far we have electrified 47,826 villages in the country.

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: As the Central Government is aware, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken up a massive housing programme for the BPL families both in the rural and urban areas under the Indramma Programme. The target is about 80 lakh houses to be brought to a saturation point. After this programme, no poor person will be left over without a house. All these colonies are going to be electrified or have to be electrified. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to include all these colonies under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidhyutikaran Yojana. If so, what is the action taken by the Government?

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, these are the two schemes. One scheme is of the Government of Andhra Pradesh which is running under the name of INDIRAMMA, named after Shrimati Indira Gandhi who was the Prime Minister of this country. The second scheme is running under the Government of India which is named Rajeev Gandhi Grameen Vidhyutikaran Yojana. Both the mother and the son were the Prime Ministers of this country. In their remembrance we have floated these schemes. I assure the hon. Member that the proposals that we have been receiving from Andhra Pradesh Government will be done and no one in the country will be sitting there without electrification in the villages.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir you have received 48 proposals from the Government of Madhya Pradesh, out of which 29 proposals have been sanctioned and 19 are pending for approval. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he would take immediate action to expedite approval for the remaining 19 proposals after discussing with the officers concerned in Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: A little work is left to be finished in the rural electrification sector even in Madhya Pradesh. We had held a meeting with the officers there and are in touch with them. I have said in the House just now that no village would remain without electrification. We shall certianly discuss it further with the Madhya Pradesh officers. There is a slight difference as they have grossly inflated the cost of the project. We are trying to coordinate with them as per our norms. We shall discuss it and try to bring improvements.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chhewang Thupstan—not present.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, the hon. Minister has been very categorically stating that not a single household or habitation will be bereft of any electrification. While going through his answer I notice that the total DPR which has been received from respective States comes to around Rs. 32,528 crore and the amount that has been sanctioned till date is around Rs. 25,043 crore. There is a shortfall of around Rs. 7,000 crore. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how are we going to meet this target. Secondly, I want to know–because such large sums of money which is flowing into the States, and different stakeholders are involved in electrification work — whether you will engage or utilize the services of Member of Parliament for monitoring this project.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, there is no dearth of money as far as this scheme is concerned. You must have seen that in the Tenth Plan, an amount of Rs. 5,000 crore has been given by the Government. I have mentioned in this House that in the Eleventh Plan, after the recommendation of the Planning Commission, the Government has given Rs. 28,000 crore for this scheme. Even after that, I have been assured that there will not be dearth of money for this scheme and we will get

money for the schemes in the entire country. For that you should not worry.

Sir, the hon. Member is very much interested in monitoring this. I have appealed in this House that if every electrified village is monitored by our hon. Members, it will be useful. We have said to put up a board of 'Rajeev Gandhi Grameen Vidhyutikaran Scheme' on the transformer and also in the village. If such a board has been put up, that means that a complete village has been electrified. So, it will be helpful to us. If such suggestions come or if complaints come, I will take cognizance of it.

MR. SPEAKER: Every Minister is putting obligation on the MP. Do not put too much.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme is a good programme.

MR. SPEAKER: Well said!

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, please ask question now.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: However, there are so many major lacunae in it. God knows, who implement the projects, which have been sanctioned in other parts of the country; however, Power Grid Corporation is performing this task in Bihar. Half of the villages in each division have been selected for this purpose. There are several such villages which have been electrified on paper, these villages have been scheduled to the third phase. 25 KVA transformers are being installed in the areas being electrified which are not able to bear the load. It is charged in the morning and gets discharged in the evening. In the light of all these shortcomings, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he proposes to increase the capacity of the 25 KVA transformer which is incapable of bearing the load. The maintenance of some grid stations has been entrusted to the State Government. There is no staff or a technical person and consequently the supply of electricity is disrupted. Would take any action on these issues?

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: It is true that at some places power generation is low owing to which the power supply in 400 KVA load is interrupted. Electricity has not been produced in Bihar in the last 10 years that is why there is shortage. We have now taken a decision that if any State requires electricity for rural areas it will have to give us in writing and we will only cover that State under the scheme if it supplies 6 to 8 hours electricity in the village. We have taken a decision to this effect and we also signed an agreement. We have decided to increase the capacity by 80,000 Megawatt and today we have issued orders for producing 73,000 Megawatt. I would like to give this assurance that if 11,500 Megawatt of captive power is included in that then we will be comfortable with the 11th Plan and will not face such problems. I felt very glad to inform the House that power through various sources is being generated for the first time in the country.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, what was the question and what is the answer. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has already stated that power will be supplied to all, you are also covered.

[English]

The last supplementary on this Question by Shri S. Ajaya Kumar.

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: The proposals submitted by the State of Kerala under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidhyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) are yet to be cleared.

MR. SPEAKER: We are going very slowly today. Only three Questions have been covered till now. I would not allow any more supplementary on this Question.

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the reasons for the same, and when these will be cleared.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Can the hon. Member repeat his Question?

MR. SPEAKER: What is your Question?

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: The proposals submitted by the State of Kerala under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidhyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) are yet to be cleared. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the reasons for the same, and when these proposals will be cleared.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: The proposals received from Kerala will be cleared. Sometimes the cost in the DPRs is much more, and that is the reason we are examining it. There are norms to be fixed up, and if it goes beyond the norms, then we are discussing all these issues with the concerned Governments.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 464 is postponed till 9th.

*464.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 465, Shri Chandrabhan Singh.

[Translation]

Allocation of Power of States

+

*465. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH:
SHRI M. APPADURAI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the quantum of allocation of power to various States from the unallocated portion of power from the Central pool during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for variation in the quantum of allocation to various States;

(c) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government to allocate additional power from the Central pool to bridge the increasing gap between the demand and the supply of power in their States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) to (d) The allocation of power from Central Generating Stations is done in two parts, firm and unallocated. The firm allocation to the beneficiaries generally remains unchanged, unless it is surrendered by any beneficiary or the beneficiary is not able to clear the requisite dues to the concerned Central Power Sector Undertakings. Unallocated power is provided on a dynamic basis to meet the seasonal and emergent needs of States/ UTs. Most States and UTs have been facing power shortages. Requests for additional allocation of unallocated power are received from time to time at various fora. The unallocated power of Central Generating Stations being limited and fixed, any modifications are possible only through adjustment of allocation generally within the States/UTs in the region, keeping in view the emergent or seasonal nature of the request, the relative power supply position, utilization of existing generation resources, performance and payment capacity.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister the details of the quantum of allocation of power to various States from central pool during each year of the last three years, statewise and the reasons for various in the allocation to various states.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, I would provide the figure of various states in writing. I have got the figures but it would take ten minutes. Therefore, I would provide it in writing.

SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the statewise allocation. Madhya Pradesh was allocated 400 mw of power from central pool, but now discriminatory attitude is being adopted with Madhya Pradesh. Whether certain state Gvoernments have requested the Central Government to allocate more power from central pool in order to bridge the gap between demand and supply in their respective states.

If so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: There is 4836 mw power available in the undeveloped capacity central sector in the country. It comprises 1538 mw for norrthern states, 1226 mw far western states, 1085 mw for southern states, 804 mw for eastern states and 183 mw for north-eastern states. It all comes at 4836 mw for allocated quota of central utility. The peak shortage of Madhya Pradesh is 999 mw and allocated of power is 247 mw. Comparatively, it is right. we review this situation regularly because we have to provide power to all the states and we have to provide power to a states by deducting it from other states. Therefore, we have suggested that all states should generate power since it come in the concurrent list. Then the problem would not recure.

[English]

SHRI M. APPADURAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I congratulate the Minister for granting 1,000 MW

---

*The Question was postponed for 9th May, 2008. However, the House adjourned *sine die* on 5th May, 2008 and the Question was treated as lapsed.

generation capacity for Tutucorin. My question is, what is the criterion for allocating power from the Central Unallocated Quota of power? Does it depend upon the size or population of the State? On what basis is it allocated?

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: It is a very good question because the answer will satisfy the hon. Member. in thermal and hydro electric projects the home State quota is 10 per cent (not free) from thermal and 12 per cent free power respectively. The Central Unallocated Quota is 15 per cent each from thermal and hydro projects. Allocations of firm power depends on the relative consumption for the last five years. That comes to 37.5 per cent for the thermal and 36.5 per cent for hydro. The Central Plan Allocation to the State as per the Gadgil formula comes to 37.5 per cent for thermal projects and 36.5 per cent for hydro projects. That is because in the thermal projects there is 10 per cent quota for some State and from the hydro projects 12 per cent free power is given to the affected State. This is how the division is made to allot the Central quota to the States.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, since April, 2007 there has been a cut of 183 MW from the Unallocated Pool share that has been received by Kerala. The summer peak load requirement of Kerala is 2,800 MW whereas the State's own generation plus the allocation from the Centre amounts to only 2,400 MW. So, there is a clear shortage of 400 MW during the summer season. Also, from the Ultra Mega and Mega projects that are there in the Southern Region Kerala's rightful share is 1,200 MW whereas the allotment that has been made is only 200 MW. Kerala is going to face a very stiff power crisis this summer. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether at least the allotted share that was there from the Central Unallocated Pool be restored as far as Kerala is concerned, and also whether Kerala will get its rightful share from the Ultra Mega and Mega projects.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: This power to be given from the Unallocated Quota is restricted to the Southern Region only which includes the four States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. We have to cut from some State and give to the other according to the need. A number of times we have given to Kerala and to Tamil Nadu also. But whenever there is a need we will certainly give it considering the difficulty.

But the ultra mega project has not been in existence at the moment. Those projects will come in the 12th Plan. We will have to wait. The best way is to have capacity addition in the States.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Abu Ayes Mondal.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mondal, are you there?

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way. If you have something else to ask, you can write to the Minister or meet him personally.

SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned in his written reply that most States and Union Territories have been facing power shortage. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the total installed generation capacity of State sector and the electricity generation during 2007-08 from the State sector so that the shortage can be understood.

MR. SPEAKER: You can send the particulars to him.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I had to ask a supplementary question.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing happens by merely asking.

[English]

I have allowed four Members to put supplementary. Now I would not allow any Member. This is only the third question.

Inflation

*466. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the economy is expanding a serious inflationary trend in the last few months;

---

*Not recorded.

(b) if so, the details of the commodities that have mainly contributed to the inflationary trend;

(c) the details of the inflation rate for the last one year on quarterly basis;

(d) whether this will have a bearing on the economic growth;

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

(f) the details of the steps taken by the Government to control the inflation rate so far?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) WPI based inflation remained below 4 per cent from September, 2007 to December 2007, it increased to 4.5 per cent in January 2008, 4.6 per cent in February, 2008 and reached 6.4 per cent (provisional) in March 2008. Inflation (provisional) for the latest week ended on April 5, 2008 was 7.14 per cent. Thirty three commodities with a weight of 25.9 per cent in WPI contributed 80.0 per cent of the overall inflation of 7.14 per cent is given in the Annexure enclosed.

(c) Quarterly average inflation along with the contribution for major groups during 2007-08 is indicated in the table 1.

Table 1: Quarterly inflation and contribution to overall inflation (%)

Commodities	Year	2007-08							
		Inflation (%) (year-on-year)				Contribution (%)			
	Weight	April-Jun	July-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	April-Jun	July-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
All commodities	100.0	5.4	4.1	3.4	5.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Primary Group	22.0	9.8	8.9	4.7	5.9	39.9	47.6	30.9	26.0
Fuel Group	14.2	0.3	-2.0	0.5	5.0	1.2	-11.1	3.1	21.1
Manufactured Group	63.7	5.7	4.8	4.1	4.9	58.7	63.7	66.1	53.1

(d) to (f) Anti-inflationary policies of the government include fiscal discipline, rationalization of duties of essential items, effective supply-demand management of essential commodities through liberal tariff and trade policies, and procurement through public sector agencies. Supplementing government's efforts, the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy aims to support economic growth while containing inflationary expectations arising out of uncertainties in domestic and international environment. Though the measures to contain inflation may result in some moderation in economic growth, it is the endeavour of the Government to sustain the current momentum of high growth with price stability.

Annexure

Commodities with highest contribution to Inflation (per cent)

Items	Weight	Rate of Inflation		Contribution to inflation	
		07-Apr-2007	05-Apr-2008	07-Apr-2007	05-Apr-2008
1	2	3	4	5	6
All Commodities	100.00	6.4	7.1	100.0	100.0
Primary Articles	22.03	12.4	7.7	41.1	24.7

1	2	3	4	5	6
Fuel and Power	14.23	1.1	6.8	3.9	20.4
Manufactured Products	63.75	6.5	7.0	55.3	54.9
Commodities with highest contribution					
Bars & rods	1.24	5.1	29.4	1.2	6.2
Iron ore	0.21	16.9	52.9	1.9	5.8
Naphtha	0.42	4.5	34.1	0.9	5.8
Decilled cake	1.04	48.4	35.7	5.6	5.5
Billets & slabs	0.66	0.1	43.6	0.0	5.3
Milk	4.37	8.4	8.7	5.4	5.1
Furnace oil	0.49	-6.7	35.1	-1.1	4.4
Acid (all kinds)	0.35	-23.5	107.4	-1.4	4.3
Foundary Pig iron	0.26	14.7	61.3	0.7	2.7
Rice	2.45	6.1	7.8	2.0	2.3
Basic pig Iron	0.19	14.7	61.3	0.5	2.1
High speed disel oil	2.02	0.0	3.4	0.0	2.1
Angles, channels & sections	0.27	4.8	39.8	0.3	2.0
Non-coking coal	1.40	0.0	9.1	0.0	2.0
Raw Cotton	1.36	24.3	11.9	3.3	1.9
Heavy Ligh structurals	0.18	13.2	43.0	0.5	1.7
Rape/Mustard oil	0.49	15.5	28.9	0.9	1.7
Soyabean	0.45	22.5	34.0	1.1	1.6
Bitumen	0.15	12.8	39.5	0.6	1.6
Rape/mustard seed	0.58	17.3	21.7	1.3	1.6
Oromild steel & tensile plates	0.31	7.7	25.8	0.5	1.4
Groundnut seed	1.03	43.2	9.1	5.2	1.4
Aviation turbine fuel	0.17	-2.1	51.3	-0.1	1.4
Blooms	0.15	0.1	43.6	0.0	1.3
Wheat	1.38	6.5	5.6	2.2	1.1
Other Iron Steel	0.10	11.0	67.1	0.2	1.1

1	2	3	4	5	6
Cement	1.73	12.2	4.5	3.0	1.1
Truck chassis (diesel)	0.84	2.7	10.4	0.3	1.0
Wire (all kinds)	0.16	5.2	30.7	0.2	1.0
Rice bran oil	0.26	22.5	28.3	0.7	1.0
Soda Ash	0.30	3.6	26.7	0.1	0.9
Vanaspati	0.80	7.9	11.0	0.7	0.8
Heavy rails (23 kg. upwards)	0.15	13.9	33.0	0.3	0.8
Total	25.9			37.0	80.0

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, there is no need to explain in this very House–everybody knows and people are witnessing and experiencing–that very deep and very serious inflationary trend is going on in our country.

MR. SPEAKER: We all know that. Please put your question.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Time and again the hon. Minister and the Government have declared that it is under control and that all possible steps are being taken in this regard. Even today, the price is going up in the market. May I know from the hon. Minister what stringent action is being taken to control the prices and the inflation rate in the country?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, only last week we had a full scale discussion. Both I and the Minister of Agriculture replied to the debate and explained the number of steps that are being taken. I have explained the fiscal measures that have been taken. The monetary measures are being taken by the Reserve Bank of India. I have assured the House that a number of administrative measures are also under contemplation. The Minister of Agriculture in his turn explained the steps taken to augment the supply. Thankfully, the wheat production for 2007-08 has been very good and procurement is also very good. The first report on monsoon is a very positive report. Therefore, we hope that the kharif also will be very good.

All these steps will take time to have an impact on the market. Meanwhile, of course, the behaviour of some players in the market leaves much to be desired. We have noticed for example day before yesterday traders of Delhi joined together to say that no searches should be conducted and no action should be taken against them. They have the indirect support of some political parties. That is very unfortunate.

Administrative measures are being contemplated and they will be taken. In the meanwhile, heeding to the Prime Minister's appeal, it is reported that steel companies have agreed that despite increase in input cost they will hold the price line for the next two to three months. We are taking every possible measure that is within the power of the Government. But, as I said, we must be patient. We must take whatever steps have to be taken. I am confident that inflation will moderate over a period of time. Inflation, as we said in the debate, today is largely driven by international prices of commodities. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Why the international prices are quoted all the time? ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It is much better. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not reply to him. Mr. Finance Minister, do not reply to the interruptions made.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It is possible that some Members do not wish to keep their eyes and ears open

to what is happening internationally. They are focused on traders of Delhi. I cannot help it. The point is that these are the measures which will take effect over a period of time and I assure you that every suggestion is being considered and every measure within the power of the Government is being taken.

MR. SPEAKER: We had a full discussion on this.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, even right now the hon. Minister has mentioned and the statistics of the Government also show that the agricultural production is increasing in this kharif crop. In comparison to last year, the statistics show that there is an increase of 1.5 per cent in the agricultural production. I am quoting from the statistics of the Government only. On the one side, the agricultural production is increasing and at the same time the prices are going up. It is the reality. The Government is not intervening in the market and their policies are destroying the Public Distribution System of the country. This is one of the most important factors which is responsible for the price rise and higher inflation rate.

I would like to know from the Government what are the difficulties in enforcing the PDS in the country. The Government should restore supply of food grains which has been cut in some States, including Kerala and West Bengal.

MR. SPEAKER: This is more than a question.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I deny the suggestion that the UPA Government has reduced the allocation to the PDS. Numbers have been given and the numbers speak for themselves. The highest allocation of both wheat and rice in terms of offtake from the PDS during the NDA period was 239 lakh tonnes. In the three years for which figures are available of the UPA Government, the number is 303 lakh tonnes, 310 lakh tonnes, and 313 lakh tonnes. For 2007-08, the full figure is not yet available and it will be made available by the Ministry of Agriculture. We are allocating, on an average, over 300 lakh tonnes, that is the number which is staring at our face, which is the offtake from PDS compared to 239 lakh tonnes which was the highest offtake in the previous six years.

Now if more have to be given to the PDS, I support it. I support the suggestion that more wheat and more rice has to be given to PDS. I also support your case that if any State for some reason or other needs more, that State has to be helped. We fully support it. The Minister of Agriculture has explained what he is doing within the limits and what is available within PDS. I am sure he will respond positively to the demands from Kerala that more rice should be allocated. In fact, I am assured by him yesterday that he has taken some steps to get some more rice from some other State and make it available to Kerala.

As far as leakage in the PDS is concerned, even at the risk of annoying a few Members, let me repeat that the leakage in the PDS is a matter that is totally under the control of the State Governments. They have to take the strongest action against ration shops and those who pilfer from ration shops and those who divert from ration shops.

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Jayaprada–Not present.

Md. Salim, please be brief.

MD. SALIM: Sir, I would not give any introduction because all of us are adequately introduced to the inflation. I am thankful to the hon. Minister that he admits that inflation does exist. It is pinching and it is beyond the bearable level.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

MD. SALIM: The Minister is, time and again, saying that this is because of the supply chain and international pressure. Given the situation about speculative trades, the primary articles are contributing more. I am talking about speculative trade and forward trading. It is because of the pressure in the domestic market as well as the international situation. Let me compare the figures given by the Minister regarding oilseeds. Last year also the inflationary pressure was there and it is continuing till now.

MR. SPEAKER: Now put your question.

MD. SALIM: For the last one year speculative trading has been allowed on 25 such items. What is that the Minister going to do about it in particular?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, this question or this suggestion has also been responded to by the Minister of Agriculture ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All this is being repeated just within a week.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, in 2007-08 we did ban futures trading. Earlier it was Wheat and Rice and then we banned Urad and Tur. We also have appointed the Abhijit Sen Committee. The Abhijit Sen Committee for one reason or the other is unable to give the Report. We have now fixed the deadline by which they have to give the Report. The Minister of Agriculture, I believe, is on record in this House saying that if the Abhijit Sen Committee does not give the Report by a particular date ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He said within 10 days.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I say by a particular date if the Committee does not submit the Report, then he will take action. Once he takes action he will come to the House to report the action taken ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would request the hon. Minister not to respond to interruptions.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you that a news was telecast in TV regarding a four thousand crore rupees scam in Public Distribution System. Shri A.K. Awasthy was speaking in this regard on T.V. The news was also telecast on one of the channels on T.V. Are you aware of it? He had said that the Government was informed in this regard but they had to state it publicly as the Government did not take any action. But that news is not on air since morning. Whether the Government is aware of it?

MR. SPEAKER: The question has nothing to do with it, it is related to Shri Sharad Pawar Ji. Are you even aware about PDS?

[English]

Do you want to deal with PDS also?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I am not aware of the news item. But I am aware... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: In which channel was it shown?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: But I am aware of a study done that shows that in the past, not talking about the current, for the period of study, 36 per cent of foodgrains distributed to the PDS does not reach the beneficiary.

Sixth Central Pay Commission

*467. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received some representations regarding the dissatisfaction among the employees about the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission;

(b) if so, whether there is a huge disparity in various Pay Bands as proposed by the Sixth Pay Commission;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to have negotiations with the various services for a wage revision; and

(d) if so, details thereof and the ection proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A Committee of Secretaries headed by Cabinet Secretary has been constituted to examine the recommendations of Sixth Central Pay Commission.

[Translation]

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister that whether it is a fact that officers in the rank of Joint Secretaries and above and IAS officers are getting a much better deal as compared to other services and other categories in the Central Government Organisations.

If so what remedial measures the Government in contemplating to take up in order to do away with the injustice meted out to middle level officers and staff at the lower level. Kindly give details.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is not prepared to wait till they submit the report.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We have received the Sixth Pay Commission Report. I can tell you, what the Pay Commission Report contains, but obviously there will be sections who feel aggrieved, who feel that they are relatively not so well placed as some other sections. These are matters which the Committee of Secretaries will study and give a report to the Government. Then the Government can form a conclusion. At this stage it will not be fair, I submit with respect, to ask me to draw any conclusions or make any judgments on this.

---

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

[Translation]

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Sir, the Hon. Finance Minister in his reply stated that a committee has been constituted to examine the recommendations of the 6th Pay Commission.

If so by what time it is likely to complete its job and when will the 6th Pay Commission recommendations be implemented? Kindly give details.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: When will it be implemented?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It is difficult to fix the time for the Committee. The Committee has already met on the 15th of April, 2008. We have advised them to meet more frequently and give their report quickly.

The Sixth Pay Commission itself has recommended that the revised pay scales should come into force from 1st January, 2006. I think the Government, when it accepts the Report, will implement the pay scales from the 1st January, 2006.

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

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Hon. Speaker, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to know from the Government through you, although you have said just now that a Committee has been constituted. But, a demand was made even before that by the army and by the section of people in the country that a separate Pay Commission should be constituted for our armed forces. It was not accepted that time and clarification was given that the Sixty Pay Commission would consider it properly. The recommendations that have been made for Defence Officers and personnel are unfortunate. On the one hand there is always a dearth of good officers in the Armed Forces and ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only two days ago, we have discussed it.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am mentioning an entirely different matter. I would like to request the Government through you that the Navy, Army and Air Force personnel are wholeheartedly dedicated to present our country. Whether you would direct the Government to work earnestly to remove such in view of the injustice that has been certainly meted out to them.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

MR. SPEAKER: You were not present when the discussion on the budget of the Ministry of Defence was taking place.

[English]

You were not here.

[Translation]

The entire discussion has been completed. The hon. Minister had given the reply....

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: He has said about the Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He will pass it on to the Defence Minister.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: There has been no practice of appointing a separate Pay Commission for the Armed Forces. We have followed the practice that has been observed for many years, that is, a common Pay Commission for all services. The grievances of the Armed Forces or the paramilitary forces, as are reported—some memoranda have been given—are being examined by the Committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shailendra Kumar, you have a supplementary for all Questions.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you have said right now in response to the question of Shri Rasa Singh Rawat that a detailed disucssion was held about the department of Defence. But, the officers and employees are in deep anguish since the recommendations of Pay Commission have come. I would like to know from the Minister through you whether a Review Committee would be constituted to remove the anomalies and anguish of class I and class II officers and whether the Government would frame any action plan to remove disappointment?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I can only repeat my answer. The Cabinet Secretary headed Committee will examine all the suggestions and representations and give a Report to the Government, and the Government will take an appropriate decision on it.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 468, Shri Giridhari Yadav–not present.

Shri Narahari Mahato—not present.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have a supplementary to this Question... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The answer is that a Committee is sitting and thereafter, a decision will be taken.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 469, Shri Tukaram Ganpat Rao Renge Patil—not present.

Shri Harikewal Prasad.

[Translation]

Violation of Companies Act, 1956

*469. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of fines imposed on various companies for violation of the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases in which fines have been realised from them;

(c) whether criminal cases have also been registered against such companies, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The total amount of fines imposed on companies and the number of cases in which fines have been realized from them during the last three years by the process of courts are as under:-

Year	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Amount of fine imposed (In Rupees)	52,29,401	71,59,012	58,14,461
Number of Cases in which fine has been realised	3099	2686	2273

(c) and (d) Violation of the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 gives rise to criminal liability under the Act which is required to be determined and enforced through a process of adjudication by the Courts. The details of the cases filed for offences against the Act are enclosed as Annexure.

Annexure

Details of Cases filed under provisions of various Sections of Companies Act, 1956 or Rules thereunder

S.No.	Section of the Companies Act, 1956 or Rules	Nature of default	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	12	Mode of forming/incorporating companies	0	1	0
2.	17	Relating to Special resolution and confirmation by Company Law Board	1	1	0
3.	22	Rectification of name of company	1	0	0
4.	49	Investments of company not held by a company in its own name	1	1	4
5.	58A(1)	Violation of provisions relating to Acceptance of Deposits	31	16	17

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	58A(9)	Relating to non repayment of Deposits	19	23	1
7.	63	Criminal liability for mis-statements in prospectus	13	3	4
8.	68	Penalty for fraudulently inducing persons to invest money	13	5	5
9.	68A	Personation for acquisition, etc. of shares	0	0	13
10.	73	Allotment of shares and debentures to be dealt in stock exchange	1	2	0
11.	75	Retun as to allotment	6	1	3
12.	80A	Redemption of irredeemable preference shares	1	2	0
13.	97	Notice of increase of share capital or of members	6	2	11
14.	113	Limitation of time for issue of Certificates	4	2	1
15.	141	Relating to rectification of register of charges	1	3	0
16.	143	Companies register of charges	7	0	1
17.	146	Registered office of companies	40	35	34
18.	147	Publication of name by company	16	5	17
19.	149	Restrictions on commencement of business	2	5	2
20.	150	Register of members	6	2	3
21.	154	Power to close register of members or debenture holders	6	0	0
22.	159/162	Annual Return to be made by company having a share capital	3395	2220	4907
23.	163	Place of keeping and inspection of registers and returns	7	1	0
24.	165/168	Statutory meeting and statutory report of company	168	52	4
25.	166/168	Annual General Meeting	13	9	73
26.	171/172	Length of notice for calling meeting	4	1	6
27.	187	Representation of corporations at meeting of company and creditors	2	0	0
28.	192	Registration of certain resolutions and agreements	8	4	4
29.	193	Minutes of proceedings of general meetings and of Board and other meetings	16	7	11
30.	198	Overall maximum managerial remuneration and managerial remuneration in case of absence or inadequacy of profits	2	0	1
31.	205A	Unpaid dividends to be transferred to special dividend account	5	2	4
32.	207	Penalty for failure to distribute dividends within 42 days	4	2	3
33.	209A	Arising out of Inspection of books of accounts etc. of companies	62	46	53

1	2	3	4	5	6
34.	210	Relating to Annual accounts and balance sheets	147	29	35
35.	211	Requirements relating to Forms and contents of balance sheets and profit & loss account not complied with	136	75	98
36.	212	Particulars to be included in Balance sheet of holding company	8	23	0
37.	217	Relating to Board's report	39	47	39
38.	218	Penalty for improper issue circulation or publication of balance sheet or profit & loss accounts	4	0	1
39.	219	Right of members to copies of balance sheet and auditor's report violated	13	2	4
40.	220	Three copies of balance sheet etc. not filed with Registrar	3529	2287	5025
41.	232	Penalty for non-compliance with sections 225 to 231	4	2	0
42.	233	Penalty of non-compliance of auditor with sections 227 and 229	18	5	2
43.	233B	Audit of cost accounts	2	1	—
44.	234	Power of Registrar to call for information or explanation	16	6	10
45.	252	Minimum number of Directors	1	0	2
46.	257	Right of persons other than retiring Directors to	—	0	2
47.	269	Appointment of Managing or Whole-time Director or Manager to require Government approval only in certain cases	5	5	4
48.	283	Vacation of office by Directors	3	0	1
49.	291	Relating to general powers of the Board	2	3	0
50.	292	Certain powers to be exercised by Board only at meeting	4	17	8
51.	293	Restrictions of powers of Board	2	1	0
52.	295	Loans to Directors, etc.	15	10	9
53.	297	Board's sanction to be acquired for certain contracts for certain contracts in which particular Directors are interested	8	6	9
54.	299	Disclosure of interest by Director	4	4	5
55.	300	Interested Director not to participate or vote in Board's proceedings	3	1	2
56.	301	Register of contract companies and firms in which Directors are interested	9	11	11
57.	303	Register of Directors managing agent secretaries and treasurers etc.	19	5	6
58.	307	Register of Director's shareholding etc.	4	1	4
59.	314	Director etc. not to hold office or place of profit	1	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
60.	370/371	Penalty for contravention of Section 369, 370 and 370A	4	4	3
61.	372	Purchase of shares by company of other companies	8	9	4
62.	374	Penalty for contravention of Section 372 or 373	3	1	1
63.	383A	Certain companies to have secretaries	22	13	23
64.	614A	Powers of Court trying offences under the Act to direct the filing of documents with the Registrar	6	24	30
65.	628	Penalty for false statement	14	17	6
66.	629	Penalty for false evidence	4	0	0
67.	629A	Penalty where no specific penalty is provided elsewhere in the Act	72	31	24
68.	631	Penalty for improper use of words "limited" and "private limited"	3	0	0
		Others	136	35	54
	Total		8129	5128	10601

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are more cases of irregularities in balance sheet and annual report of those companies, which violate the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. These irregularities are done to cheat the Government. Thus, tax is evaded openly but no cases are registered under Section-420 against such companies. It clearly shows that it is done to save the people who have violated company's Act, 1956. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the question.

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: The Government data show decease in cases regarding violation of rules related to companies but the reality is different. People indulged in tax evasion are freed after charging fines but criminal cases should be registered against them. The report, which I have submitted, to Hon'ble Minister includes the names of those small companies which have been listed at number 1 to 69.

I would like to know the reasons for not initiating criminal proceedings against the people who violate the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. Does the Government get any benefit from that action?

MR. SPEAKER: The benefits from it!

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Sir, the cases of violation of the Companies Act are disposed of by the court of law. Hon'ble Members may see that the number of cases filed for prosecution, which were of 129 in 2004 increased upto 10601 in 2006-07. Hon'ble Members raising the question of tax evasion are mixing the issues. The cases of income tax evasion are attended by Department of Income Tax and the cases of excise duty evasion are attended by Department of Excise Tax. The cases regarding violation of companies' laws are prosecuted in court. This is done through the procedure of laws.

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether any Director or any Member of Board of Driectors has sent to jail for violating the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956, during last three years. If not, the reasons therefore.

MR. SPEAKER: It will be decided by the judge.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I told earlier the Government do not send them to jail. We have identified the companies that were either non-existent or fly by night operations. And around 106 cases were filed in prosecution courts and in some cases some promoters and directors were arrested also.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mahavir Bhagora; will you ask a question?

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: I have given my name for asking question No. 462.

MR. SPEAKER: You do not want to ask question on this issue. Some mistake has taken place, sorry for this. You are a very cooperative member. I like you very much.

Entry of Public Sector Companies in the Share Market

+
*470. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some public sector companies have entered into the stock market; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the names of these companies alongwith the amount invested by each of them in the share market during thelast three years?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) An entity enters the stock market for investment purposes to diversify its portfolio risk and get better returns on its investments. Till August 2007, Investment of surplus funds of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) in stock market and in mutual funds was not permitted except in units/schemes of the UTI. This restriction has since been marginally relaxed. O.M. No. DPE/11/47/2006-Fin dated 31st August, 2007 of Department of Public Enterprises permits only Navaratna and Miniratna CPSEs to invest not more than 30% of their available surplus funds in schemes of SEBI regulated public sector mutual funds having equity investments. However, public sector financial institutions i.e. banks, insurance companies and domestic financial institutions can participate in financial trading activities for treasury operations.

(b) Information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister in his reply has stated that information is being collected and will be laid on Table fo the House. I would like to know that many doubts have been raised on entry of public sector companies in share market. Why did these companies enter the share market? The public sector companies earn profits by paying attention to their functioning and the surplus amount earned, if any, should be invested in production work of PSUs. These companies are making huge investment in share market instead of making investment for production work. This is done only due to vested interest of some officers. What are the actions which hon'ble Minister is taking to check this, and the names of the companies that have invested their profits in share market?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Obviously, funds of public sector enterprises must be used for reinvestment and expanding capacity in production. But there is something called "Treasury Management". From time to time we have surplus funds for short or long periods. Those funds cannot remain idle. They have to be invested. Till August 2007 these surplus funds were permitted to be invested only in units and schemes of the UTI. On 31st August 2007, there was a marginal relaxation enabling them to invest these funds, not more than thirty per cent, in SEBI-regulated public sector mutual funds. So, the earlier avenue of investment in the UTI has now been expanded to other public sector SEBI-regulated mutual funds. These instructions have been issued by the Department of Public Enterprises. The instructions themselves say that this is available only to Mini Ratnas and Nava Ratnas and that the matter will be reviewed after one year. So, I think we should allow the DPE to implement this and let us review it after one year.

12.00 hrs.

This was done only on 31st August, 2007. Therefore, with the year ending 31st March, 2008 I will collect the information and place it on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over. I am thankful to the hon. Members of the House. Today, we have done reached seven Questions. So, with your cooperation, I will try to reach up to ten Questions which is my target. Although some hon. Members are annoyed with me, yet I cannot help it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Shortage of Houses

*468. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of dwelling units for LIG and MIG constructed for the urban poor, so far, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government plans to promote low cost housing for the urban poor with subsidy element therein;

(c) if so, whether the Ministry has held any discussion with the banks and the Housing Financing Companies (HFCs) particularly in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata to sensitize them on the issue of low-cost dwelling units for the economically weaker sections in the urban areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) launched by the Government in the year 2005 caters to provision of housing and basic services to urban poor in 63 specified cities under the Sub-Mission Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and in other cities and towns under the Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP).

Integrated development of slum, that is, housing and development of infrastructure projects in the slum in the identified cities; projects involving development/ improvement/maintenance of basic services to the urban poor; slum improvement and rehabilitation projects; & houses at affordable costs for slum dwellers/urban poor/ Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)/Low Income Group (LIG) are admissible components under the sub-Mission on Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) in the 63 mission cities. Similar components are admissible under Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) in non-mission cities.

274 projects for construction/up-gradation of 7,87,111 dwelling units have been approved under BSUP and 422 projects have been approved under IHSDP for construction/upgradation of 2,59,200 dwelling units. State-wise details of projects sanctioned under these schemes are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) A provision of Rs. 95 crores has been made under the Interest Subsidy Scheme for Housing the urban Poor (IHSUP) in the budget of the Ministry for the year 2008-09.

(c) and (d) A meeting with some banks, Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) and other Financial Institutions (FIs) was organized in Mumbai on 1st June, 2007 by the Government in collaboration with the Confederation of India Industry (CII) to address the issues of affordable housing for all. The inputs received in the meeting have been incorporated in the National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy (NUHHP), 2007 which was laid in both houses of the Parliament on 07.12.2007. The policy has been widely circulated amongst State Governments and other stake holders.

Further, a Task Force has also been set up by this Ministry to look into various aspects of providing "Affordable Housing for All" and recommend ways and means of enhancing accessibility of EWS/LIG groups to housing with suitable governmental support and recommend ways and means of enhancing accessibility of MIG groups to housing apart from developing innovative financial instruments for bringing flexibility in the housing market and making recommendations as to fiscal, spatial incentives for increasing supply for houses.

Finally, Land and Colonization being in the State List, the National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy, 2007 enjoins upon the states to prepare a State Urban Housing & Habitat Policy and also a State Urban Housing & Habitat Action Plan.

Statement

JNNURM—Basic Service to the Urban Poor (Sub-Mission II)

Total Projects Approved

Status as on 2.4.2008
(Rs. in Crores)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Projects Approved	Total Project Cost Approved	Total no. of new Dwelling Units Approved	Total no. of DUs Approved for up-gradation	Total no. of new Dwelling Units Approved (New+upgradation)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19	1707.78	90622	3373	93995
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	4.10	100	0	100

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Assam	1	53.95	1232	0	1232
4.	Chandigrah (UT)	2	564.94	25728	0	25728
5.	Chhattisgarh	4	391.45	27976	0	27976
6.	Bihar	9	367.72	14596	0	14596
7.	Delhi	11	1506.89	57504	0	57504
8.	Gujarat	13	1268.87	87504	0	87504
9.	Goa	1	10.22	155	0	155
10.	Haryana	2	64.23	3248	0	3248
11.	Himachal Pradesh	2	24.01	636	0	636
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	105.17	5208	0	5208
13.	Jharkhand	5	195.29	7218	0	7218
14.	Karnataka	7	510.27	21846	0	21846
15.	Kerala	6	304.12	21222	986	22208
16.	Madhya Pradesh	19	520.68	33289	0	33289
17.	Maharashtra	36	4135.48	130612	0	130612
18.	Meghalaya	2	30.44	600	0	600
19.	Mizoram	2	34.33	408	0	408
20.	Nagaland	1	134.50	3504	0	3504
21.	Orissa	5	67.17	2071	245	2316
22.	Punjab	2	72.43	5152	0	5152
23.	Puducherry	2	43.97	1304	0	1304
24.	Rajasthan	2	277.14	17337	0	17337
25.	Sikkim	1	3.25	52	0	52
26.	Tamil Nadu	24	2134.11	84922	685	85607
27.	Tripura	1	16.73	256	0	256
28.	Uttar Pradesh	12	437.71	21752	0	21752
29.	Uttarakhand	4	22.88	524	0	524
30.	West Bengal	76	2411.30	115244	0	115244
	Total	274	17421.11	781822	5289	787111

Integrated Housing and Slums Development Programme (IHSDP)

Total Projects Approved

Status as on 2.4.2008
Rs. in Crores

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of Projects Approved	Total Project Cost Approved	Total No. of new Dwelling Units Approved for cons-truction	Total No. of Dwelling units for up-gradation	Total number of Dwelling Units Approved
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	57	687.26	29257	0	29257
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	5.27	0	40	40
3.	Assam	12	38.31	1668	3725	5393
4.	Bihar	10	80.73	6500	0	6500
5.	Chhattisgarh	14	176.50	14846	0	14846
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	0.50	0	0	0
7.	Daman and Diu	1	0.69	16	0	16
8.	Gujarat	23	227.49	18405	0	18405
9.	Haryana	15	238.84	14558	83	14641
10.	Himachal Pradesh	3	23.44	816	0	816
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	10	42.40	1770	884	2654
12.	Jharkhand	1	19.67	1292	0	1292
13.	Karnataka	25	240.27	13053	0	13053
14.	Kerala	26	136.70	8069	4183	12252
15.	Madhya Pradesh	33	241.89	16795	369	17164
16.	Manipur	2	16.50	1103	0	1103
17.	Rajasthan	30	335.46	16002	6418	22420
18.	Meghalaya	1	21.82	456	0	456
19.	Mizoram	1	8.27	500	0	500
20.	Maharashtra	35	398.44	31127	0	31127
21.	Nagaland	1	87.74	2496	0	2496
22.	Orissa	15	83.63	4884	0	4884

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
23.	Punjab	2	42.40	1755	2183	3938
24.	Puducherry	1	17.03	432	0	432
25.	Tamil Nadu	30	225.67	17506	2257	19763
26.	Tripura	1	7.19	400	0	400
27.	Uttar Pradesh	9	33.30	2236	0	2236
28.	Uttarakhand	2	5.85	231	0	231
29.	West Bengal	60	566.63	32885	0	32885
	Total	422	4009.90	239058	20142	259200

[Translation]

Monitoring Mechanism for Mutual Funds

*471. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing monitoring mechanism for mutual fudns in the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI);

(b) whether the working of the mechanism is satisfactory;

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

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to make the mechanism more effective.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The trustees of Mutual Funds (MFs) monitor the activities of the Asset Management Companies (AMCs). SEBI Mutual Fund Regulations prescribe, *inter alia*, that the meeting of the Trustees shall be held at least once in every two calendar months and at least six such meetings shall be held in every year. The Regulations also empower the trustees to obtain from the (AMC), such information as is considered necessary by them.

Further, SEBI appoints auditors for periodic inspetions of the Mutual Funds. Besides, through the periodic reports such as bi-monthly Compliance Test Reports, Half yearly/ Annual Accounts, advertisements etc. by the AMC and half-yearly reports submitted by the Trustees, SEBI monitors the activities of the AMC. As and when instances of violations by mutual funds are found or brought to its notice, appropriate action is taken by SEBI.

SEBI has informed that so far the monitoring mechanism was worked satisfactorily.

Loans to Self Help Groups

*472. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the mainstream public sector banks are refusing to sanction loans to Self Help Groups financed by them initially;

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

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding micro credit to find out it really reached the poor sections of the society;

(d) if so, the findings therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Instructions issued by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for lending to the Self Help Groups (SHG) provide for repeat loans to the SHGs. As per estimates of NABARD, till June 2006, at least 7 lakhs SHGs had availed repeat loans from banks.

(c) and (d) The findings of a Study, conducted by National Council of Applied and Economic Research (NCAER), to assess the impact and sutainability of SHG-Bank Linkage on socio-economic conditions of the individual members and their household, in six States suggest that SHG-Bank Linkage Programme has significantly improved the access to financial services of the rural poor. The findings of NCAER, *inter-alia*, are:

- More than 60% of SHGs consist of members belonging to BPL families.
- The share of households living below the poverty line has reduced from 58.3% in the pre-SHG period to 33% in the post-SHG situation.
- The percentage of SHGs comprising only of SC/ ST members is 21%.
- Around 80% of SHGs have only women members leading to empowerment of women.

(e) Some of the important steps initiated by Government/Reserve Bank of India for facilitating micro finance and financial inclusion are:-

- Introduction of Bill in Lok Sabha on 20.03.2007 called "The Micro Financial Sector (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2007" which intends to create environment friendly policy for micro-finance services in the country and to provide a formal statutory framework for the promotion, development and regulation of the micro finance sector.
- Banks have been advised to have simple norms for opening a "no frills" account either with "nil" or very low minimum balance. Banks have opened 67,32,355 'no fill' accounts as on 30.06.2007.
- Banks have been permitted to utilise the services of Non-Governmental Organisations, Self Help Groups, Micro Finance Institutions and other Civil Society Organisation as intermediaries in providing financial and banking services.
- All State level Banker's Committee (SLBC) convener banks have been advised to initiate action for identifying atleast one district in their States/Union Territories for 100% financial inclusion. SLBCs have identified 104 districts (as on 30.06.2007) and taken steps to increase the number of such districts.
- Constitution of a Financial Inclusion Fund for meeting the cost of developmental and promotional interventions and a Financial Inclusion Technology Fund to meet the cost of technology adoption, each with an overall corpus of Rs. 500 crore.

Rural Electrification

*473. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for selecting a village for electrification and the norms to declare it an electrified village;

(b) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation has failed to achieve the desired result in rural electrification programme during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the targets set and achieved during the Plan, State-wise and year-wise;

(d) the target fixed for allocation funds and the actual release for the programme for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09, State-wise; and

(e) the time by which all villages in the country are likely to be electrified?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) In terms of the definition effective from 2004-05, a village would be declared electrified if—

(i) Basic Infrastructure such as distribution transformer and distribution lines are provided in the inhabited locality as well as the dalit basti/ hamlet where it exists. (For electrification through Non-Conventional Energy Sources a distribution transformer may not be necessary);

(ii) Electricity is provided to public places like schools, panchayat offices, health centres, dispensaries, community centres etc, and

(iii) The number of households electrified should be at least 10% of the total number of households in the village.

(b) No, Sir. Execution of Rural Electrification (RE) works including village electrification and release of rural household connections is the responsibility of implementing agencies and the concerned state governments. Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd., as a nodal agency for Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGVY), facilitates flow of funds from Ministry of Power to implementing agencies/states, processing of Detailed Project Reports received from states governments, monitoring of RGGVY program besides co-ordination with the Monitoring Committee on RGGVY and other stake holders. In fact, the progress in rural electrification in the States was dismal in the Ninth and early years of the Tenth Five Year Plan. Achievements in rural electrification picked up only with the introduction of RGGVY, which provides for 90% central subsidy for rural electrification. The achievement of village electrification was 13,409 unelectrified villages in the five years of the Ninth Plan (1997-2002) and 9,291 unelectrified villages during 2002-05, whereas 38,525 unelectrified villages were got electrified during 2005-07. The year-wise number of villages, where the implementing agencies have reported completion of RE works under RGGVY during 10th Plan are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) State-wise number of villages wherein Rural Electrification works under RGGVY have been reportedly completed during 10th Plan period are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) State-wise and year-wise funds are not allocated under RGGVY. Funds are released in instalments, commensurate with the progress reported by the State/ implementing agencies, certifying that 80% of the amount released earlier has been utilized and subject to fulfillment of the conditionalities stipulated in the sanction letter in terms of RGGVY guidelines as also the availability of funds with Government. The Year-wise funds disbursed and target fixed for allocation of funds by Ministry of Power for the year 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(e) RGGVY has envisaged providing access to electricity to all households, electrification of about 1.15 lakh un-electrified villages and electricity connections to 2.34 crore BPL households by 2009.

Statement I

Target and Achievement under RGGVY during 10th Plan

S.No.	Year	Target of Village Electrification	No: of villages wherein RE works have been completed		
			Electrified	Un-electrified	Total
1.	2005-06	10000	350	9819	10169
2.	2006-07	40000	11527	28706	40233
	Total	50000	11877	38525	50402

Statement II

State-wise RE works completed under RGGVY 10th Plan

Sl.No.	State	During 2005-06			During 2006-07			Cumulative		
		Electrified (Nos.)	Un-electrified (Nos.)	Total	Electrified (Nos.)	Un-electrified (Nos.)	Total	Electrified (Nos.)	Un-electrified (Nos.)	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—
4.	Bihar	0	1600	1600	0	8415	8415	—	10015	10,015
5.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—
7.	Gujarat	0	0	0	625	0	625	625	0	625
8.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—
10.	[illegible]	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—
11.	Karnataka	350	47	397	8000	0	8000	8,350	47	8,397
12.	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—
14.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—
15.	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—
20.	Orissa	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—
21.	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—
22.	Rajasthan	0	230	230	570	765	1335	570	995	1,565
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	7503	7503	0	16620*	16620*	0	24123*	24123*
27.	Uttaranchal	0	87	87	2332	798	3130	2,332	885	3,217
28.	West Bengal	0	352	352	0	2108	2108	—	2460	2,460
29.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—
	G. Total	350	9819	10169	11527	28706	40233	11877	38525	50402

*UP Govt. has reduced the progress by 472 un-electrified villages reportedly electrified under RGGVY, in the reply to PEO, Planning Commission's observations.

Statement III

Year-wise Budgetary provision and funds disbursed under RGGVY

Sl.No.	Year	Budgetary provision (Rs. in crores)	Funds disbursed (Rs. in crores)
1.	2007-08	3944.56	3913.45
2.	2008-09	5500.00	

Pending Cases in various Courts

*474. SHRI BHAILAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending before the Supreme Court and various High Courts in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding the likely time to be taken by these courts for disposal of the pending cases;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the various steps proposed to be taken by the Government for reducing the pendency of cases before the Supreme Court and High Courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The number of cases pending before the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts as on 31.12.2007 was 46926 and 38,16,983 respectively. The High Court-wise number of pending cases are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) No such assessment has been made by the Government regarding the time to be taken by these courts for disposal of the pending cases. Expeditious disposal of cases in Courts is a matter that is exclusively within the domain of the Judiciary. However, with a view to facilitating disposal of cases including pending cases in the superior courts, Government reviews the Judge Strength in the High Courts periodically and ensures prompt filling up of vacancies in the High Courts and the Supreme Court. In the last review undertaken in consultation with Chief Justice of India, the Government has decided to create 152 additional posts of judges in the following High Courts:—

1.	Allahabad	65
2.	Andhra Pradesh	10
3.	Bombay	11
4.	Calcutta	08
5.	Delhi	12
6.	Himachal Pradesh	02
7.	Karnataka	01

8.	Kerala	09
9.	Madhya Pradesh	01
10.	Punjab and Haryana	15
11.	Jharkhand	8
12.	Chhattisgarh	10
	Total	152

The Government has also approved the increase in the judge strength of the Supreme Court from the present 25 to 30 excluding the Chief Justice of India.

The Government is implementing a scheme for application of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in Judiciary which, *inter-alia*, provides for upgradation of the ICT infrastructure in the Supreme Court and the High Courts to facilitate expeditious disposal of cases.

Statement

Pendency Position in the High Courts

Sl.No.	Name of the High Court	Civil cases	Criminal cases	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad	609895	209789	819684
2.	Andhra Pradesh	137990	15257	153247
3.	Bombay	330399	39579	369978
4.	Calcutta	243222	40015	283237
5.	Chhattisgarh	52130	23211	75341
6.	Delhi	103273	36054	139327
7.	Gujarat	85862	29532	115394
8.	Gauhati	52838	7493	60331
9.	Himachal Pradesh	21312	6378	27690
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	44804	1836	46640
11.	Jharkhand	28302	21668	49970
12.	Karnataka	89753	16103	105856
13.	Kerala	88167	24371	112538
14.	Madras	392824	36008	428832
15.	Madhya Pradesh	122331	59294	181625
16.	Orissa	209481	24076	233557
17.	Patna	71749	34693	106442
18.	Punjab and Haryana	210171	47645	257816
19.	Rajasthan	164369	53135	217504

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Sikkim	66	14	80
21.	Uttaranchal	24761	7133	31894
	Total	3081991	732507	3816983

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to Cooperative Banks

*475. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI HEMLAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise names of the cooperative banks running in losses in the country as on date;

(b) the details of the financial assistance provided to the cooperative banks by the Government during each of the last three years;

(c) whether some Cooperative Banks set up few years back have not yet got license from the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) As per finalised data available with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), the State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) of Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Nagaland and Tripura and the following 88 District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) were making losses as on 31.3.2006:

Haryana: Jind and Hissar; Jammu and Kashmir: Anantnag, Baramulla and Jammu; Bihar: Khagaria, Muzaffarpur, Nalanda, Sasaram-Bhabua and Sitamarhi; Jharkhand: Dhanbad, Giridih and Hazaribagh; Orissa: United Puri-NIMAP; West Bengal: Balgaria, Birbhum and Purulia; Madhya Pradesh: Mandla, Rewa, Sidhi and Sagar; Uttar Pradesh: Aligarh, Allahabad, Azamgarh, Bahraich, Ballia, Barabanki, Basti, Deoria Kasi, Faizabad, Fatehgarh, Firozabad, Ghazipur, Gorakhpur, Hardoi, Jaunpur, Kanpur, Lucknow, Mainpuri, Mathura, Mau, Rae Bareli, Siddharth Nagar, Sitapur, Sultanpur, Unnao and Varanasi; Gujarat: Baroda, Junagarh, Kheda, Kodinar, Panchmahal, Surendra Nagar and Valsad; Maharashtra: Buldana, Dhule, Nagpur, Nanded, Nasik, Ratnagiri, Sangli and Wardha; Andhra Pradesh: Adilabad, Anantapur, Chittoor, Cuddapah, Karimnagar, Khammam, Kurnool, Mahabubnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nellore, Prakasam, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagara and Warangal; Tamil Nadu: Dharmpuri, Dindigul, Kanyakumari, Kumbakonam, Madurai, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, and Virudhunagar.

As per provisional data available with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in respect of urban cooperative banks (UCBs), 333 of them were making losses as on 31st March, 2007. The State-wise break-up is as follow:

Andhra Pradesh (21), Delhi (2), Gujarat (55), Karnataka (54), Kerala (19), Maharashtra/Goa (141), Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh (2), North East (4), Orissa (4), Punjab/Haryana/Himachal Pradesh (04), Rajasthan (2), Tamil Nadu (13), Uttar Pradesh/Uttarakhand (3) and West Bengal (9).

(b) In 2006, for the Revitalisation of Short Term Cooperative Credit Structure (STCCS), the Government approved a Financial Package off Rs. 13,596 crore to be shared amongst the Central Gvoernment, State Government and STCCS. As a part of its share, Central Government, has released Rs. 1,078.21 crore to Andhra Pradesh; Rs. 121.74 crore to Gujarat; Rs. 432.05 crore to Haryana; Rs. 561.59 crore to Madhya Pradesh; Rs. 510.71 crore to Maharashtra; Rs. 279.97 crore to Orissa and Rs. 340.85 crore to Uttar Pradesh, totalling Rs. 3,325.10 crore.

(c) and (d) 17 SCBs, 296 DCCBs and 77 UCBs are to satisfy the RBI on compliance with certain Sections of the Banking Regulation (BR) Act 1949 (As Applicable to Cooperative Societies), including Sections 11, 22(3)(b), 27, 29 and 35(A) of BR Act, 1949. However, as per provision of Section 22(2) of BR Act 1949 (AACS), a Cooperative Bank, which has applied for banking licence to RBI, can carry on banking business until it is granted a licence or is, by a notice in writing notified by the RBI that the licence cannot be granted to it.

[English]

Irregularities in Indira Awas Yojana

*476. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of financial irregularities have come to the notice of the Union Government in the construction of houses for the poor under the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) during the last three years.

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

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

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) Scheme is functioning satisfactorily. Whenever any irregularities in the implementation of IAY are brought to the notice of the Ministry, the matter taken up with the concerned State Government/UT. However, if required, National Level Monitors (NLMs) on the panel of this Ministry are asked to investigate the complaints. In special cases the officials of the Ministry are also deputed for inquiry. If irregularities are established, the State Governments are instructed to take appropriate action. The details of the irregularities noticed in this regard during the last three years and the action taken thereon is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

List of cases of financial irregularities noticed under Indira Awaas Yojana and action taken thereon

Rajasthan

1. A complaint was received from Dr. Chandrasekhar Baid, MLA on 7/6/2006 regarding irregularities in the implementation of IAY in Churu district of Rajasthan. In the letter, it was alleged that IAY fund was used for construction of a shop instead of the house.

Action Taken

The matter was taken up with the State Government of Rajasthan on 7.7.2006. As informed by the district authorities, order was issued for recovery of IAY money from the erring beneficiary.

Orissa

1. A complaint was received on 3.8.2006 from Shri J.B. Patnaik, Leader of Opposition, Orissa Legislative Assembly regarding misuse of funds meant for victims of super cyclone in Orissa. A similar complaint was received from Shri Sitakanta Mohaptra, MLA.

Action Taken

The matter was got inquired into by two NLMs as also by the officers of this Ministry. While the NLMs had found no irregularity, the officers of the Ministry had noticed certain procedural irregularities. The inquiry reports were sent to the State Government of Orissa in November, 2006. The State Government was also asked to give a report on the funds released for super cyclone.

Madhya Pradesh

1. A report was submitted by NLM on 7.9.2007 in respect of Satna District of Madhya Pradesh regarding non receipt of full amount by beneficiaries.

Action Taken

The matter was taken up with the State Government of Madhya Pradesh on 18.10.2007 for submitting the Action Taken Report in this regard. However, the reply is still awaited. A reminder was also sent on 22.4.2008.

Bihar

1. A complaint was received on 27.12.2005 from Smt. Kunti Devi, MLA, Bihar Vidhan Sabha regarding alleged misappropriation of funds under IAY in Gaya district of Bihar. It was alleged that no house was constructed with the funds drawn in gram panchayat Seedh, gram panchayat Sahoda and gram panchayat Jethian. It was also alleged that in Tettar gram panchayat, the allotment was done to the beneficiaries who belonged to the same caste as that of the Gram Pradhan.

Action Taken

A NLM was deputed to inquire into the matter who submitted his report on 10.4.2006. As per report of NLM, certain irregularities were noticed and the report was forwarded to State Government of Bihar for their comments on 1.5.2006. Comments of the State Government in this regard are awaited inspite of reminder on 31.5.2007.

2. A complaint was received on 2.1.2006 from Shri Sanjay Kumar Gupta, MLA, Bihar regarding misutilisation of funds under IAY in Sitamarhi district of Bihar. It was alleged that the allotment of house under IAY was made to the underserving beneficiaries and the deserving beneficiaries were denied of the benefit. Most of beneficiaries were exploited by the block officials and were forced to pay bribes in order to get sanction of the IAY house.

Action Taken

A NLM was deputed to inquire into the matter who submitted his report on 25.4.2006. The report was forwarded to State Government of Bihar for their comments on 16.5.2006. Comments of the State Government in this regard are awaited in spite of reminder on 31.5.2007.

3. A complaint was received on 12.4.2006 from the Shri Sita Ram Yadav, M.P. (Lok Sabha) forwarding the complaints of villagers of Gram Panchayat-Yujaar Madhya, Block-Katra, district-Muzaffarpur regarding irregularities in the implementation of IAY in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar. In the complaint, it is alleged that an amount of Rs. 2000/- to Rs. 5000/- was charged from each and every beneficiary as bribe for allotment of the IAY house.

Action Taken

The matter was investigated by the NLM who found certain irregularities. The inquiry report was sent to the State Government of Bihar 14.6.2006. Status report is still awaited in spite of reminder dated 19.7.2006 and 31.5.2007.

4. A NLM Col. (Reted.) U.B. Singh visited Muzaffarpur district of Bihar in October, 2007 and it was found that there was misuse of funds, allotment of house to non-eligible candidates/beneficiaries, double benefit to the same beneficiary under the IAY scheme and payment of bribe through middlemen.

Action Taken

The inquiry report has been sent to the State Government of Bihar on 3rd January, 2008 for submitting the action taken report in this regard.

[Translation]

Commercial Vehicles Insurance

*477. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes for providing insurance cover to commercial vehicles by the nationalised General Insurance Companies;

(b) whether the nationalised General Insurance Companies provide third party insurance to commercial vehicles that are more than five years old;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The General Insurers' (Public Sector) Association (GIPSA) has informed that the Public Sector General Insurance Companies provide two types of insurance policies in respect of Commercial Vehicles *viz.*

(i) the "Liability Only Policy" which covers Insured's liability towards third party personal injury and third party property damage; and

(ii) the "Package Policy" which covers the risk of loss/damage to Insured's vehicle in addition to risks under 'Liability Only Policy'.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. As per IRDA directions issued under Section 34 of the Insurance Act, 1938, no vehicle owner shall be denied third party insurance cover in respect of the vehicles which holds a valid permit for use of public roads, except on grounds of attempted fraud.

[English]

Dhan Laxmi Scheme

*478. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to launch a new scheme known as 'Dhan Laxmi' as a conditional cash transfer scheme for the girl child;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the districts where the scheme would be launched in the first phase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Scheme of Dhanalakshmi-Conditional Cash Transfer for the Girl Child with Insurance Cover—has been launched on 03.03.2008 as a Pilot Project. The Scheme includes Cash Transfers to the family of the girl child based on the fulfillment of four important conditionalities *viz.* birth and registration of the girl child, immunization, retention in school and delaying marriage beyond 18 years of age.

(c) The districts of Khammam and Warangal in Andhra Pradesh; Bastar and Dantewada in Chhattisgarh; Malkangiri and Koraput in Orissa; Girdih and Kodarma in Jharkhand; Jamoi in Bihar; Rae Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh and Fatehgarh Sahib in Punjab have been identified for implementation of the Scheme on pilot basis.

Roads Constructed under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund

*479. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of rural roads constructed under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) during 2007-08, State-wise;

(b) the total amount of funds utilized for this purpose during 2007-08, State-wise;

(c) whether certain States have not utilized funds allocated for rural infrastructure development during 2007-08; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) Under Rural Roads component of Bharat Nirman which is being implemented by this Ministry, it is targeted to provide connectivity to all habitations with a population of 1000 persons and above in plain areas and 500 persons and above in hilly or tribal areas with an all-weather road by 2009. For this purpose a budgetary allocation is made each year. In order to augment budgetary Development Fund (RIDF) has been created in National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). Funds are drawn from this window and released to the States as per the requirement for the programme and as per the provisions of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) programme guidelines.

During 2007-08, the total budgetary provision in this Ministry for PMGSY was Rs. 6500 crore. This was augmented with Rs. 4500 crore drawn from the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, making a total availability of Rs. 11,000 crore. The funds released to the States including those drawn from NABARD are utilized by the States for construction/upgradation of road works sanctioned by the Ministry under PMGSY. A few States have not utilized the entire funds released to them. Some of the reasons for slow implementation of programme in the States are:-

- Non availability of qualified engineers.
- Inadequate capacity of the Programme Implementing Units (PIUs) due to the smaller work load being handled by them earlier.
- A long rainy season in certain regions.
- Most of the construction materials such as cement, steel, bitumen, machinery, personnel to handle machinery are not locally available.
- Law and order issues in a few States.
- Lack of contracting capacity as well as non availability of basic road making equipment such as road roller, crushing plants, dumper/dipper and trucks.
- Delays in obtaining land falling under forest area.

As per the report available in the Ministry, during the year 2007-08, 39611.92 km. length of roads have been completed with an expenditure of Rs. 10135.41 crore. State-wise details have been given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	State	Amount released during 2007-08 (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in crore)	Length Completed (in kms.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	316.57	318.89	1656.80
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	102.03	96.85	260.50
3.	Assam	555	591.49	1141.00
4.	Bihar	733.06	580.11	1646.03
5.	Chhattisgarh	1050.89	699.83	1889.54
6.	Goa#	0	0	0.00
7.	Gujarat	144.56	156.99	830.24
8.	Haryana	216.21	216.51	670.21
9.	Himachal Pradesh	320.58	281.98	1555.20
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	72.74	105.09	140.69
11.	Jharkhand*	0	57.62	203.66
12.	Karnataka	271.49	349.12	1427.01
13.	Kerala	24.68	61.33	112.90
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1615.66	1358.73	5231.45
15.	Maharashtra	563.96	651.31	3155.18
16.	Manipur	78.99	64.28	265.99
17.	Meghalaya+	0	15.59	52.47
18.	Mizoram	21.96	40.49	181.19
19.	Nagaland	12.51	20.42	398.42
20.	Orissa	546.83	522.19	1485.88
21.	Punjab	360.21	366.95	1036.49
22.	Rajasthan	1646.64	1455.44	9887.50
23.	Sikkim	174.51	88.81	142.47
24.	Tamil Nadu	71.03	108.65	747.90
25.	Tripura	143	123.5	20.67
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1228.4	1201.04	3551.98

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Uttaranchal	78.74	99.73	346.74
28.	West Bengal	549.69	439.47	1573.81
	Total (States)	10899.94	10135.41	39611.92
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3.89		
	Grand Total@	10903.83	10135.41	39611.92

@In addition funds were released under the headings R&D (Rs. 0.11 crore), Programme Management Consultant etc. (Rs. 0.32 crore). National Rural Roads Development Agency (Rs. 10.00 crore), payment of interest on loan taken from NABARD (Rs. 85.76 crore).

In the case of Goa, no request for release of funds was received.

* In the case of Jharkhand, prescribed documents for release of funds not received.

+ In the case of Meghalaya, no request for release of funds was received.

Note:-Data is provisional.

Schemes for Women and Child Welfare

*480. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of requests received from various States and Union Territories for release of financial assistance under various centrally sponsored schemes for Women and Child Welfare, State-wise/UT-wise during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the progress of these schemes in States/UTs has been found to be slow; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) During the last three years, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has been implementing major Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz*., Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS), Swayamsidha, A Programme for Juvenile Justice. The brief details on implementation of these schemes are as under:

ICDS: Under ICDS, 100% financial assistance is provided, except for Supplementary Nutrition for which Government of India provides 50% of the cost norms or 50% of the actual expenditure whichever is less to States/UTs. Grants are released as per schematic norms after scrutiny of Statement of Expenditure (S.O.Es) received from the States. Therefore, irrespective of the requests made by States/UTs, the Ministry has to be in touch with States/UTs regularly to assess the requirement/release of funds. The details of funds released to States/UTs during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-I. The funds are released in 4 or more installments to all States depending on SOEs only. Kishore Shakti Yojana (KSY) funds are also released from the budget head of ICDS and same procedure is followed. The pace of progress of ICDS/KSY has not been evaluated by any Evaluation Report. However, the scheme is monitored financially and physically on a regular basis. The fund release is also based on the Statement of Expenditure by States. Sometimes, the release of funds by the State Government to the Scheme is slow. However, there is no delay in release of funds from Government of India after receiving SOEs.

For ICDS Training, Annual State Training Action Plans (STRAPs) submitted by the States/UTs are examined and approved by the Ministry in the beginning of each financial year. Funds are released periodically to the States/UTs accordingly and also based on the utilisation of funds by them as reflected in the Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs) submitted by the States/UTs. While some States could achieve the targets fixed in the STRAPs, there are few states where progress has been found slow due to

various reasons. In order to strengthen the implementation, the Ministry regularly reviews the performance of the States/UTs through Quarterly Review Meetings, Quarterly Progress Reports, field visits etc. and issues necessary directions to the States.

Swayamsidha: Swayamsidha is a centrally sponsored scheme for the holistic empowerment of Women. Grants are released as per schematic norms based on approved Annual grant already released to them. The Scheme ended on 31.3.2008. The details of funds released to the States/UTs during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-II. The physical and financial targets have been achieved to a large extent by most States/ UTs. In addition to monitoring the scheme through normal means such as Quarterly Progress Report, field visits, a system of Quarterly Review Meetings of State Nodal Officers was also put in place to enable constant assessment of the performance of the scheme in the States and to take immediate remedial measures.

A Programme for Juvenile Justice: Under A Programme for Juvenile Justice scheme financial assistance is provided to the State/UTs to meet 50 per cent expenditure requirement for establishment, upgradation and maintenance of homes/institutions under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000. The State Governments/UT Administrations in every financial year submit consolidated proposals in respect of all the homes in the State under the JJ Act, to the Ministry for release of central share of grants under the scheme. The requests received from States/UTs under the scheme for the last three years are as under:

Financial Year	No. of proposals received from the States/UTs	No. of proposals processed and grants released (***)
2005-06	25(*)	23
2006-07	26(**)	25
2007-08	26(**)	25

(*) Grants to the State Government of Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand could not be released because proposals were incomplete.

(**) Grants to the State Government of Himachal Pradesh during the 2006-07 and to State Government of Punjab during 2007-08 could not be released because proposals were incomeplete.

(***) The details of grants released are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

The release of central share of grants, number of homes assisted and number of beneficiaries covered under the scheme—A Programme for Juvenile Justice has been showing an increasing trend. However, Ministry of Women and Child Development has revealed shortcomings and gaps in the existing child protection institutions, polices programmes and their implementation at all levels. In order to overcome these shortcomings and gaps, Ministry has proposed a new centrally sponsored scheme namely "Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)" for implementation during the 11th Plan Period, with the objective to provide a safe and secure environment for children in the country.

Proposed ICPS would bring several existing child protection programmes namely (i) A programme for Juvenile Justice; (ii) An Integrated Programme for Street Children; and (iii) Scheme for Assistance to Homes [Shishu Greh] to Promote In-country Adoption, under one umbrella and initiates new interventions.

Statement I

State-wise Position of Funds Released under ICDS Scheme (General) during Year 2005-06 to 2007-08

(Rupees in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2005-06 Funds released	2006-07 Funds released	2007-08 Funds released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14750.69	21877.67	26015.86
2.	Bihar	5036.11	20976.12	21909.01
3.	Chhattisgarh	4412.01	4561.50	9498.18

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Goa	373.53	397.96	507.00
5.	Gujarat	9917.54	12732.62	11050.69
6.	Haryana	5312.47	6015.49	7115.76
7.	Himachal Pradesh	3480.88	2882.29	3802.02
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	4989.19	5410.99	8001.09
9.	Jharkhand	4288.33	7845.37	9191.01
10.	Karnataka	14176.11	19122.28	13934.16
11.	Kerala	5725.65	8115.91	9687.99
12.	Madhya Pradesh	9498.48	13002.16	26458.36
13.	Maharashtra	16808.92	20433.15	25105.71
14.	Orissa	10600.69	12137.96	15129.70
15.	Punjab	5591.61	5861.62	5316.95
16.	Rajasthan	7459.77	13809.14	12885.03
17.	Tamil Nadu	15212.94	12786.60	15608.35
18.	Uttar Pradesh	31989.58	24768.42	37189.40
19.	Uttarakhand	2861.67	1676.39	2690.52
20.	West Bengal	19391.00	17182.73	23845.30
21.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	212.82	174.11	241.55
22.	Chandigarh	156.87	163.41	189.39
23.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	70.10	62.33	68.70
24.	Daman and Diu	47.74	56.78	48.00
25.	Lakshadweep	42.67	38.34	64.63
26.	Delhi	1290.03	1379.78	1569.21
27.	Pondicherry	233.68	195.22	234.36
28.	Arunachal Pradesh	1780.28	3145.86	3302.60
29.	Assam	22462.56	16077.48	8582.93
30.	Manipur	1664.87	3631.405	3203.17
31.	Meghalaya	2158.35	2114.925	1289.14
32.	Mizoram	1476.66	1573.255	1210.29

1	2	3	4	5
33.	Nagaland	2531.64	2471.215	1697.65
34.	Sikkim	354.75	782.6	553.31
35.	Tripura	2779.91	4475.41	3406.26
36.	LIC	800.00	1200.00	200.00
	Total	229940.10	269138.480	310803.270

*Release of funds for Supplementary Nutrition under ICDS Scheme—2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08**

(Rupees in Lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Released 2005-06	Released 2006-07	Released 2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4745.42	9052.04	13718.25
2.	Bihar	8260.92	11828.92	19192.72
3.	Chhattisgarh	3133.33	2953.64	10452.14
4.	Goa	115.13	175.41	169.52
5.	Gujarat	3339.82	4297.21	3855.01
6.	Haryana	1810.62	2829.56	5216.72
7.	Himachal Pradesh	660.00	629.63	1017.58
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	343.56	653.20	917.69
9.	Jharkhand	761.49	11154.47	6997.88
10.	Karnataka	7379.97	9407.65	9298.19
11.	Kerala	1738.28	3666.11	3979.14
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5457.86	5770.97	18263.25
13.	Maharashtra	9869.23	8443.33	16770.11
14.	Orissa	6697.98	6646.40	6295.06
15.	Punjab	1246.53	3138.07	1691.46
16.	Rajasthan	5534.27	8571.57	11067.07
17.	Tamil Nadu	3703.59	3451.94	3521.89
18.	Uttar Pradesh	18125.13	41902.48	47968.74

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Uttarakhand	705.72	1347.89	2367.65
20.	West Bengal	6348.24	5916.07	14392.25
21.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	80.39	93.67	67.45
22.	Chandigarh	76.33	154.76	46.17
23.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	22.59	22.59	96.57
24.	Daman and Diu	13.74	13.74	
25.	Lakshadweep	7.52	39.91	27.75
26.	Delhi	737.49	694.29	516.47
27.	Pondicherry	85.72	55.03	200.64
28.	Arunachal Pradesh	113.41	879.60	461.37
29.	Assam	3066.67	3711.54	3376.61
30.	Manipur	664.58	914.32	926.30
31.	Meghalaya	687.17	1023.42	1007.99
32.	Mizoram	471.24	488.97	535.20
33.	Nagaland	929.07	1188.71	991.99
34.	Sikkim	118.48	95.77	64.68
35.	Tripura	407.06	707.69	759.54
	Total	97458.55	151920.57	206231.05

*Upto 2004-05, no separate funds for SNP were released.

Statement II

Details of grant released State-wise/UT-wise during each of last three years under Swayamsidha

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Grant Released in 2005-06	Grant Released in 2006-07	Grant Released in 2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	110	231.84	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	9.35
3.	Assam	100	100	110.12
4.	Bihar	100	270	492.45

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Chhattisgarh	60	25	57.63
6.	Gujarat	30.6	299.4	69.96
7.	Haryana	69.62	0	24.35
8.	Himachal Pradesh	32.39	34.39	44.25
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	70.98	36.85	36.85
10.	Jharkhand	25	50	127.47
11.	Karnataka	110	26.05	0
12.	Kerala	132.43	52.6	4.76
13.	Madhya Pradesh	200	100	115.4
14.	Maharashtra	159.48	100	36.04
15.	Manipur	0	14.49	32.73
16.	Meghalaya	29	30.89	0
17.	Mizoram	27.12	0.33	11.31
18.	Nagaland	46.71	0	0
19.	Orissa	113.45	100	105.93
20.	Punjab	25	71.76	0
21.	Rajasthan	180	200	18.23
22.	Sikkim	25.75	39.84	22.60
23.	Tamil Nadu	167.02	150.01	65.76
24.	Tripura	10.94	0	19.75
25.	Uttar Pradesh	0	485.35	539.33
26.	Uttaranchal	83	37.79	33.73
27.	West Bengal	99.63	327.75	0
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	2.97
29.	Delhi	0	10	0
30.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
31.	Pondicherry	13.40	14.8	0
	Total	2021.52	2809.14	1980.97

Statement III

Details of Grant-in-aid released to the State Governments/UT Administrations under the scheme "A Programme for Juvenile Justice" and number of beneficiaries as well as homes assisted during the financial year 2005-06

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Amount released (in Rupees)	No. of children assisted	No. of Homes assisted
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	—	—	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1,33,72,660	1606	22
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
4.	Assam	24,10,750	400	7
5.	Bihar	1,03,26,760	847	23
6.	Chandigarh	—	—	—
7.	Chhattisgarh	14,62,380	258	7
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
9.	Daman and Diu	—	—	—
10.	Delhi	90,37,976	1772	14
11.	Goa	5,35,570	87	3
12.	Gujarat	70,00,000	2413	56
13.	Haryana	41,55,000	327	7
14.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—
16.	Jharkhand	—	—	—
17.	Karnataka	70,94,993	2341	53
18.	Kerala	35,06,090	739	22
19.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—
20.	Madhya Pradesh	53,41,210	711	26
21.	Maharashtra	6,82,41,808	15048	215
22.	Manipur	—	—	—
23.	Meghalaya	6,16,682	76	3
24.	Mizoram	10,50,586	225	4
25.	Nagaland	5,76,000	100	2

1	2	3	4	5
26.	Orissa	6,00,000	130	5
27.	Pondicherry	—	—	—
28.	Punjab	31,94,140	475	14
29.	Rajasthan	47,01,650	324	9
30.	Sikkim	2,32,750	25	1
31.	Tamil Nadu	1,19,85,750	1375	11
32.	Tripura	8,350	5	1
33.	Uttar Pradesh	1,60,57,850	2870	94
34.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—
35.	West Bengal	77,78,373	3720	32
	Total	20,03,37,976	38,359	675

*Figures excluding grant-in-aid released for construction of new homes.

Details of grant-in-aid released to the State Governments/UT Administrations under the scheme "A Programme for Juvenile Justice" and number of beneficiaries as well as homes assisted during 2006-07

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Amount released (in Rupees)	No. of children assisted	No. of Homes assisted
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	—	—	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3,49,31,720	1952	28
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
4.	Assam	73,96,422	400	7
5.	Bihar	34,12,160	856	13
6.	Chandigarh	—	—	—
7.	Chhattisgarh	17,54,440	304	7
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
9.	Daman and Diu	—	—	—
10.	Delhi	93,91,790	2206	19
11.	Goa	5,32,460	86	3

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Gujarat	28,01,567	2557	55
13.	Haryana	18,02,775	319	7
14.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—
16.	Jharkhand	—	—	—
17.	Karnataka	1,01,59,011	3247	62
18.	Kerala	38,34,510	710	23
19.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—
20.	Madhya Pradesh	2,93,18,660	3906	26
21.	Maharashtra	5,97,32,735	15520	273
22.	Manipur	—	—	—
23.	Meghalaya	6,84,169	76	3
24.	Mizoram	23,47,250	225	4
25.	Nagaland	6,21,000	100	2
26.	Orissa	7,54,758	240	5
27.	Pondicherry	31,88,560	416	15
28.	Punjab	42,71,540	814	15
29.	Rajasthan	15,36,530	323	9
30.	Sikkim	2,92,096	16	1
31.	Tamil Nadu	99,14,950	1545	19
32.	Tripura	3,00,000	287	7
33.	Uttar Pradesh	1,74,21,790	1654	47
34.	Uttaranchal	35,34,686	200	28
35.	West Bengal	78,61,749	2003	33
	Total	21,77,97,328	39,062	711*

*Figures excluding grant-in-aid released for construction of new homes.

Grant-in-aid released to the State Governments/UT Administrations during the financial year 2007-08 under the scheme "A Programme for Juvenile Justice"

Sl.No.	States/UTs	No. of beneficiaries	No. of Homes	Amount released (in Rs.)
1.	Rajasthan	3675	61	17790820
2.	Goa	99	3	572890
3.	Orissa	260	5	800000
4.	Bihar	914	14	24297540
5.	West Bengal	2080	38	8012097
6.	Sikkim	25	1	494758
7.	Haryana	359	7	2713309
8.	Uttar Pradesh	1944	47	12340840
9.	Arunachal Pradesh	20	1	344400
10.	Maharashtra	22402	341	75512678
11.	Karnataka	2937	62	8225584
12.	Gujarat	2469	55	14026632
13.	Mizoram	225	4	1097250
14.	Assam	450	7	1369078
15.	Himachal Pradesh	969	19	2839741
16.	Kerala	827	23	4226870
17.	Meghalaya	76	3	743971
18.	Tamil Nadu	2705	41	13161790
19.	Andhra Pradesh	1856	22	8732160
20	Nagaland	100	2	621000
21.	Delhi	1904	20	8546512
22.	Tripura	279	5	395000
23.	Chhattisgarh	382	13	3286556
24.	Manipur	395	11	2194605
25.	Madhya Pradesh	3238	26	7045530
		50590	831	221212512

[Translation]

Opium Processing Licence

4549. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to award the work of opium processing to the private sector companies;

(b) whether the Government has given the licence to private sector companies for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and conditions for providing licence;

(d) whether this licence policy has been opposed; and

(e) if so, the basis thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India, after transparent procedure, has selected two companies for issue of licences for production of alkaloids from opium. Opium will continue to be produced only in the existing Opium factories at Neemuch (M.P.) and Ghazipur (U.P.) which will also produce alkaloids from opium.

(c) Actual licences are yet to be issued.

(d) and (e) The matter was raised under Rule 377 in the Lok Sabha on 27.2.2008 in which the Government was requested to review this policy stating the following:

(i) Opium is cultivated in the districts of Mandsaur, Neemuch and Ratlam and in some districts of Rajasthan.

(ii) The opium is processed in the Government Opium and Alkaloid Factory in Neemuch in which hundreds of workers are employed.

(iii) It is learned that the Government has decided to handover the processing of opium to private companies and has selected two companies for the purpose.

(iv) The decision of the Government has created an apprehension that the Government has decided to privatise or close down the factory.

(v) It is also apprehended that these companies will have control over cultivation of opium and that, they will, in addition to codeine phosphate, also produce morphine.

It was replied that the Government has, with a view to augment the existing capacity of production of opium alkaloids from opium licitly produced in India, decided to licence two Indian companies to produce alkaloids from opium and has, after inviting expressions of interest and processing their bids, selected two companies for grant of licences. The production of alkaloids by these two private companies will supplement the production of the GOAWs. The companies can manufacture any alkaloids of opium such as morphine, codeine, thebaine, etc. However, there is no proposal to allow these companies to cultivate opium or exercise control over cultivation. There is also no proposal under consideration to privatise or close the Govt. Opium and Alkaloid Works, Neemuch.

Right to Property to SC/ST Women

4550. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have the right in the property owned by their husband and father; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The property rights of the Scheduled Castes Hindu women are governed by the Hindu Succession Act, 1956. Hwoever, as per section 2(2) of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, the provisions of the said Act is not applicable to the members of the Scheduled Tribes. The property rights of the Scheduled Tribe women are governed by their customary law.

Enlisting Communities in ST List

4551. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gvoernment is contemplating to enlist some other communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) and (b) As per the modalities approved by the Government on 15.6.1999 for determining the claims for inclusion in/ exclusion from and other modifications in Orders specifying Scheduled Tribes, only those proposals, which have been justified and recommended by the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration and the Registrar General of India as well as the National Commission for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are to be considered and legislation amended. The receipt of proposals in this Ministry for determining the claims for inclusion in/exclusion from and other modifications in Orders specifying Scheduled Tribes in an ongoing and continuous process.

Sexual Harassment in BPO and IT Centres

4552. SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of increasing incidents of sexual harassment in BPO and IT centres;

(b) whether some women from the North-Eastern region have also lodged complaint with the National Commission for Women in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) There have been some incidents of sexual harassment in BPOs/IT Sectors. No specific complains have been registered in National Commission for Women by the women from the North Eastern Region.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The National Commission for Women (NCW) had convened an inter-active meeting with the representatives of the BPO companies, Call Centres and concerned police authorities of Delhi/Gurgaon/Noida to discuss the various issues related to problems of women working in BPOs/ Call Centres. Based on the discussion, the Commission has formulated guidelines which contain the measures the Call Centre owners should take to ensure safety of women in the office transport, additional checks to be performed, the good practices to be followed in-house and gender-friendly measures.

Educational Facilities to ST Students

4553. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the detials of facilities being provided by the Government to the Scheduled Tribes students regarding admission and tuition fees etc. in Government and Private institution of different level of education viz. Primary, Secondary, Sr. Secondary & higher education; and

(b) the total number of beneficiaries of such facilities during the last three years, State-wise/Union Territory wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) and (b) In so far as Ministry of Tribal Affairs is concerned, the details of the Schemes under which various facilities are provided to ST students regarding admission and tuition fees etc. in Government and Private institutions of different level of education is as follows:

(i) Post Matric Scholarship to ST students:

The value of Scholarship under the Scheme to eligible ST students includes maintenance allowance, provision for students with disabilities, re-imbursement of compulsory non-refundable fees, Study Tour charges, thesis typing/printing charges and book allowance for students pursuing correspondence courses for complete duration of course at specified rates for specified courses for different discipline. The details of beneficiaries under the scheme of Post Matric Scholarship, State-wise/Union Territory-wise during last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(2) Top Class Education:

The Scheme of Top Class Education for ST Students has been introduced from the academic

year 2007-08 with the objective of encouraging meritorious ST students for pursuing studies at degree and post degree level in any of the 127 identified institutes in both the Government and private sectors covering the field of management, medicine, engineering, law and commercial courses. Each institute has been allocated a maximum of five awards.

Under the scheme, eligible ST students are awarded scholarship covering full tuition fee and other non-refundable dues in respect of Government/Government-funded institutions. However, there is a ceiling of Rs. 2.00 lakh per annum per student for private sector institutions and Rs. 3.72 lakh per annum per student for the private sector flying clubs for Commercial Pilot Training. In addition to the above, the scholarship also provides for living expenses, books and stationery grant, cost a latest computer system along with its accessories as one time assistance during the course at specified rates. Under the scheme grants are released to the Institutes and not to States/Union Territories. During last financial 2007-08, grants have been sanctioned to 23 institutes for 79 numbers of students.

(3) National Overseas Scholarship:

The Scheme provides financial assistance to students selected for pursuing higher studies abroad in certain subjects at the Masters level, and for Ph. D and Post-Doctoral research programmes. Bachelor level courses in any discipline are not covered under the Scheme. Under the Scheme grants are released for fees, medical insurance premium, poll tax and visa fees at actual, maintenance allowance, annual contingency allowance at prescribed rates. During 2005-06 and 2006-07 no new students have gone abroad for pursuing higher studies. However, during 2007-08, 2 new students have proceeded for higher studies abroad.

(4) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship:

In addition to these Schemes, under the Scheme of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship, financial assistance at par with UGC rates are provided to ST students for pursuing higher studies such as M.Phil and Ph.D. Under the Scheme grants are released to UGC and not to States/UTs. During 2005-06 and 2006-07 grants have been released for 400 and 376 ST students. During 2007-08 grants have been released to UGC for 667 anticipated candidates.

Statement

Number of beneficiaries under the Scheme of PMS during last three years

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	2005-06 Beneficiaries	2006-07 Beneficiaries	2007-08 Anticipated Beneficiaries
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	132252	147213	174128
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	*13348	0	0
3.	Assam	44832	102730	49050
4.	Bihar	2982	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	57803	63365	69151

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Goa	617	675	745
7.	Gujarat	89030	96287	105165
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3153	3930	4716
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	4611	*12048	0
10.	Jharkhand	21626	15396	16755
11.	Karnataka	41976	44814	53118
12.	Kerala	6301	7493	8344
13.	Madhya Pradesh	54073	62217	66920
14.	Maharashtra	88908	99759	104523
15.	Manipur	32796	33183	36501
16.	Meghalaya	45000	43791	48170
17.	Mizoram	25920	27886	38096
18.	Nagaland	29416	31820	35002
19.	Orissa	34608	43313	46781
20.	Rajasthan	43682	123186	135504
21.	Sikkim	1131	1231	1601
22.	Tamil Nadu	1786	2854	4152
23.	Tripura	8802	10512	12528
24.	Uttar Pradesh	4986	4900*	0
25.	Uttaranchal	12241	14536	15608
26.	West Bengal	15804	16020	24790
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	292	376	513
28.	Daman and Diu	30	156	217
	Total	818005	1009691	1052078

*Anticipated beneficiaries.

[English]

Women Commissions in States

4554. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the States have not constituted Women Commissions in their States;

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

(c) whether the Government has fixed any time limit for constitution of Women Commissions in these States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) All the State Governments have set up Women Commissions.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Allocation of Funds under TSP

4555. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds for Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) were allocated by all the Ministries/Departments during annual plans of Tenth Five Years;

(b) if so, the details of fund allocated, utilized and achievement made by each Ministry/Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) and (b) As per the information provided by the Planning Commission and various Central Ministries/Departments, fund for the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) were not allocated by most of the Central Ministries/Departments during the Tenth Five Year Plan. However, some of the Ministries/ Departments have indicated that their programmes/ schemes also cover the Scheduled Tribes.

Excise Duty on Intermediate Goods

4556. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the excise duty on intermediate input materials like Umbrella Parts are higher than the finished products;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) steps taken/being taken by the Government for rationalization thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Excise duty on umbrella is at a concessional rate of 8% whereas parts of umbrellas, in general, attract 14% excise duty. However, since umbrella parts are mostly manufactured in the small scale sector, no excise duty is paid on most parts going into manufacture of umbrellas. Parts captively consumed in manufacture of umbrella do not attract any excise duty. In case, excise duty is paid on parts, credit of the same is availed by umbrella manufacturer for payment of duty on finished product.

(c) The excise duty rates on umbrellas and umbrella parts have been arrived at taking into consideration all relevant factors. At present, there is no proposal under examination by Government for any change in the duty structure on umbrellas or umbrella parts.

Excise Exemption for Pipe Manufacturers

4557. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an excise duty Notification giving excise exemption was issued in March, 2007 for setting up of a new water treatment plant and for pipes supplying/ drawing water from the plant;

(b) if so, whether Government is aware that some pipe manufacturers have been allowed excise exemption benefits on their pipes for water supply projects where no water treatment plant has been set up;

(c) whether any complaint has been received regarding misuse of excise exemption under the above Notification during the last one year; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard including steps taken to recover the amount illegally claimed so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Action as provided under law has been initiated.

[Translation]

Urban Water Supply Programme

4558. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise progress of schemes under accelerated urban water supply programme;

(b) whether any time-limit has been fixed to complete the said schemes;

(c) if so, the names of the cities in M.P. where accelerated urban water supply scheme has been implemented;

(d) whether the said scheme is progressing slowly in there cities; and

(e) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to expedite the works under the said schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Details regarding State-wise progress of projects under Accelerated Urban Water supply Programme (AUWSP) Scheme are given in the enclosed statement. The AUWSP Scheme has been subsumed in Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small & Medium Towns (UIDSSMT). The schemes which were approved till 2005 have a gestation period of 2 to 3 years and the schemes were expected to be completed by March, 2008.

(c) to (e) The details of the projects sanctioned, project cost, central share, funds released by the centre and State, expenditure incurred in respect of AUWSP in the State of Madhya Pradesh along with status of implementation are given in the enclosed Statement-II. Out of 147 towns approved in respect of Madhya Pradesh, 75 schemes have been completed and commissioned and the balance 72 scheme are in different stages of progress. The State Government have been requested to complete all the projects by 31.3.2008 as the Govt. of India will not provide any financial support beyond that period.

Statement I

Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP)

Status of Schemes Completed/Commissioned/Partially Commissioned

Sl.No.	State	Total No. of schemes sanctioned	Total No. of schemes completed/ commissioned/ partially commissioned	Schemes under progress
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	42	35	7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	1	2
3.	Assam	21	5	16
4.	Bihar	33	8	25

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Chhattisgarh	42	42	0
6.	Goa	4	4	0
7.	Gujarat	70	64	6
8.	Haryana	38	31	7
9.	Himachal Pradesh	16	14	2
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	15	5	10
11.	Jharkhand	16	6	10
12.	Karnataka	45	35	10
13.	Kerala	13	1	12
14.	Madhya Pradesh	147	75	72
15.	Maharashtra	37	21	16
16.	Manipur	26	18	8
17.	Meghalaya	2	1	1
18.	Mizoram	8	8	0
19.	Nagaland	12	2	0
20.	Orissa	35	26	8
21.	Punjab #	16	9	7
22.	Rajasthan	72	53	19
23.	Sikkim	2	2	0
24.	Tamilnadu	93	92	1
25.	Tripura	12	6	6
26.	Uttar Pradesh	390	284	106
27.	Uttaranchal	22	22	0
28.	West Bengal	22	10	12
	Total	1244	880	363

#—1 scheme *viz.* Gopalpur not to be implemented.

Statement II

State: Madhya Pradesh AUWSP Status—31.3.2008
Projects Sanctioned Rs. (in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of Town	District	Population (1991)	Sanctioned Date Mon./Yr.	Project Cost	Per Capital Cost (in Rs.)	Central share	Funds Released		Expenditure upto March, 2007
								By G.O.I.	By State	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Bhabra*	Jhabua	6200	Jan., 95	43.00	693.55	21.50			42.91
2.	Bamnia*	Jhabua	4478	Jan., 95	34.00	759.27	17.00			33.91
3.	Badnawar*	Dhar	15137	Jan., 95	56.00	369.95	28.00	3116.61	8289.98	76.31
4.	Dharampuri*	Dhar	11100	Jan., 95	51.00	459.46	25.50	(Cumulative	(Cumulative)	61.75
5.	Dhamnod*	Dhar	18837	Jan., 95	163.00	865.32	81.50	release upto		220.68
6.	Pansemal*	Khargone	8249	Jan., 95	49.00	594.01	24.50	2000-2001)		48.80
7.	Gautampura	Indore	10104	Jan., 95	56.50	559.18	28.25	590.44		57.31
8.	Sanwer*	Indore	10574	Jan., 95	49.50	468.13	24.75	(2001-2002)		64.24
9.	Kamawad*	Dewas	8125	Jan., 95	45.60	561.23	22.80	1236.46		60.74
10.	Hotpipliya*	Dewas	12971	Jan., 95	86.00	663.02	43.00	(2002-2003)		86.38
11.	Kataphod*	Dewas	7295	Jan., 95	39.50	541.47	19.75	1509.09		56.74
12.	Sohagpur*	Hoshangabad	18613	Feb., 95	62.60	336.32	31.30	(2003-2004)		66.38
13.	Babai*	Hoshangabad	10979	Feb., 95	42.00	382.55	21.00	822.68		43.43
14.	Khirkiya*	Hoshangabad	14946	Feb., 95	63.60	425.53	31.80	(2004-2005)		66.70
15.	Timrani*	Hoshangabad	14156	Feb., 95	42.00	296.69	21.00	0.00		28.55
16.	Sultanpur*	Raisen	7041	Jan., 95	45.00	639.11	22.50	(2005-2006)		47.23
17.	Udaipura*	Raisen	10076	Feb., 95	54.00	535.93	27.00	150.31		64.71
18.	Sitamau	Mandsaur	11446	Jan., 95	62.00	541.67	31.00	(2006-2007)		30.80
19.	Raghogarh*	Guna	17859	Feb., 95	89.55	501.43	44.78	149.79		203.63
20.	Khaniandhana*	Shivpuri	9780	Jan., 95	34.70	354.81	17.35	(2007-2008)		74.20
21.	Baroda*	Sheopur	12617	Jan., 95	21.55	170.80	10.78			34.02
22.	Barnore*	Morena	19216	Jan., 95	49.90	259.68	24.95			74.85
23.	Vijaipur*	Morena	10680	Jan., 95	60.00	561.80	30.00			69.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
24.	Budhni*	Sehore	13352	Jan., 96	46.80	350.51	23.40			51.42
25.	Lateri*	Vidisha	8013	Jan., 96	65.00	811.18	32.50			59.59
26.	Barghat*	Seoni	8514	Jan., 96	44.70	525.02	22.35			48.31
27.	Mundi*	Khandwah	8858	Jan., 96	58.80	663.81	29.40			53.67
28.	Bhikangaon	Khargone	12888	Jan., 96	148.00	1148.36	74.00			172.04
29.	Pachhore	Rajgarh	14206	Mar., 96	211.00	1485.29	105.50			178.36
30.	Jobat*	Jhabua	8290	Mar., 96	57.00	687.58	28.50			57.00
31.	Banda	Sagar	19805	Mar., 96	123.20	622.07	61.60			183.39
32.	Amarwara*	Chhindwara	9208	Mar., 96	119.90	1302.13	59.95			140.64
33.	Chourai*	Chhindwara	9208	Mar., 96	140.50	1525.85	70.25			208.28
34.	Bhainsdehi	Betul	14000	Mar., 96	195.80	1398.57	97.90			193.11
35.	Tirodi*	Balaghat	8738	Mar., 96	68.70	786.22	34.35			86.00
36.	Harrai*	Chhindwara	7525	Mar., 96	74.90	995.35	37.45			79.46
37.	Niwari*	Tikamgarh	15704	Mar., 96	47.00	299.29	23.50			52.99
38.	Nalkheda	Dewas	10879	Mar., 96	125.80	1156.36	62.90			175.33
39.	Mohgaon*	Chhindwara	8495	Mar., 96	48.60	572.10	24.30			46.24
40.	Katangi	Jabalpur	15125	Mar., 96	98.90	653.88	49.45			135.67
41.	Shahpura*	Jabalpur	9551	Mar., 96	48.50	507.80	24.25			56.41
42.	Manjholi	Jabalpur	13077	Mar., 96	77.00	588.82	38.50			122.44
43.	Lakhanadon*	Seoni	16410	Mar., 96	69.10	421.06	34.55			108.95
44.	Kasrawad*	Khargone	13608	July, 97	133.40	980.31	66.70			157.73
45.	Lodhikheda	Chhindwara	7633	Nov., 97	32.00	419.23	16.00			46.47
46.	Saunsar	Chhindwara	18803	Nov., 97	117.19	623.25	58.60			81.33
47.	Shahpur*	Khandwa	15211	Dec., 98	70.61	464.20	35.31			70.59
48.	Sailana*	Ratlam	11095	Dec., 98	43.95	396.12	21.98			43.93
49.	Betama*	Indore	9587	Feb., 99	47.52	495.67	23.76			52.17
50.	Suthelia*	Rajgarh	6032	Feb., 99	85.53	1417.94	42.77			84.17

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
51.	Chanderi	Guna	19383	Mar., 99	214.84	1108.39	107.42			268.99
52.	Devendra Nagar*	Panna	11092	Mar., 99	61.51	554.54	30.76			58.82
53.	Khategaon*	Dewas	15667	April, 99	322.51	2058.53	161.26			463.84
54.	Kukshi*	Dhar	19838	April, 99	184.91	932.10	92.46			184.97
55.	Chakghat*	Rewa	6576	April, 99	52.43	797.29	26.22			53.30
56.	Govindgarh*	Rewa	8435	April, 99	58.96	698.99	29.48			58.12
57.	Kannod	Dewas	13352	May, 99	151.43	1134.14	75.72			184.92
58.	Prithvipur*	Tikamgarh	17020	May, 99	76.20	447.71	38.10			99.35
59.	Anjad*	Khargone	19423	May, 99	179.30	923.13	89.65			182.60
60.	Patharia	Damoh	14311	June, 99	113.14	790.58	56.57			121.05
61.	Vijayaraghaugarh*	Katni	5891	Feb., 2000	27.35	464.27	13.68			27.46
62.	Barhi*	Katni	8192	Feb., 2000	59.30	723.88	29.65			56.02
63.	Baikunthpur*	Rewa	7265	Feb., 2000	80.94	1114.11	40.47			80.94
64.	Seonda	Datia	15373	Feb., 2000	46.84	304.69	23.42			39.05
65.	Kotar	Satna	9814	Feb., 2000	41.17	419.50	20.59			38.90
66.	Mangawan*	Rewa	9307	Feb., 2000	108.40	1164.71	54.20			108.40
67.	Nasrullaganj*	Sehore	14688	Feb., 2000	91.06	619.96	45.53			72.66
68.	Badod*	Shajapur	9130	Feb., 2000	96.58	1057.83	48.29			51.42
69.	Taricharkalan	Tikamgarh	5202	Feb., 2000	35.73	686.85	17.87			39.93
70.	Isagarh*	Guna	12103	Feb., 2000	71.62	591.75	35.81			89.00
71.	Rehti*	Sehore	7492	Feb., 2000	64.11	855.71	32.06			42.70
72.	Talen	Rajgarh	7378	Feb., 2000	151.46	2052.86	75.73			108.65
73.	Boda*	Rajgarh	6655	Feb., 2000	65.14	978.81	32.57			59.59
74.	Soyetkalan*	Shajapur	10610	Feb., 2000	83.98	791.52	41.99			82.78
75.	Badagaon*	Tikamgarh	7106	Jan., 2001	54.75	770.48	27.38			54.02
76.	Jeron Khalsa*	Tikamgarh	6279	Jan., 2001	70.75	1126.77	35.38			67.32
77.	Baihar	Balaghat	13442	Jan., 2001	200.30	1490.11	100.15			110.15
78.	Kothi	Satna	11188	Jan., 2001	44.20	395.07	22.10			49.91

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
79.	Khujner	Rajgarh	7672	Jan., 2001	222.75	2903.42	111.38			66.78
80.	Zeerapur*	Rajgarh	12311	Jan., 2001	114.15	927.22	57.08			127.38
81.	Rahatgarh	Sagar	19955	Jan., 2001	185.20	928.09	92.60			120.36
82.	Mungaoli	Guna	18047	Jan., 2001	263.55	1460.35	131.78			359.18
83.	Kurwai	Vidisha	10535	Feb., 2001	124.85	1185.10	62.43			62.61
84.	Berasia	Bhopal	17890	May., 2002	50.54	282.50	25.27			42.17
85.	Pandhana	Khandwa	9430	Aug., 2002	65.75	697.24	32.88			52.77
86.	Bagli*	Dewas	8537	Sept., 2002	51.00	597.40	25.50			57.27
87.	Bhaurasa*	Dewas	9576	Sept., 2002	66.11	690.37	33.06			57.88
88.	Khargapur*	Tikamgarh	9843	Oct., 2002	84.90	862.54	42.45			89.48
89.	Loharda*	Dewas	6713	Oct., 2002	64.53	961.27	32.27			64.46
90.	Unhel	Ujjain	9890	Nov., 2002	418.54	4231.95	209.27			167.93
91.	Badaweda*	Ratlam	5917	Nov., 2002	67.30	1137.40	33.65			64.73
92.	Piploda*	Ratlam	6258	Nov., 2002	57.88	924.90	28.94			61.21
93.	Manpur	Indore	6983	Nov., 2002	160.41	2297.15	80.21			146.74
94.	Tal*	Ratlam	10331	Nov., 2002	67.06	649.11	33.53			61.49
95.	Badgaon*	Shajapur	5636	Dec., 2002	70.38	1248.76	35.19			44.09
96.	Kanad	Shajapur	6442	Dec., 2002	68.58	1064.58	34.29			53.89
97.	Rajpur	Badwani	14396	Dec., 2002	408.78	2839.54	204.39			348.78
98.	Manasa*	Neemuch	19036	Dec., 2002	413.76	2173.57	206.88			450.96
99.	Singoli*	Neemuch	6602	Dec., 2002	37.01	560.59	18.51			38.83
100.	Jeeran	Neemuch	9321	Dec., 2002	56.79	609.27	28.40			49.31
101.	Ratangarh*	Neemuch	5811	Dec., 2002	51.58	887.63	25.79			49.61
102.	Polaykalan*	Shajapur	8961	Dec., 2002	71.20	803.52	35.60			*67.38
103.	Satwas*	Dewas	8219	Jan., 2003	64.00	778.68	32.00			64.55
104.	Khand	Shahdol	8225	Jan., 2003	57.57	699.94	28.79			45.01
105.	Maksi	Shajapur	14430	Jan., 2003	325.20	2253.64	162.60			310.93
106.	Akodia	Shajapur	8347	Jan., 2003	96.00	1150.11	48.00			63.16

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
107.	Lahar	Bhind	18650	Jan., 2003	161.84	867.77	80.92			153.43
108.	Alampur	Bhind	7728	Jan., 2003	83.24	1077.12	41.62			51.63
109.	Rajgarh	Rajgarh	18689	Jan., 2003	190.17	1017.55	95.09			133.64
110.	Pipiya Mandi	Mandsaur	10483	Jan., 2003	165.61	1579.80	82.81			165.61
111.	Rampura	Neemuch	15848	Jan., 2003	110.50	697.25	55.25			112.01
112.	Patelawad*	Jhabua	10631	Jan., 2003	17.44	164.05	8.72			11.16
113.	Narayangarh	Mandsaur	9622	Jan., 2003	277.84	2687.55	138.92			81.93
114.	Deekan	Neemuch	6030	Jan., 2003	135.20	2242.12	67.60			100.83
115.	Jawar	Sehore	5669	Jan., 2003	57.60	1016.05	28.80			51.97
116.	Malhargarh*	Mandsaur	7349	Feb., 2003	61.00	830.04	30.50			60.94
117.	Karera	Shivpuri	17413	Mar., 2003	267.63	1536.96	133.82			234.27
118.	Namli*	Ratlam	6697	Mar., 2003	103.85	1550.69	51.93			122.26
119.	Buxwaha	Chattarpur	7447	Mar., 2003	109.40	1469.05	54.70			87.01
120.	Pichhore	Gwalior	9595	Mar., 2003	67.07	699.01	33.54			32.34
121.	Bilaua	Gwalior	10288	Mar., 2003	69.30	673.60	34.65			29.63
122.	Mau	Bhind	13747	Mar., 2003	108.40	788.54	54.20			54.06
123.	Mehgaon	Bhind	11417	Mar., 2003	110.76	970.13	55.38			61.25
124.	Antari	Gwalior	8840	Mar., 2003	57.66	652.26	28.83			43.73
125.	Satai	Chattarpur	6806	Mar., 2003	62.91	952.32	31.46			52.51
126.	Gadi Malhera	Chattarpur	13598	Aug., 2003	247.19	1817.84	123.60			228.62
127.	Alote	Ratlam	17638	Aug., 2003	418.97	2375.38	209.49			13.97
128.	Bada Malhera	Chattarpur	11145	Dec., 2003	231.43	2076.54	115.72			131.11
129.	Ajaygarh	Panna	12273	Jan., 2005	207.10	1687.44	103.55			0.00
130.	Kalkarhati	Panna	5909	Jan., 2005	107.85	1825.18	53.93			5.47
131.	Bamhani Banjar	Mandla	8042	Jan., 2005	38.84	462.96	19.42			34.71
132.	Pawai	Panna	9475	Jan., 2005	210.00	2216.36	105.00			10.50
133.	Barela	Jabalpur	8952	Jan., 2005	187.83	2098.19	93.92			101.21
134.	Machalpur	Rajgarh	6297	Jan., 2005	165.97	2635.70	82.99			92.67

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
135.	Amarkantak	Shahdol	5356	Jan., 2005	115.92	2164.30	57.96			67.24
136.	Naigarhi	Rewa	7252	Jan., 2005	117.50	1620.24	58.75			16.19
137.	Gurrh	Rewa	10781	Jan., 2005	92.85	861.24	46.43			12.30
138.	Shahpur	Sagar	10107	Feb., 2005	62.32	616.60	31.16			0.00
139.	Shahgarh	Sagar	16113	Feb., 2005	323.00	2004.59	161.50			7.22
140.	Obedullaganj	Raisen	15498	Feb., 2005	164.30	1060.14	82.15			103.14
141.	Newton Chikhali	Chhindwara	10850	Feb., 2005	61.42	566.08	30.71			51.07
142.	Ichhawar	Sehore	10362	Feb., 2005	59.03	569.68	29.52			23.33
143.	Chandameta	Chhindwara	16652	Feb., 2005	107.35	644.67	53.68			11.22
144.	Sonkachh	Dewas	12837	Mar., 2005	110.88	863.75	55.44			19.00
145.	Burhar	Shahdol	16525	Mar., 2005	119.89	725.51	59.95			34.30
146.	Jaisingh Nagar	Shahdol	6845	Mar., 2005	68.16	995.76	34.08			32.42
147.	Khilchipur	Rajgarh	12675	Mar., 2005	146.06	1152.35	73.03			70.25
	Total		1629651		15874.96		7937.48	7575.38	8289.98	13108.91

*Scheme commissioned.

N.B.—Rs. 3625.96 were released to undivided State of M.P. upto 2000-2001. The repsective share of M.P. & Chhattisgarh works out to Rs. 3116.61 lakhs & Rs. 509.35 lakhs.

Discontinuation of Disinvestment

4559. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any representations from different Labour Organisations for discontinuing the disinvestment process in research and developmental works and investment of funds in order to create more employment opportunities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of reply to part (a) above, the question does not arise.

[English]

Contributory Medical Assistance Fund Scheme

4560. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed any amendment in the Contributory Medical Assistance Fund Scheme for its serving employees and pensioners in light of the persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunity Protection of Right and Full Participation) Act, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the permanently disabled and handicapped dependents of the pensioners of RBI are entitled to avail benefits of above scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), there is no proposal for amendment to the Contributory Medical Assistance Fund (MAF) Scheme.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) RBI has reported that the objective of the MAF Scheme is to provide financial assistance for meeting a part of the medical expenditure incurred by retired employees for hospitalisation of self and spouse for any serious or major operation or ailment. The MAF Scheme *per se* does no cover dependents.

Facelift of Connaught Place

4561. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NDMC has any proposal for a facelift of Connaught Place (CP) and other important places under Lyton's Zone in the wake of forthcoming Commonwealth Games;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the restoration work is likely to be taken up and the expected time of completion thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The details of re-development of Connaught Place being undertaken by NMDC are as under:-

* Restoration of facade.
* Traffic circulation
* Parking
* Subways
* Augmentation/upgradation engineering sevices
* Landscaping
* Signages.

Work at Tibetan Market and Janpath Road Berm Market has been completed. Work at Yusuf Zai Market. Palika Bazar and Janpath Mini Market are expected to start in the near future. NMDC has further reported that all attempts are being made to complete the works by July, 2010.

[Translation]

Pending Proposal for Construction of Bridges

4562. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the propsoals for construction of bridges with length exceeding 25 metres under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) pending for clearance with the Union Government during the last year and till date, State-wise; and

(b) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), 250 proposals for construction of bridges with length exceeding 25 metres are pending for clearance/sanction by the Ministry of Rural Development, out of which 20 proposals are for the State of Bihar and 230 for the State of Assam. These proposals have been considered by the Empowered Committee in the meeting held on 17.4.2008. The final decision on these proposals is likely to be taken soon. This is a continuous process.

[English]

Trade Unions of LIC of India

4563. SHRI VASANTRAO MORE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether recognition has been granted to Trade Unions of LIC of India; and

(b) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Malnutrition

4564. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that India have the largest number of children suffering from malnutrition in compare to other countries of the world;

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

(c) the number of children suffering from malnutrition, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per the UNICEF report titled "Progress for Children", published in May, 2006, out of 146 million underweight children, under age five years living in developing World, 57 million live in India.

(b) Malnutrition is a multi-faceted problem which requires a series of actions in the area of food security, safe drinking water, sanitation, health care, family welfare, nutrition and poverty alleviation.

The Government of India is implementing the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme with the following objectives:

- to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years;
- to lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child;
- to reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout;
- to acheive effective co-ordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development; and
- to enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.

It provides integrated services comprising:

(i) supplementary nutrition,

(ii) immunization,

(iii) health check-up,

(iv) referral services,

(v) pre-school non-formal education and

(vi) nutrition & health education.

The steps taken in the recent past to increase the effectiveness of the delivery of services under ICDS include:

- The scheme has been expanded twice in the year 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 during the Tenth Five Year Plan.
- The Government has doubled the financial norms for supplementary nutrition from Re. 1 to Rs. 2 per beneficiary per day.
- From the year 2005-06, 50% cost of supplementary nutrition is also being shared with the States/UTs.
- Constant emphasis on States to:
  - Ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms:
  - Ensure effective convergence of health, nutrition, education and safe drinking water services under various programmes.
  - Nutrition Awareness Campaign.

(c) The State-wise percentage of underweight children, under age five year is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise percentage of underweight children under age 5 years

Sl.No.	State/UT	Underweight children under age 5 years
1	2	3
	India	**42.5**
	North	
1.	Delhi	26.1
2.	Haryana	39.6
3.	Himachal Pradesh	36.5

1	2	3
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	25.6
5.	Punjab	24.9
6.	Rajasthan	39.9
7.	Uttranchal	38.0
	Central	
8.	Chhattisgarh	47.1
9.	Madhya Pradesh	60.0
10.	Uttar Pradesh	42.4
	East	
11.	Bihar	55.9
12.	Jharkhand	56.5
13.	Orissa	40.7
14.	West Bengal	38.7
	North East	
15.	Arunachal Pradesh	32.5
16.	Assam	36.4
17.	Manipur	22.1
18.	Meghalaya	48.8
19.	Mizoram	19.9
20.	Nagaland	25.2
21.	Sikkim	19.7
22.	Tripura	39.6
	West	
23.	Goa	25.0
24.	Gujarat	44.6
25.	Maharashtra	37.0
	South	
26.	Andhra Pradesh	32.5
27.	Karnataka	37.6
28.	Kerala	22.9
29.	Tamil Nadu	29.8

Source: National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3)

Improvement in Standards of Houses

4565. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI KIREN RIJIJU:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prescribed any targets for bringing about improvement in standards of the housing and also construction of new houses in the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) In order to bring about improvement in standards of housing as well as creating adequate housing stock, the National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy (NUHHP), 2007, which has been laid in both Houses of the Parliament on 7.12.2007, focuses on use of technology for modernizing the housing sector for enhancing energy and cost efficiency, improving productivity and quality. The Policy aims at harnessing technologgy to meet the housing needs of the poor and also prevent and mitigate the effects of natural disasters on buildings, e.g., in case of earthquakes, floods, cyclones, etc. through dissemination of the technological advances. The Policy has been widely circulated amongst various State Governments and other stakeholders, who are primarily responsible for carrying out new constructions.

[English]

Maternity Benefits for Working Women

4566. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal to enhance maternity benefits to the working women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time likely to be taken by the Government to implement the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2008 to provide for (i) enhancing Medical Bonus from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 1000/- if no pre-natal confinement and post-natal care is provided by the employer free of charge; and (ii) Granting powers to the Central Government to revise Medical Bonus before three years subject to a maximum of Rs. 20,000/- has been passed by the Parliament. The Bill has also received the assent of the President on 1st April, 2008. The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2008 (No. 15 of 2008) has been published in the Gazette of India on 2nd April, 2008.

Transportation Infrastructure System in Bangalore City

4567. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has presented to the Union Government its comprehensive traffic and transportation plan for the city of Bangalore;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has agreed to provide aid to the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir. Any assistance from Union Government to the State Government is decided on the basis of detailed project report for individual proposal and not on traffic and transportation plan alone.

(c) Does not arise.

Child Sex Incidence in Slums

4568. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of 26 States/UTs, the slum child sex incidence is higher than their non-slum counterparts in 21 State/Union Territories;

(b) if so, the fact of the matter;

(c) whether Government are taking the matter seriously to set right the things in future; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per the information funished by the Registrar General of India, the girl child sex ratio in the age group of 0-6 years is higher in 21 States/Union Territories out of 26 States/UTs in slums population as compared to non-slum population. Some of the commonly put forward facts to explain the low level of girl child sex ratio in the country includes son preference, neglect of the girl child resulting in higher mortality at younger age and easy availability of the sex determination tests which leads to female foeticide.

(c) and (b) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing the Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques as well as creating awareness on the issue through various IEC mechanisms. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched the Scheme of Dhan Laxmi-Conditional Cash Transfer for Girl Child with Insurance Cover, which includes cash transfers to the family of the girl based on the fulfillment of four important conditionalities *viz*, birth and registration of the girl child, immunization, retention in school and delaying marriage beyond 18 years of age. The Ministry is also undertaking awareness and sensitization programmes.

Flats for Slum Dwellers

4569. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to allot flats under public-private participation to slum dwellers in order to rehabilitate them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of cities in the country where this scheme is going to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) launched in December, 2005, Additional Central Assistance (ACA) is provided to the State Government/ULBs for providing housing and basic infrastructure facilities to the slum dwellers/urban poor. JNNURM Guidelines envisage public private participation in the projects to be implemented by the States/ULBs.

ACA is provided for taking up projects for urban poor in 63 select cities in the country under the Sub-Mission on Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP). Other cities/ towns are covered under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP).

Operating Profit of PSBS

4570. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of operating profit of Public Sector Banks during the year 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): The details of operating profit of Public Sector Banks for the year 2007-08 (as at the end of December, 2007) are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Operating profit of public sector banks at the end of December, 2007

Bank Group	Bank Name	December, 2007 Earnings before Provisions & Taxes (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3
Nationalised Banks	Allahabad Bank	1109.55
	Andhra Bank	743.83
	Bank of Baroda	1853.62
	Bank of India	2110.23
	Bank of Maharashtra	488.27
	Canara Bank	1995.13
	Central Bank of India	791.58
	Corporation Bank	847.64
	Dena Bank	467.99
	IDBI Ltd.	1028.12
	Indian Bank	1101.32
	Indian Overseas Bank	1267.89
	Oriental Bank of Commerce	894.07
	Punjab and Sind Bank	356.29
	Punjab National Bank	2257.60
	Syndicate Bank	1002.27

1	2	3
	UCO Bank	572.00
	Union Bank of India	1689.66
	United Bank of India	393.49
	Vijaya Bank	474.66
SBI Group	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	408.66
	State Bank of Hyderabad	638.84
	State Bank of India	8052.72
	State Bank of Indore	303.46
	State Bank of Mysore	398.98
	State Bank of Patiala	490.50
	State Bank of Saurashtra	102.44
	State Bank of Travancore	454.20
	Total	32294.81

Operating profit has been indicated by earnings before provisions and taxes.

[Translation]

Loan to Self Help Groups

4571. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of Bank loans given to the Self Help Groups (S.H.G.) in the country during the last three years;

(b) the amount of such loan given to the Self Help Groups as a percentage of the total loan disbursed by banks; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to increase the bank loans to S.H.Gs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The loans disbursed by banks under the Self Help Group (SHG)—Bank Linkage Programme during the last three years and their percentage of the total loan disbursed by banks are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Loan disbursed to SHGs	Credit flow to agriculture	Percentage of loans disbursed over credit flow to agriculture
2004-05	2994.25	1,25,309	2.39%
2005-06	4499.08	1,80,486	2.49%
2006-07	6570.39	2,29,400	2.86%

(c) Reserve Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have been instrumental in promotion a conducive environment for promotion the SHG-Bank Linkage programme in the country. Some of the major steps initiated to upscale the programme are detailed below:

- Opening of Saving Bank Accounts in the name of SHGs.
- SHG lending is to be treated as a normal lending activity of the bank.
- SHG lending by banks is treated as a priority sector lending.
- RBI has relaxed the margin and security norms for financing SHGs.
- Adoption of Simplified loan documentation by banks for SHGs.

Besides, NABARD has been providing training support to various stakeholders of the programme and also grant support to various Self Help Promoting Institutions (SHPIs) for promoting and credit linking SHGs.

[English]

Setting up of Training Institute by PSBs

4572. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued guidelines to public Sector Banks to open Farmers and Entrepreneurs Training Institutes in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Public Sector Banks in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Various Working Groups constituted by Reserve Bank of India have suggested measures for assisting distressed farmers. They have recommended that the financial and livelihood counselling are important for increasing viability of credit and that banks should actively consider opening counselling centres in rural areas for credit and technical counseling.

Pursuant to the above, several Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have set up Rural Development and Self Employment Institutes (RUDSETIs) and Training Institutes for conducting training programmes from time to time. Some of the PSBs have also opened Farmers Training Centres and Credit Counselling Centres on pilot basis to ensure timely and affordable credit to the rural masses.

[Translation]

Loan to Orissa

4573. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of loan out of the total loan provided by the Government to Orissa under the 12th Finance Commission;

(b) the percentage out of total loan provided to agriculture sector and commercial sectors in Orissa; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide more loan to the agriculture sector in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Loan is not being provided by the Government to Orissa under the 12th Finance Commission.

(b) Government of India provided loan for implementation of only one scheme, "Crop Husbandry Macro Management" in the agricultural sector. The loan under the scheme was Rs. 3.50 crores for 2005-06, Rs. 7.10 crores for 2006-07 and Rs. 7.47 crores for 2007-08.

(c) Steps taken by the Government to provide more loans through Banks to the farm sector in all the states including Orissa are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Government of India (GoI) has taken following steps to ensure availability of timely and affordable credit for farm sector in all states including Orissa:

- The Government of India (GoI) is providing interest subvention @2% per annum to Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks on their own funds and concessional refinance to Cooperative Banks and RRBs since Kharif 2006-07 to ensure Short Term crop loans upto Rs. 3 lakh to farmers at interest rate of @7% per annum at the ground level.
- The GoI stipulated a target of Rs. 2,25,000 crore for agricultural credit flow by all the banks during 2007-08.
- Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks have been successful in financing 50 lakhs new farmers during each of the last three year.
- Banks have simplified the procedure for documentation for agricultural loans.
- Loans upto Rs. 50,000 have been made collateral and margin free and the requirement of 'No Dues Certificate' has been dispensed with.
- Banks have been advised to provide all eligible farmers with Kisan Credit Cards.
- Banks have been instructed to achieve financial outreach through provision of a General Credit Card to households, to open "No Frills" accounts with limited overdraft facilities, to extend financial outreach by utilizing services of Civil Society Organisation like Farmers Clubs, Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Post Offices as Business Facilitator/Business Correspondent Model, etc.

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

[English]

Negotiating Forum for RRB

4574. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has proposed to constitute "Negotiating Forum" for Regional Rural Bank staff; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its composition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As reported by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) no such specific proposal to constitute "Negotiating Forum" for Regional Rural Bank staff has been proposed.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Norms of Mega Cities

4575. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether norms have been fixed regarding coverage of cities under Mega City Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the cities in which this programme is being implemented at present, State-wise;

(d) the details of the works done and targets achieved under this progrmame during the last three years;

(e) the details of the funds released for this purpose during the last three years, State-wise;

(f) whether the Government proposes to cover some new cities under this programme; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Infrastructure Development in Mega Cities launched in 1993-94, cities having a population of 40 lakh, as per 1991 census, were included. Five mega cities covered under the Scheme were Mumbai (Maharashtra), Kolkata (West Bengal), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) and Bangalore (Karnataka). The scheme has been subsumed in Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) launched in December 2005 and formally closed w.e.f. 1.4.2007.

(d) and (e) Out of 628 projects sanctioned under the scheme since 1993-94, 533 projects have been completed as per details given below:

Name of Mega City	No. of projects Sanctioned	No. of projects completed
Mumbai	65	50
Chennai	197	194
Kolkata	125	99
Hyderabad	186	139
Bangalore	55	51
Total	628	533

No new projects have been sanctioned under the Scheme during the last three years as the Scheme has been subsumed in JNNURM. Central shares were released during the last three years for completion of ongoing projects only as under:

(Rupees in crore)

Name of City/State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Mumbai (Maharashtra)	57.48788	91.51	0.00
Kolkata (West Bengal)	15.69750	0.00	0.00
Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	42.03566	73.58	0.00
Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	46.27246	79.81	0.00
Bangalore (Karnataka)	13.00650	0.00	0.00

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

[English]

Sex Discrimination and Assault at Workplace on Women

4576. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intends to enact any law to arrest sex discrimination and assault at workplace on women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the alternative measures being taken to curb this vice at the workplaces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The proposed Bill is based on guidelines issued by the Supreme Court in Vishakha case for prevention of sexual harassment at work place. It contains provisions for setting up an Internal Complaints Committee and a Local Complaints Committee to look into the complaints of the aggrieved women and recommend suitable action against the respondent.

(c) Does not arise.

Amendment in Notary Rules

4577. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has amended Notary Rules recently;

(b) if so, the details of notaries appointed thereafter, State-wise;

(c) whether the State Government of West Bengal has submitted request for the enhancement of the number of Notaries in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. The Notaries Rules, 1956 have been amended recently *vide* notification G.S.R. 51 (E) dated 23.01.2008.

(b) A Statement showing the number of notaries appointed State-wise after 23.01.2008 is enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

State/U.T. Admns.	Number of Notaries appointed
1	2
Andaman and Nicobar	—
Andhra Pradesh	29
Arunachal Pradesh	—
Assam	—
Bihar	—
Chandigarh	04
Chhattisgarh	—
Delhi	05
Dadra and Nagar Havelli	—
Daman and Diu	—
Goa	—
Gujarat	57
Himachal Pradesh	—
Haryana	36
Jharkhand	—
Jammu and Kashmir	—
Kerala	66
Karnataka	30
Lakshadweep	—
Meghalaya	—
Maharashtra	109
Manipur	—
Mizoram	—
Madhya Pradesh	03
Nagaland	—
Orissa	—
Punjab	34
Pondicherry	—
Rajasthan	21
Sikkim	—
Tamil Nadu	37
Tripura	—
Uttar Pradesh	60
Uttaranchal	01
West Bengal	02

Loan to Farmers by Private Sector Banks

4578. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the announcement of waiver of loans to farmers by Government some private banks have come forward to provide loans to the farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) There is no specific report that private banks have come forward to provide loans to farmers after the announcement of debt waiver and debt relief scheme for farmers in Budget 2008-09. The disbursement of credit to agriculture by private sector banks under Special Agricultural Credit Plan for the year 2005-06 onwards has shown a continuous increase. The details are as under:

(Rs. crore)

Year	Target	Achievement
2004-05	—	16224.64
2005-06	24222.39	31199.22
2006-07	40656.03	44092.93
2007-08 (upto February 2008)	41426.99	26605.83*

*Figures provisional, which is likely to increase.

Import of Naphtha

4579. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is steep rise in the price of Naphtha;

(b) if so, whether the cost of production of power generation in Naphtha based units has increased;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government consider exemption of Naphtha from Excise duty to tide over the present crisis faced by Naphtha based units in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir. The price of Naphtha has increased from Rs. 34,898/Metric Tonne (MT) in March, 2007 to Rs. 46,148/MT in March, 2008.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The increase in price of Naphtha has resulted in an increase in the variable cost component of the cost of generation in Naphtha based power plants. The variable component of the average cost of sale of energy has gone up from Rs. 5.96 kwh in 2006-07 to Rs. 7.37 /kwh in 2007-08 (Prov.) in the case of Rajiv Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Station of NTPC Ltd.

(d) No, Sir. At present there is no proposal under consideration of Government to exempt naphtha for generation of power from Excise duty.

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

Mithi River Project

4580. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the matter regarding Phase-II of Mithi River Project in Mumbai has been settled with the Ministry of Finance for its inclusion under JNNURM; and

(b) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Government of Maharashtra had submitted a project proposal for Development and Protection of Mithi River and its surroundings (Phase II). The proposal was examined in consultation with Planning Commission/ Ministry of Finance etc. As advised by Planning Commission, Government of Maharashtra has been requested to submit the proposal to the Ministry of Water Resources for appraisal of techno-economic feasibility of the project under a separate scheme of Flood Management Works. However, the admissibility of the proposal under JNNURM is further being examined.

Mobile Courts

4581. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of evening and mobile courts functioning in the country;

(b) whether the Government is considering to set up more such courts in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The Government has introduced a Bill namely, the Gram Nyayalayas Bill, 2007 in Rajya Sabha on 15th May, 2007 to provide for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas as mobile courts at intermediate Panchayat level.

(c) The details of the courts shall be worked out after the enactment of the proposed legislation in consultation with the State Governments.

[Translation]

Advertisement by Regional Offices of SBI

4582. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated and expenditure incurred under the head advertisement to print and electronic media by the Regional Offices of State Bank of India during the financial Year 2007-08; State-wise;

(b) whether small newspaper also received advertisement; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred under the head advertisement to print and electronic media by the various circle offices of State Bank of India, State-wise during 2007-08 is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that they do advertise in small newspapers. Such decisions are taken by the bank based on their commercial judgement.

Statement

State-wise details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred under the head advertisement to print and electronic media by the circle offices of State Bank of India 2007-08

(Rupees in lacs)

Circle	State	Print Media	Electronic Media	Total
Mumbai	Maharashtra, Goa	140.00	45.00	185.00
Kolkata	West Bengal	39.14	15.85	54.99
Chennai	Tamil Nadu	127.00	10.00	137.00
New Delhi	Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan	22.66	8.92	31.58
Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	50.00	120.00	170.00
Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	111.02	30.42	141.44
Patna	Bihar	28.19	9.45	37.64
Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	77.87	28.02	105.89
Guwahati	North-East (all States)	40.00	16.00	56.00
Bhubaneswar	Orissa	65.00	39.00	104.00
Chandigarh	Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh (Shimla)	28.14	10.86	39.00
Ahmedabad	Gujarat	60.00	50.00	110.00
Bangalore	Karnataka	44.80	—	44.80
Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala	65.15	45.28	80.43
	Total	898.97	398.80	1297.77

IT and IT's Expenditure on U.P.

4583. SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has record of income tax received from State of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and expenditure made for Uttar Pradesh therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) During Financial Year 2006-07, total net Direct Tax collection from the State of Uttar Pradesh has been Rs. 4262.20 crore. The allocation for expenditure for the State of Uttar Pradesh from the net proceeds of Union Taxes and Duties as per the recommendations of Twelfth Finance Commission, during 2006-07 was Rs. 11656.16 crore for 2006-07 from Direct Taxes.

[English]

Regional Offices of ICAI

4584. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places where Regional Offices of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) are presently located;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more regional offices and also Centre of Excellence in various parts of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which such centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) The Regional Offices of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) are presently located at Mumbai (Western Region), Chennai (Southern Region), Kolkata (Eastern Region), Kanpur (Central Region) and Delhi (Northern Region).

(b) The Government does not set up regional offices or Centres of Excellence for ICAI. The ICAI sets up its own regional offices and Centres of Excellence as per its requirements. The ICAI does not have any proposal to set up any additional regional office at present and plans to set up Centres of Excellence at various locations.

(c) and (d) At present, Centres of Excellence are proposed to be set up by ICAI at Hyderbad (Andhra Pradesh) and Jaipur (Rajasthan). The Centre of Excellence at Hyderabad is expected to be set up by end of the year 2008, while the work relating to setting up of the Centre of Excellence at Jaipur is at a preparatory stage.

[Translation]

Loan for Rural Development Projects by HUDCO

4585. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the loan amount aoproved by HUDcO for rural development and construction of roads and bridges during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of the projects started with this amount in each State;

(c) whether the targets have been achieved;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to achieve these targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (f) Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO), as a financial institution sanctions loan after taking into consideration financial viability of the schemes proposed. HUDCO has reported to have sanctioned 7 schemes during last three years, i.e. 2005-06 to 2007-08, with the project cost of Rs. 709.30 crores, loan amount of Rs. 598.32 crores and loan release of Rs. 226.60 crores for the implementation of the projects. Scheme-wise details of the projects are given in Annexure. HUDCO has reported that there is no separate target for infrastructure development in rural areas.

Statement

Details of HUDCO Sanctioned Schemes in Rural Areas

(Rupees in lakh)

Sl.No.	Scheme No.	Sanction Date	Scheme Name	Agency Name	Scheme Type	Project Cost	Loan Amount	Loan Released
				2005-06				
Andhra Pradesh								
1.	18704	7/7/2005	Const. of Cement Concrete Roads in Rural Areas of Andhra Pradesh by APSPRDA	AP State Rural Road Dev. Agency (APSRRDA)	Roads/Bridges	12800.00	11387.00	11387.00
2.	18890	31/3/2006	Provision of Drinking Water Supply to various Rural Areas of 7 Distts. of AP	AP State Water Supply and Sanitation Mission	Water Supply	15000.00	12750.00	9577.80
				State total:		27800.00	24137.00	20964.80
				2006-07				
Meghalaya								
3.	19065	17/1/2007	Coast. & Imp. of Roads & Bridges in Meghalaya	Finance Dept., Govt. of Meghalaya	Roads/Bridges	1542.05	792.02	792.02
				State Total		1542.05	792.02	792.02
Nagaland								
4.	18979	29/9/2006	Road Dev. Proj. PH-III at Kohima	PWD (Mech), Govt. of Nagaland	Roads/Bridges	463.07	400.00	400.00
				State Total:		463.07	400.00	400.00
				2007-08				
Andhra Pradesh								
5.	19429	12/2/2008	Providing Drinking Water Supply	AP State Water Supply and Sanitation Mission	Water Supply	40000.00	34000.00	0.00
				State Total:		40000.00	34000.00	0.00
Meghalaya								
6.	19462	18/3/2008	Const. & Impr. of Roads & Bridges	Finance Dept., Govt. of Meghalaya	Roads/Bridges	776.03	203.25	203.25
				State Total:		776.03	203.25	203.25
Nagaland								
7.	19328	27/9/2007	Road Adv. Project	PWD (Mech), Govt. of Nagaland	Roads/Bridges	349.17	300.00	300.00
				State Total:		349.17	300.00	300.00
				Grand Total:		70930.32	59832.27	22660.07

Housing Programme for ST in Chhattisgarh

4586. SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes any housing programmes for the Schedule Tribes of Abujmad, Birhor, Pahari, Korva, Baiga and Kamar Communities of Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Gvoernment proposes to provide additional fund to the State of Chhattisgarh for this; and

(d) if so, the time by which the fund is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) to (d) The State Government of Chhattisgarh has proposed assistance for housing only for the Primitive Tribal Groups under the Conservation-cum-Development (CCD) plan, namely the Abujh Maria, Baiga, Hill Korwa and Kamar. During 2007-08, the Ministry has released Rs. 700.00 lakh to the Government of Chhattisgarh for prioritized activities/programmes for PTGs which included Rs. 269.00 lakh for housing. Individual housing cannot be provided under any other scheme of this Ministry.

[English]

Encroachment on Parks

4587. SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in many Government colonies in Delhi including the Aram Bagh area, people have encroached upon parks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received representations against this;

(d) if so, whether the Government is considering to take special measures to get the encroached parks and Government land vacated;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Registrants of New Pattern Scheme 1979

4588. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of LIG registrants of the New Pattern Scheme, 1979 of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) who could not took possession and their registration has been cancelled by DDA without giving second chance to waiting registrants for the last 28 years;

(b) the number of Senior Citizens, SCs, STs, and lady registrants out of them separately; and

(c) the number of LIG flats lying vacant/available for allotment at present locality-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that New Pattern Registration Scheme-1979 (NPRS, 1979), was launched in the year, 1979 for allotment of flats of MIG, LIG & Janta Categories. Out of a total of 1,71,272 applicants, 67502 applicants got themselves registered for LIG category. Some of the Janta category registrants also got their category changed to LIG category. Under NPRS, 1979, as per system data, LIG flats have been allotted to 68,825 registrants. As per policy, second chance used to be given prior to 1993 only to such allotees, who got their allotments cancelled, deposited the cancellation charges and got their registrations placed at the tail end. No such data, indicating the number of Senior Citizens, SCs, STs and lady registrants out of the LIG category registrants, who could not take possession and whose registration had been cancelled by DDA without giving second chance, has been maintained since inception of the scheme.

(c) DDA has further informed that 3695 LIG flats are lying vacant/available for allotment at present at under:

Sl.No.	Locality	No. of vacant flats
1.	Dwarka	200
2.	Lok Nayak Puram	980
3.	Narela	180
4.	Vasant Kunj	305
5.	Shalimar Babh	70
6.	Rohini	1960
	Total	3695

Conversion from LIG to MIG Category

4589. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA converts registration of flats from LIG to MIG category;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is mandatory for the DDA to issue fresh Registration No., Priority No. and FDR etc. in case of conversions;

(d) the procedure for maintaining the tail-end seniority of registrants for LIG category who have been converted to MIG category;

(e) the number of applications received by DDA for conversion of LIG flat registrations to MIG Flat registrations subsequent to DDA's Public Notice in this regard issued in 1989 and the list of names and registration nos. of tail-end registrants who were allotted MIG flats;

(f) whether LIG registrants remain on record even after conversion to MIG registrants;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that 280 registrations were converted from LIG to MIG category under New Pattern Registration Scheme, 1979.

(c) Under the scheme, in case of conversion from LIG to MIG category, fresh Registration No., Priority No. and FDR etc. were required to be issued. However, a few cases of omission in this regard have been noticed by DDA and corrective action has been taken in such cases.

(d) The names of the allottees who had applied for conversion from LIG to MIG category, deposited the conversion charges and completed all the requisite formalities, were entered in the MIG Registration Record at the tail-end.

(e) DDA has further informed that subsequent to DDA's Public Notice in 1989 for conversion of LIG flat registrations to MIG Flat registration, each application received was examined individually in the respective file and the data, indicating the number of applications received, names and registration nos, assigned to tail-end registrants who were allotted MIG flats have been maintained since 1989.

(f) to (h) After conversion to MIG category, the registration of the applicant in LIG category ceased to exist in view of the acceptance of request for conversion to a higher category. However, a few cases of omission in this regard have been noticed by DDA and corrective action has been taken in such cases.

Review on Banking Cash Transaction Tax

4590. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received requests of Banking Cash Transaction Tax (BCTT);

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

(c) whether the Income Tax Department has expressed reservations regarding the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. In accordance with suggestions received from different quarters, the Finance Bill, 2008 has proposed that no

banking cash transaction tax (BCTT) shall be charged in respect of any taxable banking transaction after the 31st of March, 2009.

Complaints Received by State Vigilance/ Monitoring Committees

4591. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of complaints received by State Vigilance/Monitoring Committees regarding Rural Development Schemes, State-wise; and

(b) the follow up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Information is being collected from the States and will be laid on the table of the House.

Complaint against SBI Branches in Tribal Areas

4592. SHRI RAMESH DUBE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India has its branches in tribal areas;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has received representations or complaints regarding non-functioning of computer network of banks in tribal areas resulting in very poor service to the people in tribal areas;

(d) if so, the details of such complaints, area-wise; and

(e) steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the functioning of SBI branches in tribal areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State, District and Circle-wise details regarding number of State Bank of India (SBI) branches functioning as on 31.03.2008 in Districts with significant tribal population (based on the respective State census data) are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) SBI has reported that no complaints regarding non-functioning of computer network, are in their notice at the branches of SBI functioning in the State. District and Circle as reported at (a) & (b) above.

(e) The updated Core Banking Solution of SBI at the branches, in combination with the Alternative Delivery Channels like ATMs/Internet Banking, etc. are providing improved service to customers. In remote areas, SBI is also running pilots for reaching the people through the Business Facilitator/Business Correspondent model, using the SBI Tiny cards (chip based smart card).

Statement

Details of SBI Branches in District with Significant Tribal Presence

Sl.No.	State	District	No. of Branches as on 31.03.08	Circle
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	Andaman	16	Kolkata
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	Nicobar	2	Kolkata
3.	Maharashtra	Thane	41	Mumbai
4.	Maharashtra	Pune	66	Mumbai
5.	Maharashtra	Nasik	42	Mumbai
6.	Maharashtra	Dhule	18	Mumbai

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Maharashtra	Nandurbar	7	Mumbai
8.	Maharashtra	Jalgaon	39	Mumbai
9.	Maharashtra	Ahmednagar	34	Mumbai
10.	Maharashtra	Nanded	15	Mumbai
11.	Maharashtra	Amravati	36	Mumbai
12.	Maharashtra	Yavatmal	33	Mumbai
13.	Maharashtra	Garchiroli	8	Mumbai
14.	Maharashtra	Chandrapur	26	Mumbai
15.	Tamil Nadu	The Nilgris	10	Chennai
16.	Rajasthan	Banswara	3	Delhi
17.	Rajasthan	Doongarpur	3	Delhi
18.	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	3	Delhi
19.	Uttarakhand	Chamoli	4	Delhi
20.	Uttarakhand	Udham Singh Nagar	7	Delhi
21.	Uttarakhand	Bageshwar	5	Delhi
22.	Uttarakhand	Pithoragarh	25	Delhi
23.	Uttarakhand	Champawat	1	Delhi
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Lakhimpur Kheri	14	Lucknow
25.	Uttar Pradesh	Bairampur	10	Lucknow
26.	Uttar Pradesh	Bahraich	11	Lucknow
27.	Gujarat	Baroda	85	Ahmedabad
28.	Gujarat	Bharuch	27	Ahmedabad
29.	Gujarat	Valsad	21	Ahmedabad
30.	Gujarat	Dadra Nagar Haveli-UT	1	Ahmedabad
31.	Gujarat	Dahod	9	Ahmedabad
32.	Gujarat	Dangs	3	Ahmedabad
33.	Gujarat	Narmada	4	Ahmedabad
34.	Gujarat	Navsari	16	Ahmedabad
35.	Gujarat	Panchmahals	12	Ahmedabad

1	2	3	4	5
36.	Gujarat	Sabarkantha	24	Ahmedabad
37.	Gujarat	Surat	59	Ahmedabad
38.	Andhra Pradesh	Khammam	11	Hyderabad
39.	Andhra Pradesh	Karimnagar	8	Hyderabad
40.	Andhra Pradesh	Warangal	28	Hyderabad
41.	Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad	6	Hyderabad
42.	Andhra Pradesh	East Godavari	73	Hyderabad
43.	Andhra Pradesh	West Godavari	52	Hyderabad
44.	Andhra Pradesh	Srikakulam	32	Hyderabad
45.	Andhra Pradesh	Vizianagram	31	Hyderabad
46.	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam	82	Hyderabad
47.	Chhattisgarh	Dhmatari	5	Bhopal
48.	Chhattisgarh	Janigir-Cham	10	Bhopal
49.	Chhattisgarh	Mahasamund	7	Bhopal
50.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	37	Bhopal
51.	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur	27	Bhopal
52.	Chhattisgarh	Koriya	8	Bhopal
53.	Chhattisgarh	Surguja	14	Bhopal
54.	Chhattisgarh	Durg	32	Bhopal
55.	Chhattisgarh	Kawardha	7	Bhopal
56.	Chhattisgarh	Rajnandgaon	9	Bhopal
57.	Chhattisgarh	Bastar	15	Bhopal
58.	Chhattisgarh	Dantewada	13	Bhopal
59.	Chhattisgarh	Kanker	10	Bhopal
60.	Chhattisgarh	Jashpur	12	Bhopal
61.	Chhattisgarh	Korba	23	Bhopal
62.	Chhattisgarh	Raigarh	16	Bhopal
63.	Madhya Pradesh	Barwani	5	Bhopal
64.	Madhya Pradesh	East Nimar	7	Bhopal

1	2	3	4	5
65.	Madhya Pradesh	West Nimar	3	Bhopal
66.	Madhya Pradesh	Dhar	3	Bhopal
67.	Madhya Pradesh	Betul	20	Bhopal
68.	Madhya Pradesh	Chhindwara	23	Bhopal
69.	Madhya Pradesh	Jhabua	4	Bhopal
70.	Madhya Pradesh	Ratlam	7	Bhopal
71.	Madhya Pradesh	Balaghat	14	Bhopal
72.	Madhya Pradesh	Dindori	4	Bhopal
73.	Madhya Pradesh	Mandla	8	Bhopal
74.	Madhya Pradesh	Seoni	7	Bhopal
75.	Madhya Pradesh	Sidhi	12	Bhopal
76.	Madhya Pradesh	Anuppur	8	Bhopal
77.	Madhya Pradesh	Shahdol	8	Bhopal
78.	Madhya Pradesh	Umaria	6	Bhopal
79.	Madhya Pradesh	Morena	12	Bhopal
80.	Madhya Pradesh	Sheopurkalan	1	Bhopal
8.1.	Jharkhand	Saraikela-Kharsawan	6	Patna
82.	Jharkhand	Lohardaga	1	Patna
83.	Jharkhand	Simdega	2	Patna
84.	Jharkhand	Garhwa	9	Patna
85.	Jharkhand	Latehar	9	Patna
86.	Jharkhand	Palamu	24	Patna
87.	Jharkhand	Chatra	8	Patna
88.	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	34	Patna
89.	Jharkhand	Gumla	2	Patna
90.	Jharkhand	West Singhbhum	11	Patna
91.	Jharkhand	Santhal-Paragnas	26	Patna
92.	Jharkhand	Godda	31	Patna
93.	Jharkhand	Jamtara	17	Patna

1	2	3	4	5
94.	Jharkhand	Khunti	4	Patna
95.	Orissa	Bargarh	22	Bhubaneswar
96.	Orissa	Jharsuguda	12	Bhubaneswar
97.	Orissa	Sambalpur	25	Bhubaneswar
98.	Orissa	Debagarh	2	Bhubaneswar
99.	Orissa	Sundargarh	50	Bhubaneswar
100.	Orissa	Kendujhar	13	Bhubaneswar
101.	Orissa	Mayurbhanj	21	Bhubaneswar
102.	Orissa	Baleshwar	24	Bhubaneswar
103.	Orissa	Bhadrak	10	Bhubaneswar
104.	Orissa	Kendrapara	14	Bhubaneswar
105.	Orissa	Jagatsinghpur*	8	Bhubaneswar
106.	Orissa	Cuttack	35	Bhubaneswar
107.	Orissa	Jajpur	15	Bhubaneswar
108.	Orissa	Dhenkanal	14	Bhubaneswar
109.	Orissa	Anugul	16	Bhubaneswar
110.	Orissa	Nayagarh	6	Bhubaneswar
111.	Orissa	Khordha	44	Bhubaneswar
112.	Orissa	Puri	13	Bhubaneswar
113.	Orissa	Ganjam	43	Bhubaneswar
114.	Orissa	Gajapati	7	Bhubaneswar
115.	Orissa	Kandhamal	24	Bhubaneswar
116.	Orissa	Baudh	11	Bhubaneswar
117.	Orissa	Sonapur	10	Bhubaneswar
118.	Orissa	Balangir	15	Bhubaneswar
119.	Orissa	Nuapada	9	Bhubaneswar
120.	Orissa	Kalahandi	26	Bhubaneswar
121.	Orissa	Rayagada	19	Bhubaneswar
122.	Orissa	Nabarangapur	9	Bhubaneswar

1	2	3	4	5
123.	Orissa	Koraput	14	Bhubaneswar
124.	Orissa	Malkangiri	5	Bhubaneswar
125.	Himachal Pradesh	Kinnaur	7	Chandigar
126.	Himachal Pradesh	Lahaul & Spiti	7	Chandigarh
127.	Himachal Pradesh	Chamba	15	Chandigarh
128.	Jammu and Kashmir	Kargil	4	Chandigarh
129.	Jammu and Kashmir	Ladakh	4	Chandigarh
130.	Assam	Kokrajhar	4	North East
131.	Assam	Karbi Anglong	11	North East
132.	Assam	Chirang (New District)	5	North East
133.	Assam	Baksa (New District)	3	North East
134.	Assam	Udalguri	5	North East
135.	Assam	Bongaigaon	4	North East
136.	Manipur	Imphal West	5	North East
137.	Manipur	Thoubal	1	North East
138.	Manipur	Senapati	4	North East
139.	Manipur	Bishnupur	1	North East
140.	Manipur	Churachandpur	2	North East
141.	Manipur	Chandel	4	North East
142.	Meghalaya	East Garo Hills	13	North East
143.	Meghalaya	West Garo Hills	23	North East
144.	Meghalaya	Jaitia Hills	6	North East
145.	Meghalaya	East Khasi Hills	25	North East
146.	Meghalaya	West Khasi Hills	5	North East
147.	Meghalaya	Ri-Bhoi	8	North East
148.	Meghalaya	South Garo Hills	4	North East
149.	Nagaland	Kohima	9	North East
150.	Nagland	Mokokchung	6	North East
151.	Nagaland	Mon	2	North East
152.	Nagaland	Tuensang	6	North East

1	2	3	4	5
153.	Nagaland	Phek	5	North East
154.	Nagaland	Wokha	5	North East
155.	Nagaland	Zunheboto	4	North East
156.	Nagaland	Dimapur	8	North East
157.	Tripura	Dhalai	4	North East
158.	Tripura	West Tripura	18	North East
159.	Arunachal Pradesh	Changlang	4	North East
160.	Arunachal Pradesh	East Kameng	2	North East
161.	Arunachal Pradesh	East Siang	4	North East
162.	Arunachal Pradesh	Lohit	3	North East
163.	Arunachal Pradesh	Lower Subansiri	3	North East
164.	Arunachal Pradesh	Tirap	4	North East
165.	Arunachal Pradesh	Tawang	3	North East
166.	Arunachal Pradesh	West Kameng	7	North East
167.	Arunachal Pradesh	Upper Subansiri	2	North East
168.	Arunachal Pradesh	West Siang	3	North East
169.	Arunachal Pradesh	Dibang Valley	2	North East
170.	Arunachal Pradesh	Papumpara	4	North East
171.	Arunachal Pradesh	Anjaw (New district)	1	North East
172.	Mizoram	Aizawl	8	North East
173.	Mizoram	Champhai	1	North East
174.	Mizoram	Lunglei	3	North East
175.	Mizoram	Mamit	3	North East
176.	Mizoram	Kolasib	1	North East
177.	Mizoram	Serchip	2	North East
178.	Mizoram	Lawngtlai	2	North East
179.	Mizoram	Saiha	1	North East
180.	Kerala	Wayand	5	Kerala
181	Kerala	Idukki	13	Kerala
	Total		2498	

Nationalisation of Banks

4593. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ:
SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
DR. K.S. MANOJ:
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRAKUMAR:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD *ALIAS* SADHU YADAV:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any proposal to nationalize banks in the country; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

PFC in Renewable Energy Generation

4594. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation proposes to focus on renewable energy projects in the country;

(b) if so, whether the PFC has made any action plan for the said purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Power Finance Corporation (PFC) is giving special focus to financing of renewable energy projects in the country. To promote renewable energy in the country, PFC is offering lease financing scheme in addition to term loans for such projects.

Recently, PFC has signed MoU with Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA), to facilitate consortium financing of renewable energy projects in the country so as to achieve speedy financial closure.

Guidelines on PILs

4595. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court has issued directions regarding admissibility of Public Interest Litigations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has, from time to time, drawn up certain guidelines to check the misuse of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) by unscrupulous elements. In one of its judgements, it has, *inter-alia*, condemned the misuses of PILs by third parties with vested interests and asked High Courts to be very circumspect in enteraining them. Expressing concern over the large number of PILs choking the judicial system, the Court observed that real and genuine public interest must be involved in the litigation. It can not be invoked by a person or bodies to further his or their personal or political cause or satisfy his or their personal grudge and enmity. The matter of entertaining PIL and issuing guidelines and directions is within the domain of the Court in which it is filed.

Funds for Urban Infrastructure

4596. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD *ALIAS* SADHU YADAV:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any estimate of investment needed for Urban infrastructure in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to set up any committee to estimate the investment needed for Urban infrastructure in the country; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY AMEKN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Estimated fund required in respect of urban water supply, sewerage and sanitation, drainage, solid waste management and urban mobility needs for 11th Five Year Plan period is as under:-

Requirement of funds	Rupees in crore
Urban mobility	1,32,590
Urban water supply, sewerage and sewage treatment, drainage, Solid Waste Management including MIS, R&D and training, etc.	1,29,237

(c) and (d) It is also proposed to constitute a High Powered Expert Committee (HPEC) for estimating the investment requirements for urban infrastructure services.

[Translation]

Gang Rape with Girls/Women

4597. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of increasing incidents of gang rape with girls and women in the country;

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

(c) whether the National Commission for Women have dispatched its team to visit affected States in this regard;

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

(e) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (e) National Commission for Women has been taking suo-moto cognizance of cases on rape/gang rape on the basis of media reports. The Commission has constituted Enquiry Committee for investigating such cases and visiting the affected states. On the basis of the Report submitted by the Enquiry Committee, the Commission requested the State Governments to take necessary action to register cases, speed up investigation and ensure speedy justice.

The State-wise details of the Enquiry Committees constituted over the past three years for investigating cases of rape/gang rape is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Year	State	Incident	Constitution of the Inquiry Committee
1	2	3	4
2006	Rajasthan	Alleged gang rape of a Social Worker	Dr. Girija Vyas, CP, NCW, M (Yasmeen Abrar), NCW, Ms. Pawan Surana CP, RSCW, Sh. B.M. Bansal Registrar, RSCW

1	2	3	4
2006	Tripura	Alleged Rape fo three tribal women by Assam Rifle personals in AMBASA, Tripura	Ms. Malini Bhattacharya, Member, NCW
2006	Manipur	Alleged rape and molestation of tribal women by militants at Parbung and Lungthulien Village, Manipur	Ms. Malini Bhattacharya, Member, NCW
2007	West Bengal (Nandigarm)	Gang rape by CPI Cader persons	Ms. Malini Bhattachary, Member, NCW, Ms. Neeva Kunwar, Member, NCW, Ms. Manjulata Hembrom, Member, NCW, Ms. Saumitra Chatterjee, Advocate
2007	Rajasthan (Dhoulpur)	Gang rape of a girl in Dhoulpur	Ms. Yasmeen Abrar, Member, NCW, Ms. Manjulata Hembrom, Member, NCW
2007	M.P. (Sagar)	Gang rape in Custody (Malti Ahuja)	Member Ms. Manjulata Hembrom, NCW, Ms. R. Thapur, Advocate
2008	Gujarat	Gang rape of 18 years old girl at Patan Primary teachers training college by the teachers of the college	M.s Yasmeen Abrar, Member, NCW, Ms. Manjulata Hembrom, Member, NCW, Ms. Sweety Sood, Advocate
2008	Haryana (Faridabad)	Rape and murder fo two college girls on new years eve at Faridabad and their dead bodies found at railway track	Ms. Yasmeen Abrar, Ms. Neeva Kunwar, Ms. Manjulata Hembrom, Member, NCW

Trading without Listing

4598. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some transactions in shares are taking place without listing at stock exchanges during the last one year:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) penal action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Certain media reports have been commenting upon existence of the 'grey market' prior to the listing of the shares on the stock exchanges. Such transactions take place outside the stock exchange mechanism. SEBI believes that it is beyond its jurisdiction. In order to curb transactions in shares of IPOs during the pre-listing period, the depositiories have been advised by SEBI that in case of IPOs they shall activate the ISINs only on the date of commencement of trading on the stock exchanges.

Pension Scheme for Widows

4599. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme for providing pension to widows; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has no scheme for providing pension to widows.

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

Refund regarding Reliance Power IPO

4600. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of small investors has not received the refund under retail category of IPO of Reliance Power Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) action taken or proposed to be taken against the promoters/lead managers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) 8362 investors grievances with regard to non-receipt of refund were received by SEBI as on 10th April 2008.

(c) SEBI called a meeting of personnel of Reliance Power Limited (RPL), Registrar and all the Merchant Bankers associated with the issue on 26th March 2008. The Post issue Merchant Banker (PIMB) has been advised to monitor and resolve all the pending cases. The company has been advised by SEBI to submit a daily report with respect to the status of refund orders.

[Translation]

Insurance Scheme for Anganwadi Workers

4601. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

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

(a) the salient features of Anganwadi Workers' Insurance Scheme (AWIS); and

(b) the number of Anganwadi Workers/helpers insured under the AWIS by the Union Government in the country as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) A statement, indicating the salient features of the Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana, is enclosed.

(b) All Anganwadi Workers/Helpers are covered under the scheme, as on date.

Statement

Salient features of the "Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana"

Eligibility

Persons between age 18 and 59 years

Should be an Anganwadi worker/helper

Benefits
(with effect from 15.8.2006)

Natural death	Rs. 30,000
Accident benefit	
Death/Total permanent disability	Rs. 75,000
Partial Permanent Disability	Rs. 37,500

Female Critical Illness (FCI) Benefits

An amount of Rs. 20,000 is payable on the diagnosis of invasive cancers (malignant tumor) manifest in the followigng organs (subject to proof of affication satisfactory to Corporation).

(i) Breast

(ii) Cervix Uteri

(iii) Corpus Uteri

(iv) Ovaries

(v) Fallopian Tubes

(vi) Vagina/Vulva

A milignant tumour characterized by uncontrolled growth and spread of malignant cells and invasion of tissue that originates in one of the above anatomical sites is covered.

Shiksha Sahayog

A free add on scholarship benefit is available for the chidlren of the members who are covered under the scheme. Scholarship of Rs. 300 per quarter for students of 9th to 12th Standard (including ITI courses) would be provided. Scholarship is limited to two children per family.

Premium

Ministry of Women and Child Development	Rs. 100
Social Security Fund (maintained by LIC)	Rs. 100

No premium will be charged for Critical Illness Rider up to 31.3.2009.

Loans to Small Entrepreneurs by SIDBI

4602. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared a draft proposal for providing easy loans to small entrepreneurs through SIDBI as reported in "Dainik Jagran" dated March 12, 2008;

(b) the number of small entrepreneurs granted such loans by SIDBI during the last three years;

(c) whether the burden of debt and lack of profits have forced some of the said entrepreneur to shut down their industries; and

(d) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to waive loans of such entrepreneurs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has a mandate for financing, both indirect (Refinance) and Direct, and promotion & development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). SIDBI has traditionally been a refinancing institution, providing resource support in the form of term loans/line of credit to Primary Lending Institutions (PLIs). In order to cater to various types of credit needs of the MSMEs, SIDBI has started directly offering various financial products and services, more particularly in the clusters since FY 2005. The Bank's support to the MSME sector is being provided through the present network of 73 retail branches as on March 31, 2008 covering around 214 SME clusters. The number of MSMEs which have availed loans from SIDBI under the direct finance scheme during the last three years and the loan amount are given below:

Year	No. of SSIs	Amount (Rs. Cr.)
2005-06	1104	2440
2006-07	1480	3452
2007-08	1869	4182

(c) and (d) SIDBI has reported that the major problems adversely affecting the production and profitability of the MSMEs are, inter alia, lack of orders, technological obsolescence, managerial deficiency and non-availability of inputs on timely, adequate and cost effective manner. As a result, the units become defaulters to their bankers/ creditors.

As on December 31, 2007, 123 sick MSMEs units assisted by SIDBI under the direct finance scheme were closed down.

In order to address the problems of sickness, SIDBI has taken various steps such as rehabilitation of potentially viable sick small scale industrial (SSI) units, restructuring of loans, refinance scheme for rehabilitation of sick SSI units, relief and concessions by way of funding of interest and waiver of penal dues, etc.

[English]

Inclusion of SC/ST Representatives in Committees

4603. SHRI LALMANI PRASAD:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether SC/ST representatives are taken as members in various committees concerning them under the ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

BPL Families

4604. SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has already fixed the number of BPL families for States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and reasons/ rational for the same;

(c) whether State Governments have shown difficulties in adopting the list of BPL families;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government has received request from some State Governments regarding inclusion of more families in the list;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The number and proportion of Below Poverty Line (BPL) persons at the State and national level is estimated by the Planning Commission after every 5 years approximately from the large sample survey of Consumer Expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The Ministry of Rural Development provides financial and technical support to the States and UTs to conduct the BPL Census generally in the beginning of the Five Year Plan in order to identify the BPL households living in the rural areas as estimated by the Planning Commission and who could be assisted under its various programmes. The guidelines issued for BPL Census 2002 envisaged that the States to identify the number of BPL households in the rural areas which may be equal to the poverty estimates of 1999-2000 or the Adjusted Share worked out by the Planning Commission, whichever is higher with another 10% flixibility of account for the transient poor. The State-wise details of total number of BPL households to be identified are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (f) Some of the States like Orissa, Bihar, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh have requested to allow inclusion of more number of families in the BPL list. The guidelines issued for conducting the BPL Census 2002 provides the option to the States to identify the number of BPL families which may be equal to the poverty estimates of 1999-2000 or the Adjusted Share worked out by the Planning Commission. In addition, another 10% was allowed to account for the transient poor. Since the States already enjoy enough flexibility in determining the number of BPL families in rural areas, therefore, their request was not agreed to.

Statement

(in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	No. of BPL families as per 1999-2000, poverty estimates	No. of BPL families as per Adjusted share	Total No. of BPL families allowed to be identified including 10%
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11.626	27.526	30.279
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.760	0.605	0.836
3.	Assam	18.434	15.725	20.277
4.	Bihar	55.380	66.322	72.954

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Chhattisgarh	14.802	15.019	16.521
6.	Delhi	0.014	0.039	0.043
7.	Goa	0.022	0.063	0.069
8.	Gujarat	7.960	10.361	11.397
9.	Haryana	2.388	6.096	6.706
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.968	2.567	2.824
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.594	3.177	3.493
12.	Jharkhand	19.922	23.851	26.236
13.	Karnataka	11.982	20.786	22.865
14.	Kerala	4.194	9.327	10.260
15.	Madhya Pradesh	28.762	30.687	33.755
16.	Maharashtra	25.024	41.089	45.198
17.	Manipur	1.306	1.054	1.437
18.	Meghalaya	1.578	1.181	1.736
19.	Mizoram	0.280	0.273	0.308
20.	Nagaland	1.042	0.810	1.146
21.	Orissa	28.738	31.484	34.632
22.	Punjab	2.040	2.962	3.258
23.	Rajasthan	11.012	15.784	17.362
24.	Sikkim	0.400	0.303	0.440
25.	Tamil Nadu	16.102	24.339	26.773
26.	Tripura	2.506	1.903	2.757
27.	Uttar Pradesh	77.836	93.768	103.145
28.	Uttaranchal	4.566	5.468	6.015
29.	West Bengal	36.022	34.989	39.624
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.116	0.146	0.161
31.	Chandigarh	0.012	0.015	0.017
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.060	0.146	0.161
33.	Daman and Diu	0.002	0.005	0.006
34.	Lakshadweep	0.006	0.010	0.011
35.	Pondicherry	0.128	0.185	0.2035
	Total	386.584	488.056	542.905

[Translation]

Helath Insurance

4605. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:
SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rates of premiums under the Health Insurance policies have been enhanced by the Insurance companies during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of existing policies of Health Insurance launched by the insurance companies;

(d) the names of the policies launched during the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken by the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority (IRDA) for making them affordable for the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) As reported by Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority (IRDA), the rates in respect of the Mediclaim policy issued by the four public sector non-life insurers have been revised in 2006-07. It is the insurers who decide on the pricing of their products and are required to file them with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) under the "File and Use" procedure. In this case, the insurers considered it necessary to revise the premium rates as they had not been revised for almost a decade. During this period the medical costs and hospital charges had gone up and the claims being paid by the companies under the policy were far exceeding the premium income.

(c) and (d) The names of the existing policies of Health Insurance and the policies launched during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) IRDA has reported that pricing of products is decided by the insurers based on their claim experience and the Regulator does not intervene in the pricing. However, for Senior Citizens' category, IRDA has issued guidelines whereby insurers have been advised that no senior citizen may be forced to migrate to the revised policy (where the premium rates are higher). As regards the pricing of the pre-revised policy, the insurers have been advised that they may not load the renewal premium, if justified, by more than 50 to 75% of the premium of the pre-revised policy. Besides this, the Government in the Budget 2008-09 has proposed to allow an additional deduction of Rs. 15,000 under Section 80D to an individual who pays medical insurance premium for his/her parent or parents. For parents of more than 65 years of age deduction of Rs. 20,000 is proposed to be allowed under this section.

Statement

List of Existing Health Insurance Products

Sl.No.	Name of the Insurer	Name of Product
1	2	3
1.	National Insurance Co. Ltd.	Mediclaim, Varishtha Mediclaim, Critical Illness Benefit*, Parivar Family Floater*, Universal Helath Insurance Scheme*, Swasthya Bima Yojana*, National Swasthya Policy, Truama Care
2.	New India Assurance Co. Ltd.	Mediclaim, Janta Mediclaim*, Family Floater Mediclaim*, Senior Citizen Policy Universal Health Insurance Scheme*, Swasthya Bima Yojana*

1	2	3
3.	Oriental Insuracne Co. Ltd.	Health for the Privileged Elders (HOPE), Modified Mediclaim Policy, Universal Health Insurance Scheme*, Swasthya Bima Yojana*
4.	United India Insurance Co. Ltd.	Health Insurance Policy Silver (Senior Citizen), Health Insurance Policy—Platinum, Health Insurance Policy—Gold, Family Medicare policy, Universal Helath Insurance Scheme*, Swasthya Bima Yojana*, Dental Insurance*
5.	Star and Allied Health Insurance Co. Ltd.	Medi-Classic, MediPremiere
6.	Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd.	Silver Health, Health Guard, Hospital Cash*, Critical Illness Cover*, Star Package, Women Specific, Health Ensure, Floater Package Cover, Senior Citizen Health Plan
7.	ICICI Lombard General Insurance Co. Ltd.	Group Health Insurance Policy*, Group Health (Floater) Insurance Policy*, ICICI Lombard Health Care Insurance Policy*, Critical Illness*, ICICI Lombard Health Care Insurance Policy (Tax Saver), Secure Mind Policy (Individual), Group Secure Mind Policy, Tax Gain
8.	IFFCO-Tokio General Insurance Co. Ltd.	Individual Medishield
9.	Reliance General Insurance Co. Ltd.	Individual Mediclaim, Health Care, Good Health, Healthy Family, Group Mediclaim
10.	Royal Sundaram General Ins. Co. Ltd.	Health Shield Standard, Tax Saver Health Shield—Family Floater, Medi-Safe Standard Mediclaim, Health Forever Insurance Policy, Health Shield Plus, Health Shield Premier
11.	Tata-AIG General Ins. Co. Ltd.	Helath Care, Criti Care
12.	Cholmandalam MS General Insurance Co. Ltd.	Helath Insurance, Golden Health Plan, Chola Family Health Protector Plan
13.	Apollo DKV	Easy Health (Individual), Easy Health (Group)
14.	ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co.	Health Assure, Health Assure Plus, Cancer Care, Diabetes Care, Diabetes Care Plus, Cancer Care Plus, Hospital Care, Diabetes Assure, Diabetes Care Active
15.	Bajaj Allianz Life insurance Co. Ltd.	Bajaj Allianz Health Care, Bajaj Allianz Care First
16.	Tata AIG Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	Group Health Plus, Health Investor
17.	Life Insurance Corpn. of India	Health Plus
18.	Reliance Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	Reliance Wealth+Health Plan
19.	Max New York Life Insurance	Lifeline Wellness Plus Plan, Lifeline Medi Cash Plan, Lifeline Medi Cash Plus Plan, Lifeline Wellness Plan
20.	Aviva Life Ins. Co. Ltd.	Aviva Health Plus

*Launched earlier than 3 years.

Others launched within the preceding 3 years.

[English]

Imposition of Excise Duty on Hand Made Laundry Soap

4606. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has imposed 16 per cent excise duty on hand made oil based laundry soap;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some small scale units have been closed down duty to rising oil prices and imposition of excise duty;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken to save these labour intensive small scale units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) As part of the proposals in the budget 2006-07, excise duty exemption on several items manufactured without aid of power including hand made laundry soap, was withdrawn. As such, the general effective rate of Central Excise duty applicable to hand made laundry soap is now 14%. However, such soap manufactured in rural areas by institutions recognised by KVIC, unit run by women's societies, registered co-operative societies etc. is fully exempted. In addition, general SSI exemption is also available to this item.

(c) No small scale unit has been closed due to rising of oil prices and imposition of excise duty on hand made oil based laundry soap.

(d) and (e) In view of (c) above, does not arise.

Women in Public and Private Sector

4607. SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth rate of employment in the public sector has remained positive for women;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide opportunities to women in the public and private sectors in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per the information received from the Ministry of Labour and Employment, 29.21 lakh women were employed in the public sector against 20.95 lakh in the private sector. Employment in public sector has increased by 1.1 percent as compared to the previous year.

(c) The Government has taken various measures to create an enabling environment to augment the share of women in the total workforce. These include:

Programmes and Institutional support for skill development and capacity building:

Ministry of Women and Child Development has been implementing Support to Training and Employment Programme to provide training and skills to women to facilitate them to obtain employment of self-employment on a sustainable basis.

Another programme being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, namely, Swayamsidha, aims at holistic empowerment of women through, among other things, economic empowerment and convergence of various schemes.

The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) facilitates credit support or micro-credit support to the poor women for income generating, production, skill development and housing activities in order to make them economically independents.

To give special focus on the skill training development of women, the Directorate General of Employment & Training (DGE&T) under the Ministry of Labour & Employment has set up Women's Training Directorate which aims at promoting participation of women in skill training. Under the Women's Vocational Training programmes, institutionalized skill training is being offered to women in basic, advanced & post-advanced skills for improving the employability of women in wage/self employment. In the State Sector, a network of exclusive Women Industrial Training Institutes (WITIs) have been set up under the administrative control of the State Governments.

Creating a positive and congenial work environment for women workers:

A number of protective provisions favouring women have been incorporated in the various labour laws such as Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Factories Act, 1948, the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, etc.

Assistance to women job seekers:

The Employment Exchanges take special care to cater to the job needs of women registered with them.

Besides the above, the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001 affirms Government's commitment to include women's perspectives in designing and implementing, macro-economic and social policies by institutionalizing their participation in such processes. The Policy also lays down that their contribution to socio-economic development as producers and workers will be recognized in the formal and informal sectors (including home based workers) and appropriate policies relating to employment and to their working conditions will be drawn up.

Reduction in Excise Duty on Alloys

4608. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steel makers in the country have urged the Government to reduce excise duty on alloys so that they can reduce prices of steel and pass on the benefit to the consumers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) During pre-budget or post-budget 2008-09 stage, Government has not received any specific request for reduction of excise duty on alloys.

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

Import Duty on Petrol and Diesel

4609. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to withdraw import duty on Petrol & Diesel in order to control the prices; and

(b) if so, the complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Import duty rates on petrol & diesel are prescribed taking into account all material factors including the interests of the consumers and the producers. There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to withdraw import duty on petrol & diesel.

Credit Facilities to Farmers

4610. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special policies have been formulated to provide credit facilities to farmers owning less than two hectares of land through commercial banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to provide credit to them with concessional rate of interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The Government of India has taken the following steps to ensure availability of timely and affordable credit for farmers, including those who have less than 2 hectares of land:—

- The Government of India (GoI) is providing interest subvention @ 2% per annum to Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks on their own funds and concessional refinance to Cooperative Banks and RRBs since Kharif 2006-07 to ensure Short Term crop loans upto Rs. 3 lakh to farmers at interest rate of 7% per annum at the ground level. This scheme continues for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09.

- The GoI has stipulated a target of Rs. 2,60,000 crore for agricultural credit flow by all the banks during 2008-09.

- Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks have been successful in financing 50 lakhs new farmers, including those who have less than 2 hectares of land, during each of the last three years.

- Banks have simplified the procedure for documentation for agricultural loans.

- Loans upto Rs. 50,000/- have been made collateral and margin free and the requirement of No Dues Certificate has been dispensed with.

- Banks have been advised to provide all eligible farmers with Kisan Credit Cards.

- Banks have been instructed to achieve financial outreach through provision of a General Credit Card to households, to open "No Frills" accounts with limited overdraft facilities, to extend financial outreach by utilizing services of Civil Society Organisation like Farmers Clubs, Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) Post Offices as Business Facilitator/Business Correspondent Model, etc.

Study on Drinking Water

4611. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI PUSP JAIN:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up high level committee to study the drinking water problems of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide safe and adequate quantity of drinking water to every citizen of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) As per Constitution of India, the subject of water supply falls in the state list. The Government of India extends support under its various programmes/schemes to assist the State/Local Governments in the discharge of their functions related to drinking water supply.

The Ministry of Urban Development has not established any high level committee to study the drinking water problems of the country. However, Government of India has launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3.12.2005 to give focused attention to integrated development of urban infrastructure and services in 63 select cities. Water supply is one of the major components under JNNURM. Since the launch of the Mission, 99 water projects costing Rs. 11100.47 crore have been sanctioned under Urban Infrastructure & Governance component of JNNURM so far. Under the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) component, 205 water supply projects costing Rs. 3393.21 crores have been sanctioned.

As far information received from Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development, a Technical Expert Group (TEG) has been set up to examine various emerging issues in drinking water and sanitation sector in respect of rural areas and to suggest measures to tackle the new challenges *vide* Department of Drinking Water Supply's order dated 16.8.2007. Terms of Reference (TOR) of Technical Expert Group (TEG) are given in the enclosed Statement-I. The Department has also intimated that funds have been provided in the budgets of the State of drinking water supply right from the commencement of the first Five Year Plan. A national water supply and sanitation programme was introduced in the social welfare sector in the year 1954. The Government of India provided assistance to the States to establish special investigation divisions in the Fourth Five Year Plan to carry out identification of the problem villages. Taking into account the magnitude of the problem and accelerated the pace of coverage of problem villages, the Central Government introduced the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) in 1972-73 to assist the States and the Union Territories with 100% grants-in-aid to implement the schemes in such villages. This programme continued till 1973-74. But with the introduction of the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) during the fifth Five Year Plan (from 1974-75), it was withdrawn. The programme was however, re-introduced in 1977-78 when the progress of supply of safe drinking water to the identified problem villages under the Minimum Needs Programme was not found to be satisfactory. The entire programme was given a Mission Approach when the Technology Mission on Drinking Water and Related Water

Management also called the National Drinking Water Mission (NDWM) was introduced as one of the five Social Missions in 1986. NDWM was renamed as Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission in 1991. Drinking Water Supply is one of the six components of Bharat Nirman under which all uncovered, silipped-back habitations are to be covered and all quality-affected habitations are proposed to be addressed for quality problems within four years period that is from 2005-06 to 2008-09. A Statement-II showing the achievements as reported by the States/UTs upto February, 2008 under Bharat Nirman is enclosed. It is expected that the remaining habitations will be covered/addressed by March, 2009.

Statement I

Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Technical Expert Group (TEG)

(i) Analyze the status of the ongoing programmes and identify issues and emerging challenges in enabling the rural community to have access to adequate safe drinking water and sanitation on a sustainable basis in all parts of the country;

(ii) Identify critical linkages with other sectors for optimal impact on poverty reduction and better health for the poor through increased impact on access to safe drinking water and sanitation/ hygiene facilities and recommend improved operational and institutional linkages with other programmes like NRHM, watershed development and management, housing and industrial development, new research areas in science & technology, rural employment & NREGA, etc.;

(iii) Review and recommend steps for better integration between drinking water supply, sanitation and hygiene with health at the grass root level and recommend a strategy to channelise the efforts and resources properly to achieve the universal goal of safe drinking water and sanitation to all by 2012 in India.

(iv) Identify existing gaps in water and sanitation technologies and its usage, new R&D efforts and latest advances; integrated water and sanitation management; surface, ground and rainwater management; technological advances and adoption and formulation of suitable strategies to bridge these gaps;

(v) Suggest methodology/agencies/structures which can address issues to bring in technology information and knowledge translated for the people after assessing the capacity in the states as well as PRIs.

(vi) Assess future human resource demand with suitable knowledge and skills in the sector and strategy for human resource development at all levels. Suggest role/responsibility and methodology that may be adopted by the Mission/Agency for empowering local bodies/user groups, village communities to plan, implement, gain ownership and control of drinking water and sanitation systems at village/habitation level;

(vii) Taking into consideration of all existing relevant legal/regulatory aspects/issues involved in water quality, drinking water standards, sanitation, public health, prevention of pollution of drinking water sources, withdrawal of water for other purposes affecting drinking water availability, preservation of drinking water sources, etc. and recommend necessary steps to rectify the same, if necessary;

(viii) Suggest mechanism for control/regulation and enforcement of public health and pollution control requirements.

(ix) Review the activities and the contribution of International and bilateral agencies and recommend possible areas of their activities to increase impact of their limited support to help best the efforts of the ministry/mission and recommend better coordination mechanism for improved interventions for increasing regional and international collaboration, any new mechanism for betterment of the partnership with bilateral and multilateral agencies, civil society, NGO/ CBO, private sector. State Governments, R&D institutions and PRIs;

(x) Identify areas for private sector partnership especially for promotion of small private entrepreneur participation and for sector development as well as for local level economic activity for income generation;

(xi) Review the present structure of the Mission, its relationship and functioning within the Ministry, *inter-se* relationship with State Governments and its agencies including allocation of resources. Review the existing knowledge base structural deficiencies and present inadequacies to respond to emerging issues and challenges and suggest appropriate restructuring/strengthening of the Mission/department to fulfill the goals;

(xii) Suggest/recommend any strategy or plan not specifically mentioned above, which in the opinion of the Group could contribute in achieving the goals of the Mission.

Statement II

Department of Drinking Water Supply

Bharat Nirman—Rural Water Supply: Comulative Achievements

(Number of habitations)

Component	Target 2005-09	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08*		Cumulative Achievement
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	
Un-covered Habitations	55,067	11,897	13,121	18,120	12,440	16,886	6,890	32,451
Slipped-back Habitations	3,31,604	34,373	79,544	40,000	89,580	90,000	49,012	218,136
Quality-affected habitations	2,16,968	10,000	4,550	15,000	5,330	48,613	88,209	98,089
Total	6,03,639	56,270	97,215	73,120	107,350	1,55,499	1,44,111	3,48,676

*As reported by States/UTs upto February 2008.

[Translation]

Health Insurance Scheme for Senior Citizen

4612. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of medical insurance policies for Sr. Citizens;

(b) whether medical insurance is still a hurdle for Senior Citizens in the country as reported in the *Times of India* dated March 14, 2008;

(c) if so, whether senior citizens have requested the Government for some changes in their medical insurance dealings; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The details of medical insurance policies available for senior citizens are given below:

Sl.No.	Name of Product	Name of Insurer	Upper age-limit for entry
1	2	3	4
1.	Varishtha Mediclaim	National Insurance Company Limited	80 years
2.	Senior Citizen Policy	New India Assurance Company Limited	80 years

1	2	3	4
3.	Health Insurance Policy for Senior Citizens (Silver Plan)	United India Insurance Company Limited	80 years
4.	Health of Privileged Elder (HOPE)	Oriental Insurance Company Limited	No limit
5.	Medi-Classic	Star & Allied Health Ins.	75 years
6.	Medi-Premiere	Star & Allied Health Ins.	75 years
7.	Silver Health	Bajaj Allianz General Ins.	70 years
8.	Individual Medishield	Iffco-Tokio General Insurance Company Limited	70 years
9.	Individual Mediclaim	Reliance General Insurance Company Limited	80 years
10.	Good Health	Reliance General Insurance Company Limited	75 years
11.	Medi-Safe Standard Mediclaim	Royal Sundaram	75 years
12.	Health Forever Insurance Policy	Royal Sundaram	75 years
13.	Easy Health (Group)	Apollo-DKV	80 years
14.	Group Health Insurance	ICICI Lombard	80 years
15.	Family Medicare Policy	United India Insurance Company Limited	80 years

(b) The public sector insurance companies have specifically introduced health insurance schemes for senior citizens above the age of 60 years. When the public sector insurance companies revised the health insurance premium on account of adverse claim experience, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) advised them that the loading of premium for renewal of the pre-revised policies should not exceed 50-75% of the premium of the pre-revised policy.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Government has received representations from some senior citizen groups with a request to implement the recommendations of the K.S. Sastry Committee which was set up by IRDA, on health insurance for senior citizens. These representations have been forwarded to IRDA. IRDA has informed that the recommendations of the Sastry Committee are at various stages of examination/implementation. Besides this, the Government in the Budget 2008-09 has proposed to allow an additional deduction of Rs. 15,000 under Section 80D to an individual who pays medical insurance premium for his/her parent or parents. For parents of more than 65 years of age deduction of Rs. 20,000 is proposed to be allowed under this section.

[English]

New Pension System

4613. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pension Fund Regulatory Development Agency (PFRDA) has appointed pension fund managers for the New Pension System (NPS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of employees of the Central and State Governments are to be covered by the NPS;

(d) whether the NPS entail huge liability for the Central Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) steps taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Three sponsors of pension fund *viz.* State Bank of India, Life Insurance Corporation of India and UTI Asset Management Company have been selected to manage the pension corpus of Government employees under the New Pension System (NPS). All the three sponsors have incorporated Pension Funds as separate entities and registered them as new companies under the Companies Act 1956. The new companies are SBI Pension Fund Ltd., UTI Retirement Solution Ltd. and LIC Pension Fund Ltd.

(c) Presently 3,52,941 employees are covered under NPS in Central Government (excluding autonomous bodies, Department of Space, Delhi Administration, Department of Posts, Pondicherry, Lakshadweep) as on 31st March 2008. 19 States have notified implementation of NPS. However, no data about coverage of State Government employees under NPS is available with the Government of India.

(d) NPS does not entail a huge liability on the Government.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Projects under 10 Percent Pool Fund for NER

4614. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether projects for establishment of various infrastructures in the towns of Assam under 10 percent pool fund for NER is under consideration of the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reason for delay in sanction of project and the time by which these are likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) 28 Projects for establishment of various infrastructures in the towns of Assam have been sanctioned under 10% Lumpsum Provision. Scheme upto 31.3.2008. The List of sanctioned projects is enclosed as Statement. The pace of approval of projects under the scheme is subject to—

(i) Availability of funds for ongoing as well as new projects for various States covered under the scheme.

(ii) Outcome of appraisal of Detailed Project Reports by technical agencies, and

(iii) Conformity to guidelines of the scheme. No proposal conforming to guidelines and recommended for sanction by technical agencies is pending for approval under the scheme as per priority list submitted by the State Government in 2007-08.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Year of Sanction	Approved Estimated amount	Executing Agency
1	2	3	4	5
Assam				
1.	Integrated Development of Guwahati Municipal Corporation Roads/Bylanes, Assam Ph-I	2002-03	2426.54	NBCC
2.	Storm Water Disposal Scheme for Noonmati Areas of Guwahati, Assam		2468.59	NBCC
3.	Construction of Storm Water Draingage System, Silapathar Town, Assam	2003-04	2240.84	NBCC

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Construction Strom Water Drainage Scheme for Jorhat Master Plan Area, Assam	2004-05	1519.36	State Govt.
5.	Construction of Nazira Business Centre (Market Complex) Nazira, Assam	2004-05	334.63	State Govt.
6.	Golaghat Master Plan Area Storm Water Drainage Scheme Phase I, Assam. (excuting agency State Govt.)	2004-05	718.56	State Govt.
7.	Construction of Bus Terminus at Na-pukhuri PO and PS Tinsukia, Assam (excuting agency State Govt.)	2004-05	220.99	State Govt.
8.	Improvement of Lane & Bylanes of Guwahati Ph. II (Part. I) Assam.	2005-06	2416.45	NBCC
9.	Construction of Truck Termiunus at Tinsukia, Assam. (Ex. Agency State Govt.)	2005-06	229.21	State Govt.
10.	Construction of Multi-utility Building at Sonari, Assam. (Executing agency State Govt.)	2005-06	496.00	State Govt.
11.	Drainage System for Dhemaji Town, Assam (Executing agency State Govt.)	2006-07	1217.00	State Govt.
12.	Improvement of Roads in Moran, Assam (Ex. Agency State Govt.)	2006-07	238.86	State Govt.
13.	Construction of Buisness Centre at Dokmoka, Assam (Ex. Agency State Govt.)	2006-07	461.00	State Govt.
14.	Silchar Storm Water Drainage Project (Ph I) Assam (Ex. NBCC)	2006-07	1700.70	NBCC
15.	Construction of Truck Terminus at Jorhat, Assam (Ex. Agency State Govt.)	2006-07	1016.67	State Govt.
16.	Tinsukia Master Plan Area Storm Water Drainage Scheme Ph I, Assam (Ex. Agency State Govt.)	2006-07	1391.11	State Govt.
17.	Construction of Business Centre at Diphu, Assam (State Govt.)	2006-07	472.24	State Govt.
18.	Construction of Business Centre at Dhing, Assam, (State Govt.)	2006-07	494.86	State Govt.
19.	Commercial Complex at Lakhimpur (Cachchar Distt.)	2007-08	455.13	State Govt.

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Commercial Complex at North Lakhimpur	2007-08	354.74	State Govt.
21.	Commercial Complex at Kokrajhar	2007-08	462.91	State Govt.
22.	Commercial Complex at Hailakandi	2007-08	435.90	State Govt.
23.	Commercial Complex at Dibrugarh	2007-08	460.26	State Govt.
24.	Commercial Complex at Pathsala	2007-08	351.84	State Govt.
25.	Commercial Complex at Dhekiajuli	2007-08	452.47	State Govt.
26.	Drainage Network at Karimaganj	2007-08	1183.57	State Govt.
27.	Improvement of Bye Lanes of Guwahati (Ph II, Part 2), Assam	2007-08	2470.66	NBCC
28.	Construction of Town Hall at Sapatgram, Assam	2007-08	132.77	State Govt.
	Total		26823.848	

Committee on Financial Inclusion Fund

4615. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) and Financial Inclusion Technology Fund (FITF) have been constituted, during 2007-08;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the concept of inclusive growth has been taken as the backbone of the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Both the Funds have been constituted in NABARD. GoI and NABARD have made an initial contribution of Rs. 10 crore and Rs. 5 crore respectively in each Fund in March, 2008. RBI is expected to contribute its matching share of Rs. 10 core in each Fund shortly.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Approach Paper to the XIth Five Year Plan, *inter-alia*, stipulates that opportunities are to be provided to restructure policies to achieve a new vision based on faster, more broad-based and inclusive growth. The Plan is designed to reduce poverty and focus on bridging the various divides that continue to fragment our society. A key element of the strategy for inclusive growth must be an all out effort to provide the mass of our people the access to basic facilities such as health, education, clean drinking water, etc. Governments at different levels have to ensure the provision of these services as an essential part of the strategy for inclusive growth.

Delimitation Commission

4616. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to conduct next Lok Sabha election as per the Constituencies redrawn by Delimitation Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) In pursuance of the second proviso to articles 82 and the second proviso to clause (3) of article 170 of the Constitution, a Presidential Order has been issued on the 19th February, 2008 making delimitation Orders effective with immediate effect in 22 States/Union territories, namely, (1) Goa, (2) Pondicherry, (3) Mizoram (4) Kerala, (5) Rajasthan, (6) West Bengal, (7) Chhattisgarh, (8) Punjab, (9) Maharashtra, (10) Sikkim, (11) Delhi, (12) Gujarat, (13) Orissa, (14) Uttar Pradesh, (15) Uttaranchal, (16) Himachal Pradesh, (17) Haryana, (18) Andhra Pradesh, (19) Madhya Pradesh (20) Karnataka, (21) Tamil Nadu, and (22) Bihar. In respect of the States of Tripura and Meghalaya the delimitation order has been made effective from 20th March, 2008.

In pursuance of section 10A of the Delimitation Act, 2002, the delimitation exercise in respect of States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh. Manipur and Nagaland have been deferred vide four Orders dated the 8th February, 2008. Further, section 10B of the said Act nullified the Delimitation Commission's Orders issued with respect to the State of Jharkhand. Thus, the delimitation exercise in respect of all the State except the State of Jammu and Kashmir has been completed.

To enable the Election Commission of India to consolidate the delimitation orders and take such other steps as may be required for conduct of future elections in terms of the new delimitations orders, necessary amendments to the Representation of the People Act, 1950 have been made vide the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2008 (10 of 2008) which came into force on the 16th April, 2008.

[Translation]

Loans by Banks

4617. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of increase in disbursement of personal loan, home loan and vehicle loan by Indian/Foreign Banks in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether this increase in loans has any adverse impact on Indian economy;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) State-wise details of outstanding personal loans including home loans & vehicle loans of all scheduled commercial banks furnished by the Reserve Bank of India, as on 31st March, 2005, 2006 & 2007 (latest available) is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) There was an increase of 23 per cent in personal loans outstanding as on 31st March, 2007 compared with 31st March, 2006. This was somewhat lower than the overall credit growth in the economy during 2006-07. The Government has been pursuing a policy to encourage growth while at the same time disallowing inflationary pressures to build up in the economy including in specific sectors financed by personal loans.

Statement

State-wise outstanding credit of Scheduled Commercial Banks according to occupation as on 31st March

(Amount in Rs. lakh)

Sl.No.	State	Personal Loans*			Loans for Housing			Vehicle Loans		
		2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	10341	10419	14885	4319	4023	6445	1227	1247	1566
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2316516	2886819	3711893	1118351	1389705	1918595	142111	214098	277195

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	14465	19985	25269	3308	3880	4118	2306	3294	4161
4.	Assam	280879	397118	533254	98039	134035	173951	20909	40088	58503
5.	Bihar	431309	582138	857719	155911	226001	382583	17315	26683	48567
6.	Chandigarh	232290	365553	403993	141347	231103	233230	27754	52031	74389
7.	Chhattisgarh	197918	265811	354117	72692	103055	152475	14684	23460	28775
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1932	3552	4962	1028	1645	2539	97	503	683
9.	Daman & Diu	3322	3810	4223	876	1411	1585	677	703	1094
10.	Delhi	2124927	3123830	3434260	1070387	1619332	1761894	326537	474816	549949
11.	Goa	99533	130014	158664	41138	54956	75148	16846	27510	27639
12.	Gujarat	992405	1436106	1993419	428211	655716	1006641	91581	188781	222926
13.	Haryana	533220	997180	996290	271865	612696	559891	54655	82292	108323
14.	Himachal Pradesh	134633	193876	241687	69014	110210	138116	10793	16872	20251
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	161275	213985	280570	42929	54956	74217	25344	36637	44194
16.	Jharkhand	240702	332113	393085	62883	85864	106268	12857	29932	33435
17.	Karnataka	2588552	3737357	4570627	1429402	2212329	2831693	171047	269058	302286
18.	Kerala	1493195	1935578	2373848	880154	1111102	1379825	110981	190286	224541
19.	Lakshadweep	870	1390	1713	287	465	437	6	5	7
20.	Madhya Pradesh	762071	1025215	1118340	358708	452781	546138	58084	95708	99913
21.	Maharashtra	4569739	6474855	8421149	2477621	3699488	4875059	585913	928319	1014280
22.	Manipur	20756	33213	41688	10579	13336	18607	1438	1903	2785
23.	Meghalaya	74156	125101	59608	39386	61107	15174	3368	5574	3852
24.	Mizoram	22903	31803	43380	15161	22348	31592	461	1261	1606
25.	Nagaland	14383	22524	36844	1606	2347	5850	986	1540	2425
26.	Orissa	628288	809094	920378	325321	381914	410808	40220	74816	76593
27.	Pondicherry	45179	60991	80835	19034	27309	35900	3589	7088	10297
28.	Punjab	871091	1121580	1292979	409995	568673	635250	99340	134653	159480
29.	Rajasthan	837601	1182841	1466622	384903	596920	744303	95525	150431	199658
30.	Sikkim	25535	36444	48599	15486	23477	34358	1165	2198	2013

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
31.	Tamil Nadu	2792142	3733382	4467797	1286214	1743206	2155602	190690	276292	332555
32.	Tripura	31084	50413	65951	9412	20414	31148	668	1235	2234
33.	Uttar Pradesh	1557033	1985021	2363156	794881	1070351	1313008	130017	187117	228119
34.	Uttaranchal	193195	256320	312467	86924	116242	144678	16142	28115	38570
35.	West Bengal	1294697	1737107	2261924	552353	804322	1085212	158840	241173	284423
	Total	25598137	35322538	43356195	12679702	18218725	22892338	2434153	3815719	4487287

Note: The data for March 2007 is provisional.

Source: RBI (Basic Statistical Returns of Scheduled Commercial Banks in India)

*Personal loan includes loan for housing as well as vehicle loans.

[English]

Eradication of Manual Scavenging

4618. SHRI HITEN BARMAN:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are still more than 90,000 scavengers to be liberated from the dehumanizing practices of scavenging;

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

(c) whether Government has completed the revision of guidelines on Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme based on inputs received from States narrating the difficulties in its implementations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the likely deadline for eradication of manual scavenging in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Govt. of India implements the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS). The Scheme Started in January, 2007 by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment aims at rehabilitation of manual scavengers, who at any point of time, were engaged in manual scavenging and are yet to be assisted for rehabilitation. As per the scheme, there were 3,42,468 such persons, which included their dependents also.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The revised guidelines of the Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme" (ILCS) has been approved by the Government. The details of the revised scheme is given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) As per the revised guidelines, it is proposed to convert existing dry latrines in to water borne flush toilets in the urban areas of the country in a time bound manner by 2009-10.

Statement

The details of the Revised ILCS Scheme are as follows:—

(i) The objective of the Scheme is to convert/ construct low cost sanitation units through sanitary two pit pour flush latrines with superstructures and appropriate variations to suit local conditions (are specific latrines) and construct new latrines where EWS Household have no latrines.

(ii) The scheme is 'All Town' coverage basis irrespective of the population criteria. The Scheme is limited to EWS households only.

(iii) Targets will be fixed initially in the ratio of 75% for conversion of dry latrines with reference to 6 lakh dry latrines reported by the States so far

and 25% for provision for pour flush latrines to EWS households having no latrines in urban areas of the country.

(iv) The scheme will be funded in the following manner:—

Central Subsidy 75%, State Subsidy 15% and beneficiary share 10%.

(v) The upper ceiling cost of Rs. 10,000/- is provided for the complete unit of a two pit flush individual latrine with superstructure (excluding states falling in difficult/hilly areas). For the States falling in the category of difficult and hilly areas, 25% extra cost is provided for each two pit pour flush latrine. The Scheme is limited to EWS households only and does not entail a loan component. The scheme will be implemented by Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation directly.

(vi) The States should select NGOs having adequate experience in this field who will be funded to a maximum extent of 15% over and above the total project cost to be borne by the Centre and States based on the ratio of 5:1 at different stages of implementation.

(vii) 1% of total central allocation may be retained by the Ministry every year, to be utilized for MIS, Monitoring System, Capacity Building and IEC components.

(viii) HUDCO will not be involved directly in the implementation of the Scheme. However, it will be utilized for providing technical support such as appraisal of project proposals submitted by the State Governments/UTs.

(ix) The project cost for converting 6 lakh dry latrines is Rs. 715.48 crores out of which central subsidy come to around Rs. 545.00 crores during the XIth Plan. The revised ILCS Scheme envisages conversion of all existing dry latrines within a period of three years (2007-2010).

Siphoning off Share Holder's Money by Pharma Companies

4619. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that some pharmaceutical companies are siphoning off the share holder's money through loan licensing and contract manufacturing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Oustees of Dadri Power Plant

4620. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:
SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any long pending demand of the displaced people of Dadri Thermal Power Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether said demand has not been fulfilled by the Government so far;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) Land for the NTPC Dadri Project was acquired by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh in accordance with the provisions of Land Acquisition (LA) Act in the year 1966. In addition to the compensation paid to the entitled persons according to the LA Act, NTPC Dadri has implemented Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) activities in line with its extant R&R Policy and Practices from time to time. A few individual representations have been received from displaced persons regarding employment. There is no recruitment presently in the Dadri project. Recruitment in NTPC projects against requirement is based on its recruitment policy and Government's policies as applicable.

[English]

Proposals from Maharashtra Under JNNURM

4621. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI VASANTRAO MORE:
SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Government of Maharashtra has submitted 97 proposals for sanction of grants under JNNURM;

(b) if so, the number of proposals sanctioned by the Union Government, so far;

(c) the number of proposals still pending with Government; and

(d) the steps taken for early release of grants to these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Maharashtra Government has submitted 141 project proposals for sanction of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) under Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) component of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). Out of these 56 Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) have been sanctioned so far.

(c) and (d) Four DPRs are under consideration. DPRs under consideration have to be in compliance with the guidelines of JNNURM for their approval and release of ACA.

[Translation]

Ownership Rights to Residents of JJ and Rehabilitation Colonies

4622. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the J.J. Colonies and Rehabilitation colonies in Delhi alongwith their locations, as on December 31, 2007;

(b) whether the Gvoernment is contemplating to grant the ownership rights to the residents of these colonies;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and the time by which they will be granted such rights; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Details of JJ resettlement/rehabilitation colonies located in various parts of Delhi like Madangir, Nangloi, Seelampur, Nand Nagari, Mangolpuri, Shakurpur, Madipur, Khyala, Khanpur, Kalyanpuri, Dakshinpuri, Gokulpuri, Sriniwaspuri, Narela, Madanpur Khadar, etc. under Slum & JJ Department and Delhi Development Authority are as under:

Slum and JJ Department:

(i) JJ Resettlement colonies (25 Sq. Yds.)	44
(ii) JJ Resettlement colonies (80 Sq. Yds.)	5
(iii) JJ Rehabilitation colonies (18 and 12.5 Sqm.)	32

Delhi Development Authority:

(i) JJ Rehabilitation colonies (18 and 12.5 sqm.)	6

(b) to (d) It was decided earlier to confer leasehold rights on the allottees of plots/tenements under Jhuggi Jhopri Removal Scheme. The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi vide its orders dated 12.10.1998 and 27.9.2002 passed in CWP No. 4215/995 titled "Pitampura Sudhar Samiti vs. GNCTD & Ors." directed that the land allotted on relocation basis or under relocation scheme shall not be converted into freehold. Appeal against the order was not filed within stipulated time.

[English]

Additional Power Generation by NTPC

4623. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) proposes to add 2700 MW power generation

capacity during 2008-09 as reported in the Times of India dated the March 14, 2008;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the power generation capacity is likely to be added?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) NTPC Ltd. envisages to commission 2160 MW coal based capacity during 2008-09 as per the details given below:

Sl.No.	Projects (Location)	Capacity (MW)
1.	Sipat II, Unit 5 (Chhattisgarh)	500 (1x500)
2.	Bhilai (Expansion) Unit 1 & 2, Chhattisgarh (Joint venture with SAIL).	500 (2x250)
3.	Kahalgaon II, Phase II, Unit 7 (Bihar)	500 (1x500)
4.	Sipat-I, Unit 1 (Chhattisgarh)	660 (1x660)
	Total	2160 MW

NTPC also envisages to revive Block I with a capacity of 670 MW based on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), being executed by Ratnagiri Gas & Power Private Limited (RGPPL), a Joint Venture with Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) and Indian Financial Institutions (IFI).

De-Sealing of Properties

4624. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued any direction regarding augmenting the process of de-sealing of properties in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act, 2007 provides for maintaining *status quo* in respect of certain categories of unauthorised development upto 31.12.2008.

The Act also empowers the Central Government to issue directions to the local authorities for giving effect to the provisions of this Act. Accordingly, the Central Government issued directions to the local authorities by issue of notification dated 30th January, 2008 to give effect to the provisions of the said Act including de-sealing to maintain *status quo*.

[Translation]

Impact of Major Economies on India

4625. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India's economy is affected by the economic progress of other countries of the world;

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

(c) whether the stock-market in India has also been constantly affected by the stock-markets in United States, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Tokyo etc.; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken to obviate such effects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR

BANSAL): (a) and (b) In an increasingly globalised world economic environment, the economic developments in other countries of the world do have some bearing on emerging market economies including India through trade and investment linkages. The adverse impact of the recent turmoil in the financial markets of the advanced economies on emerging market economies including India, however, has been muted. The resilience of the Indian economy has been due to strong domestic demand and lower dependence on net foreign demand, and relatively lower direct exposure of the Indian financial markets to the advanced economies' markets. Monitoring the emerging situation and taking appropriate steps to mitigate the adverse effects arising from developments in other countries is a continuous process.

(c) and (d) The stock indices move up or down depending on the changing perceptions of investors—domestic and overseas, retail and institutional—about the economy, the various sectors and the companies. The recent movement in different stock markets is attributed, among other factors, to U.S. sub-prime mortgage crisis, decrease in interest rates by the US Fed, Yen carry trade, rise in oil prices etc. The authorities do not try to manage or control movement of stock indices. They have put in place systems and practices to promote a safe, transparent and efficient market and to protect market integrity. The systems instituted include advanced risk management mechanisms like on-line monitoring and surveillance, various limits on positions, margin requirements and circuit filters.

[English]

SPV for Hydro Power Projects

4626. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to enhance competitiveness in the power sector and for reducing the project cycle time for hydro power projects, the Union Government proposes to amend the bidding norms for hydro power projects under which the preparation of detailed project reports and subsequent formation of Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) would be made mandatory for the states before it invites bids for project construction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir. No such proposal is presently under consideration of the Government under which the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and subsequent formation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) are a mandatory pre-requisite for inviting bids by the States.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Corporate Social Responsibility

4627. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made it mandatory for every company to have a corporate social policy;

(b) if so, the checks that have been instituted to see that the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is being honoured; and

(c) the manner in which the Government is encouraging corporate social responsibility among industries?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Companies are being encouraged to address their social responsibility voluntarily through good Corporate Governance practices in the interest of all stake holders.

[Translation]

Guidelines for Recovery of Loans

4628. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
SHRI PUSP JAIN:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued new guidelines for restricting the banks from using muscle power for recovering loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Indian and Foreign banks against whom complaints of recovery of loans through muscle power have been received by the RBI so far and action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to set follow the new guidelines by banks;

(e) whether Indian Banks Association has been contracted/consulted in this regard; and

(f) if so, the reaction of Bank Associations thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) On 30th November, 2007 RBI placed Draft Guidelines for engaging recovery agents by the banks on its website, for feedback. Based on the feedback invited from individuals, organization and banks etc., the guidelines have been revised and a second draft has been issued by RBI on 25th March, 2008 for feedback. Both the draft guidelines are available on RBI website www.rbi.org.in. Some of the important changes made in the second draft, inter-alia, cover various operational issues concerning engaging of recovery agents by the banks, methods to be followed by them for recovery of dues, training for recovery agents, procedure for taking possession of property mortgaged/hypothecated to the banks etc. The banks have also been advised to strictly abide by the codes pertaining to collection of dues. RBI has reported that incidents alleging use of coercive methods by some banks including foreign banks for recovery of loans in case of default has come to their notice. These complaints are taken by RBI with the concerned banks for appropriate action and in case of a violation of extant guidelines by a bank, appropriate regulatory action is taken by RBI. They have also clarified to the banks that the complaints received regarding abusive practices followed by a bank's recovery agents would invite serious supervisory disapproval. RBI may consider imposing a temporary ban (or even a permanent ban in case of persistent abusive practices) for engaging recovery agents on those banks where strictures have been passed/penalties have been imposed by a High Court/Supreme Court or against its Directors/Officers with regard to the abusive practices followed by their recovery agents.

(e) and (f) The guidelines lay emphasis on giving proper training to the people engaged in recovery activities. RBI has proposed a mandatory training-cum-certification process for all recovery agents. Indian Banks' Association (IBA) in association with Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (IIBF) has finalized such a programme involving 100 hour training followed by an examination conducted by IIBF.

[English]

High Maternal Mortality Rate in Tribal Areas

4629. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maternal Mortality Rate is high in tribal areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) steps taken by the Government to reduce the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Registrar General, India is conducting the sample survey of birth and deaths, known as Sample Registration System (SRS), in randomly selected villages and urban blocks, spread throughout the country. The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has declined from 398 per one lakh live births (1997-98) to 301 per one lakh live births (2003). MMR estimated for major States by the Registrar General of India for the year 1997-98, 1999-01 and 2001-03 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) In order to brings about a reduction in MMR, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India is implementing National Rural Health Mission with the following key interventions all over the country including the tribal areas:

Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a cash benefit scheme to promote Institutional Delivery with a special focus on

Below Poverty Line (BPL) and SC/ST pregnant women; Appointment of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for every 1000 population to facilitate in accessing of health care services by the community including pregnant women; operationalizing Community Health Centres as First Referral Units (FRU) and 50% of all Primary Health Centers for providing 24x7 delivery services by 2012; augmenting the availability of Skilled Manpower by means of different skill based trainings such as Skilled Birth Attendant Training, Training of MBBS Doctors in Life Saving Anesthetic Skills and Emergency Obstetric Care including Caesarean Section; prevention and treatment of Anemia by supplementation with Iron and Folic Acid tablets; organizing of Village Health Nutrition Day at Anganwadi centre; supplementary nutrition to pregnant and lactating women under the ICDS scheme; Appointment of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for every 1000 population to facilitate accessing of health care services by the community including pregnant women; Implementation of Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) for Primary Healthcare Facilities, including District Hospitals, CHCs and PHCs to improve quality of services by providing infrastructure, equipment and specialist man-power; Strengthening of Health Facilities, that is, District Hospitals, Community Health Centres (CHCs) Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Sub Centres (SCs), by providing them with funds including united grants, Annual Maintenance Grants (AMG) and Corpus Fund to improve service delivery; Setting up of Rogi Kalyan Samitis (Hospital Management Committees) at District Hospitals, CHCs and PHCs; Settinup of village Health and Sanitation Committees at village level.

Statement

Maternal Mortality Ratio
India and State-wise
(Source: RGI, (SRS), 1997-98, 1999-01, 2001-03

Major State	MMR (1997-98)	MMR (1999-01)	MMR (2001-03)
1	2	3	4
India Total*	**398**	**327**	**301**
Assam	568	398	490
Bihar/Jharkhand	531	400	371
Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh	441	407	379
Orissa	346	424	358
Rajasthan	508	501	445
Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	606	539	517
Andhra Pradesh	197	220	195
Karnataka	245	266	228
Kerala	150	149	110
Tamil nadu	131	167	134
Gujarat	46	202	172
Haryana	136	176	162

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	166	169	149
Punjab	280	177	178
West Bengal	303	218	194
Others		276	235

*Includes Others

Drinking Water Quality Testing laboratories

4630. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Drinking Water Quality Testing laboratories existing in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government is considering to establish Drinking Water Quality Testing Laboratories in all the districts of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, especially in Gujarat;

(d) whether any proposal for establishment of water quality testing laboratory is pending for approval with the Government;

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

(f) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) As per the existing guidelines, Government of India is funding the State Governments for establishing District Water Testing Laboratories, wherever such facility is not available in the districts. As reported by the respective States, State-wise status of district water quality testing laboratories sanctioned and established, as on date, is given in the enclosed Statement. In Gujarat State, all the 25 districts have been sanctioned with one district water testing laboratory.

(d) No Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise status of district water quality testing laboratories sanctioned and established, as on 22.4.2008

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of Districts	Status of Stationary Laboratories					Mobile laboratories	
			By Centre		By State	Established	Total	Sanctioned	Delivered
			Sanctioned	Established	Established	by others	Established		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23	14	14	37	0	51	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16	16	13	0	0	13	—	—
3.	Assam	23	21	21	2	0	23	—	—
4.	Bihar	38	35	35	2	0	37	1	1
5.	Chandigarh (UT)	1	0	0	0	0	0	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6.	Chattisgarh	16	16	16	0	0	16	—	—
7.	Goa	2	1	1	1	0	2	—	—
8.	Gujarat	25	21	13	4	0	17	1	1
9.	Haryana	19	18	18	1	0	19	—	—
10.	Himachal Pradesh	12	10	10	5	0	15	1	1
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	9	6	2	0	8	3	3
12.	Jharkhand	24	7	5	16	1	22	—	—
13.	Karnataka	29	23	21	6	0	27	—	—
14.	Kerala	14	4	4	10	0	14	—	—
15.	Madhya Pradesh	48	48	48	14	0	62	1	1
16.	Maharashtra	35	3	3	27	0	30	1	1
17.	Manipur	9	8	1	1	0	2	1	1
18.	Meghalaya	7	7	7	0	0	7	1	1
19.	Mizoram	8	8	5	0	0	5	1	1
20.	Nagaland	8	6	2	0	0	2	1	1
21.	Orissa	30	30	29	0	0	29	1	1
22.	Punjab	17	12	12	0	0	12	—	—
23.	Rajasthan	32	23	23	10	0	33	1	1
24.	Sikkim	4	3	2	0	0	2	1	1
25.	Tamil Nadu	30	24	24	4	0	28	1	1
26.	Tripura	4	3	3	3	0	6	1	1
27.	Uttar Pradesh	70	55	55	1	14	70	1	1
28.	Uttaranchal	13	13	0	3	0	3	—	—
29.	West Bengal	18	18	18	0	0	18	1	1
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	2	1	1	0	0	1	—	—
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	1	1	0	0	1	—	—
32.	Daman and Diu	2	2	2	0	0	2	—	—
33.	Delhi	9	0	0	6	0	6	1	1
34.	Lakshadweep	1	2	2	7	0	9	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
35.	Pondicherry	4	2	2	2	0	4	—	—
36.	DI. Jodhpur							1	1
37.	ITRC, Lucknow							1	1
38.	AIIPH & PH, Calcutta							1	1
	Total	608	464	417	164	15	596	23	23

Loan to Women Self Help Groups

4631. ADV. SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cumulative loan disbursed by Nationalised Banks to Self Help Groups during the last one year;

(b) the number of Women Self Help Groups that have been financed alongwith the nature of projects for which credit has been raised by them; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the banks to encourage Self Help Groups to come forward and avail credit benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The aggregate amount of loan disbursed by Public Sector Banks (PSBs) under the Self Help Group (SHG)-Bank Linkage Programme was Rs. 3,479.13 crore during the year 2006-07.

(b) During the year 2006-07, out of 11.37 lakh SHGs financed by all banks, 5.37 lakh SHGs were financed by PSBs. A recent study conducted by National Council of Applied and Economic Research (NCAER) has observed that about 80% of SHGs have only women members. The study has also shown that the major purposes of lending by SHGs were agriculture (37.7%), other income generating activities including trade and crafts (24.1%), household assets/house improvements (6.0%), repayment of debt (7.6%) and basic consumption needs like education, health etc. (24.6%).

(c) Some of the major steps initiated by the banks to encourage SHGs to come forward and avail credit benefits are:

- Opening of Saving Bank Accounts in the name of SHGs.
- SHG lending is to be treated as a normal lending activity of the bank.
- SHG lending by banks is treated as a priority sector lending.
- RBI has relaxed the margin and security norms for financing SHGs.
- Adoption of Simplified loan documentation by banks for SHGs.

Besides, NABARD has been providing training support to various stakeholders of the programme and also grant support to various Self Help Promoting Institutions (SHPIs) for promoting and credit linking SHGs.

Pending Income Tax Cases

4632. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of applications/petitions are pending before various Income Tax Appellate Tribunals throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details for each of the last three years; and

(c) the action being taken to expedite the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Statement showing details of pendency as such before various Benches of the Tribunal for the last three years is enclosed.

(c) At the end of the year 2002-03 there was pendency of 180666 appeals, which has now been brought down to 70832 appeals as on 01.04.2008. Apart from disposal of the appeals instituted during the respective years, appeals were disposed of expeditiously by bunching of identical issues, by undertaking special drives for disposal of small and covered issues by fixing special benches of senior Members to deal with complicated and complex issues and by attempting to run all the Benches and also by keeping proper administrative control and monitoring the performance of the Members.

The aforesaid steps are being taken in greater vigour presently so as to further bring down the pendency of Appeals with the Tribunal.

Statement

Pendency before the various Benches of the Tribunal throughout the country for the last three years

Bench	2005-2006	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4
Mumbai	31569	26396	22662
Pune	5380	4239	3026
Nagpur	337	139	853
Panaji	525	283	310
Delhi	14396	11813	8717
Agra	1720	1198	1091
Lucknow	1782	1592	503
Allahabad	1080	397	315
Jabalpur	587	450	622
Kolkatta	2383	1436	912
Patna (Bihar)	697	986	411
Circuit Bench Ranchi (Jharkhand)	620	319	376
Cuttack	741	650	481
Guwahati	395	277	223
Chennai	8332	5904	4674
Bangalore	3089	1838	1010
Cochin	2690	2252	2250
Ahmedabad	13850	11135	10591
Indore	4162	2808	1985
Rajkot	575	644	657

1	2	3	4
Hyderabad	4036	3910	2753
Vishakhapatnam	2637	1978	2215
Chandigarh	2018	1678	1066
Amritsar	1175	934	595
Jaipur	1993	1687	1553
Jodhpur	1699	1193	981
	108468	86136	70832

[Translation]

Disbursement of Housing Loan

4633. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the loan granted by banks under housing loan schemes during the years 1999 to 2006 by nationalised banks in Gujarat;

(b) whether disbursement of some loan by nationalised banks has been made without construction of houses;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of non-performing assets and written off funds by banks in cases of non-construction of houses;

(e) whether any FIR has been lodged in such cases; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The details of outstanding housing loans of Public Sector Banks in the State of Gujarat during the years 1999 to 2006 are given below:

(Rs. lacs)

Year	Number of Accounts	Amount outstanding
1999	86798	65996
2000	131817	92578
2001	145340	117897
2002	96725	121741
2003	93612	145796
2004	118935	218689
2005	140172	331798
2006	187520	528930

Source: Reserve Bank of India.

(b) No such instances have been reported by the Convener Bank of State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) for the State of Gujarat.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) No such details are available with Convener of SLBC.

(f) Does not arise.

Educational Loan

4634. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to subsidize the interest component on education loans given to students for higher professional education during the moratorium period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to extend some concessions to families having annual income of 2.5 lakhs and their wards pursuing professional education in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has issued any guideline/ direction to Banks for expeditious sanction of the education loan; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) A proposal to provide interest subsidy on Loans taken under the existing Model Education Loan Scheme circulated by the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) is under consideration of the Government of India. The details of the scheme are yet to be finalized.

(e) and (f) In the guidelines for the Model Education Loan Scheme circulated by the IBA, it is specified that loan applications should normally be disposed of within a period of 15 days to one month.

[English]

Relief to Indebted BPL Loanees

4635. SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any measures to reduce the indebtedness of distressed Below Poverty Line loanees on the lines of the relief package announced for distressed farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ameliorate the burden of these loanees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) is one holistic programme of the Government to bring the assisted poor families (Swarozgaris) above the poverty line by ensuring appreciable increase in incomes over a period of time. The objective is intended to be achieved by *inter-alia* organizing the rural poor into Self-Help Groups (SHGs) through a process of social mobilization, their training and capacity building and provision of income-generating assets. The scheme has a subsidy component provided by the Government for creating income generating assets through bank loans.

Besides, in the Union Budget 2008-09. the Government has announced a debt waiver and debt relief scheme for farmers. The scheme, *inter-alia*, covers a complete waiver of all loans for small and marginal farmers that were disbursed till 31.03.2007, were overdue upto 31.12.2007 and which remained unpaid until 29.02.2008. This scheme also covers many BPL families who have taken agricultural loans from the banking institutions.

Empowerment of Women

4636. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for women has recommended major amendments in the laws to ensure empowerment, equality and safety to women and children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Commission for Women have recommended some major amendments in the IPC to address the issues of molestation and eve-teasing as specific offences and has proposed enhanced punishments for all forms of sexual assault including rape. Corresponding changes have also been proposed in the Cr. P.C. and the Indian Evidence Act. NCW has also recommended some major amendments in the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 to make it more effective. The Commission has also proposed a Bill on Sexual harassment at workplace so that such harassment can be treated in terms of legal provisions.

(c) The recommendations are presently under the consideration of the Government. It will not be possible at this stage to indicate any definite time-frame for their implementation.

Reverse Mortgage Scheme

4637. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reverse Mortgage Schemes have not picked up in many parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the details of people availed this facility as yet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Reverse Mortage Loan (RML) Scheme was introduced in 2007-08 and is in the primary stage of implementation. The Scheme is applicable to house owning Senior Citizens who may require financial assistance and, therefore, has a limited albeit distinct niche market.

(b) One of the factors critical to the RML Scheme is the tax treatment at the hands of the borrower as well as the lending institutions. In order to clarify the tax issues arising out of the scheme, the Finance Minister in his Union Budget Speech for the year 2008-09 has announced certain amendments in the Income Tax Act for the scheme. Though at present only around 500 RMLs amounting to about Rs. 240 crore have been sanctioned by the Primary Lending Institutions (PLI), *viz.* Banks and Housing Finance Companies, it is expected that the demand for such loans will pick up during the year.

Research on Alternative Fuel

4638. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:

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

(a) whether any research is being carried out on alternative fuel in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds earmarked and incurred thereon during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government proposes to formulate the bio-diesel policy;

(e) if so, the salient features thereof;

(f) whether the Government proposes to set up bio-diesel Board to regulate the bio-diesel industry; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Research and Development on alternate fuels including different aspects of production, conversion and utilization of bio-fuels is being carried out in a number of research institutions and universities. Apart from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, support is being provided by Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

(c) An expenditure of about Rs. 41 crore is reported to have been incurred during the last three years.

(d) to (g) Under the Allocation of Business Rules, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has been

given the responsibility for preparing the National Policy on Bio-fuels and setting up of a National Bio-fuel Development Board. The draft Policy, including a proposal for setting up of the Board alongwith its draft terms of reference and composition, has been submitted for necessary approvals.

The draft Policy aims at promoting the cultivation, production and use of biofuels to partially replace petrol and diesel for transport, stationary and portable applications with the objective of contributing to energy security, environmental protection and mitigation of climate change.

Residents Scheme for Slum Dwellers

4639. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority had started a scheme namely "Residential Flats Registration Scheme for Slum Dwellers and Others, 1985" with a goal to provide flats of 26 Square Metres to the Registrants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether no allotment has been made under the said scheme after spending a long time;

(d) if so, whether any responsibility has been fixed against the DDA officers for not implementing the said scheme so far;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (f) Slum & JJ Department of Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), which was earlier with Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and is presently responsible for implementing the scheme, has reported that a scheme for providing flats to slum dwellers and other economically weaker sections was launched in the year 1985. A total of 27,693 persons has been registered under the scheme. Out of these, 5662 registrants have so far been allotted flats. SLum & JJ Department of MCD has further informed that it has not been able to construct flats for want of land.

Interest Free Loan to Farmers

4640. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to waive off interest on agriculture loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total funds proposed to be released towards waiver of interest on agriculture loans including the share of the State Governments, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) In the Union Budget 2008-09, the Government has announced a debt waiver and debt relief scheme for farmers, which stipulates that all agricultural loans disbursed by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Credit Institutions to small and marginal farmers upto 31st March, 2007 that were overdue as on 31st December, 2007 and which remained unpaid until 29th February, 2008 will be waived while under One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme for other farmers, a rebate of 25% against payment of the balance amount of 75% is allowed.

Provisional estimates indicate that the relief to be offered will be around Rs. 60,314 crore comprising Rs. 50,524 crore of debt waiver to small and marginal farmers and Rs. 9,790 crore as relief to other farmers as a one-time settlement (OTS) at 25% of their overdues. The Budget announcement does not envisage any share from State Government in the funds required for the implementation of this scheme.

Delimitation Act

4641. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has exempted four North Eastern States and Jharkhand from the perview of Delimitation Act; and

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

(c) whether Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand States have also demanded such exemptions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Delimitation Act, 2002 has been amended by the Delimitation (Amendment) Act, 2008 by inserting two sections 10A and 10B in the Principal Act. The Government has, on being satisfied that a situation has arisen where the unity and integrity of India is likely to be threatened and there is a serious threat to the peace and public order, deferred the delimitation exercise in the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur under sub-section (1) of section 10A of the Delimitation Act, 2002 vide its Orders published in the Gazette of India bearing numbers S.O.283 (E), S.O. 284(E), S.O.245(E), S.O. 286 (E), dated 8th February, 2008 respectively, Further, section 10B of the Delimitation Act, 2002 has nullified the final orders made by the Delimitation Commission in respect of the State of Jharkhand until the year 2026 in relation to every election to the House of the People or to the Legislative Assembly to be held in that State.

(c) and (d) Final orders in respect of Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal were issued on 2.6.2006 and 28.12.2006 respectively. Some dissenting proposals from MLAs as associate members in case of Chhattisgarh and some representations from MPs of both the States were received with respect to certain constituencies.

Adverse impact on the States as such was not brought to the notice of the Government till the aforesaid delimitation orders were given effect to by the Presidential Order.

Property Prices

4642. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the property prices in the country is highest in the world;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to make the property prices affordable to the poor people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The Ministry is concerned about affordability of houses for different sections of Society.

In order to address the issue of affordability of houses for all sections of society, the first urban area specific housing policy—the National Housing & Habitat Policy-2007 (NUHHP) has been formulated, which was laid on the Table of both the Houses of the Parliament on 07.12.2007. The Policy seeks to set in motion a process of providing "Affordable Housing for All" particularly for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Group (LIG) through various types of public private partnerships and development of various financial and operational innovations. In addition, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewable Mission (JNNURM) launched in 2005, caters to provision of housing and basic services to urban poor in 63 specified cities under the Sub-Mission of Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and in other cities and towns under the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). Also a provision has been made in the budget of 2008-09 to provide for interest rate subsidy scheme for loans to Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and the Low Income Group (LIG).

Investment by Public Sector Institutions In Stock Market Crash

4643. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some public sector institutions like the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and State Bank of India (SBI) have invested substantial amount into the equity market following the recent crash; and

(b) if so, the amount of investments made by such public sector institutions in the equity market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) State Bank of India (SBI) has informed that it invests in stock markets on a regular basis as part of its Treasury operations. LIC also, in the usual course of investment of funds, buys and sells equities on day to day basis. The gross investments (purchases) made by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and the State Bank of India (SBI) during 21.01.2008

to 31.03.2008 in the equity market were Rs. 13,137.29 crore and Rs. 813.55 crore, respectively.

[Translation]

Counter Magnet City

4644. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cities being developed/proposed to be developed as counter magnet cities by the Government in National Capital Region;

(b) the details of facilities provided in the said cities during the last five years;

(c) whether Gvoernment of Uttar Pradesh has sent proposal to include city of Bareilly in the project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) has informed that as per the Regional Plan 2021 National Capital Region, five cities, namely, Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh, Hissar in Haryana, Patiala in Punjab, Kota in Rajasthan and Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh are proposed to be developed as Counter Magnet Areas (CMA).

Since inception, the NCRPB has sanctioned loan assistance for 13 infrastructure projects in these five CMA towns. Four of these projects have been sanctioned during last five years as per the details given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of answer at (a) above.

Statement

Status of Ongoing Projects in Counter Magnet Areas where Loan Assistance has been provided by NCRPB (As on April 2008)

(Rupees in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Projects	Town	State	Implementing Agency	Date of Sanction	Original Date Completion/ Revised Date	Estimated Cost (in cr.)	Loan Sanctioned (in cr.)	Actual Loan Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	LAND DEVELOPMENT SECTOR								
1.	Ram Ganga Nagar residential scheme in Bareilly	Bareilly	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly Dev. Authority	Dec. 4	Mar. 10	99.37	37.00	37.00
	POWER SECTOR								
2.	Setting up of a coal based Thermal Power Project under stage 1 for 1200 MW (2x600 MW) in Hissar District, Haryana	Hissar	Haryana	HPGCL	Feb. 07	Apr-10	4258.65	500.00	135.00
3.	Kota Thermal Power Station (KTPS) extn. unit 7, stage V (1x195 MW) Coal Based Power Project	Kota	Rajasthan	RRVUNL	Oct. 07	Dec. 08	880.00	160.00	80.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	WATER SECTOR PROJECTS								
4.	Water Supply Scheme for Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh	SADA, Gwalior	Nov. 04	March 2006/ March 2008	29.65	22.24	22.24

[English]

Reduction of Government Stake in PSB

4645. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to reduce the Government stakes in Public Sector Banks below 51 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal to bring additional capital in PSBs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration to amend the statutory of other provisions for enabling the Government to bring down its shareholding in the public sector banks (other than Associate Banks of State Bank of India (SBI) where Government has no shareholding) below 51%.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government examines the proposals of public sector banks to raise capital funds keeping in view their regulatory capital requirement, increase in their asset and investment portfolios, other business expansion plans, and statutory and regulatory provisions, etc.

Anganwadis

4646. DR. K.S. MANOJ:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

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

(a) whether there are complaints about the Contractor Raj in the procurement, storage and distribution of foodgrains to Anganwadies even after the Supreme Court directive;

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

(c) whether the Government has acted upon to entrust the supply of nutrition to Anganwadi through Women Self Help Groups or Mahila Mandals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme envisages the involvement of Mahila Mandals/Women's Cooperatives/Self-Help Groups in provision of supplementary nutrition to children, pregnant women and nursing mothers through Anganwadi Centres. Instructions thereunder have been issued, from time to time, by the Government of India to all the State Governments/UT Administrations, and also to ensure compliance of the Orders of the Apex Court in this behalf.

[Translation]

Availability of Coins

4647. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to stage:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is acute shortage of coins of one rupee and two rupee denominations in the market and there is no demand of the coins of 50 and 25 paisa due to its less use;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Shortages of coins were reported from various parts of the country around second half of the year 2006-07. After this, the minting of coins and their distribution through RBI was accelerated and steps taken to meet the demand. It is also a fact that the demand for 50 p and 25 p coins is less as compared to coins of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 denominations. To further redress the problem, the RBI has taken following steps:

(1) Fifteen Regional Offices have made arrangements for retail distribution through select Post Offices in addition to the Bank branches.

(2) Banks have specially identified around 2000 select branches for distribution of coins. Press releases were issued to inform the public of the same. The names/addresses of these branches have also been put up on website of RBI.

(3) In addition, the banks as also RBI issue Offices are holding Coin Melas at market places, village fairs etc.

(4) Arrangements for distribution of coins are made to registered Associations of Hotels, retail shops, chemists etc.

(5) Coin vending machines have been installed at RBI Issue Offices. Banks have also been advised to identify additional locations at prominent places to install coin vending machines.

[English]

Surcharge on IT for Gujarat Earthquake

4648. SHRI HARILAL MADHAVAJI BHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount collected as surcharge on Income Tax on account of Gujarat Earthquake has not been disbursed to the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by the Government to disburse the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The entire amount due to be disbursed to the State Government of Gujarat, as per the norms laid down under National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for earthquake relief and rehabilitation has already been disbursed. No further amount is proposed to be disbursed to the State Government of Gujarat in this regard.

Impact of 6th CPC

4649. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Union Government Employees as on December 31, 2007, State-wise;

(b) the details of the burden of salary and pension upon the Union Government during each of last three years, State-wise;

(c) likely impact of the financial burden on Government in monetary terms and as percentage of Gross Domestic Product with the implementation of Sixth Central Pay Commission;

(d) whether Government is mandated to undertake any study to examine the impact of Sixth Pay Commission recommendations on quasi-Government Employees and grant-in-aid institutions getting payouts from respective State Government; and

(e) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) State-wise information in respect of numbers, salary and pension of Central Government employees is not maintained centrally.

(c) As per Sixth Central Pay Commission's Report, in the year when the recommendations are implemented, the gross additional implications for the year will be Rs. 12561 crores which is 0.23% of the Gross Domestic Product. In addition, the Government will have to bear one time expenditure of approximately Rs. 18060 crores

on payment of arrears on account of revision of pay scales and pensions which have been recommended for implementation retrospectively w.e.f. 1.1.2006.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Agriculture and Rural Development Banks

4650. SHRI PRASANTA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agriculture & Rural Development Banks (ARDBs) are not allowed to function as full fledged banks like other banks; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) In terms of Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949 (As Applicable to Co-operative Societies), Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs) are not considered banks. ARDBs are actually co-operative societies disbursing long-term credit to farmers. Other banks (e.g. Commercial Banks, Co-operative Banks and Regional Rural Banks) are regulated by the Reserve Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 whereas this Act does not apply to ARDBs at all.

Vacant Posts of Directors in PGCIL

4651. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) is facing problem due to vacancies in the Board of Directors;

(b) if so, the total number of Directors on the Board of Power Grid Corporation as on date and the number out of them remained vacant with dates of vacancy; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) There are four full time functional Directors, one Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), two part time non-official Government Directors and seven part-time non-official Directors on the Board of the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL). Two posts of full time functional Directors are vacant since 25.01.2007 and 1.02.2007 respectively. The existing functional Directors and the CMD are looking after the work of the vacant posts. The posts of three part time Directors are also vacant since 12.07.2006 (two posts) and 5.10.2007 (one post).

(c) Government is taking steps to fill these vacancies according to the prescribed procedure.

Review of Duty Drawback Rates

4652. DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently set up a high level committee to review the duty drawback rates given for the export sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has set up a three-member Committee for formulation of All Industry Rates of Duty Drawback, 2008-09. The Committee has been asked to submit its Report by 30.4.2008.

[Translation]

Complaints against Companies

4653. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints against Nidhi Companies and Mutual Benefit Societies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of complaints against the companies and the action taken by the Government thereon are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Nature of complaint	Action taken
1.	M/s. Kuber Mutual Benefits Limited, Meerut	Non repayment of deposits taken by the company under section 58A of the Companies Act, 2956	The Ministry had ordered inspection of the books of accounts of the Nidhi company under section 209A of the Companies Act, 1956. Based on the inspection report and the recommendations of the jursidictional Regional Director, the Government has rescinded the Nidhi status of the company
2.	M/s. Trikone Mutual Benefits Limited, Lucknow	-do-	-do-
3.	M/s. Singh Mutual Benefit Company Limited, Haldwani	-do-	-do-
4.	M/s. RBF Nidhi Limited, Chennai	-do-	The Ministry has appointed Directors on the Board of the Company with the approval of the Company Law Board.
5.	M/s. Park Town Benefit Fund Limited, Chennai	-do-	A Special Officer has been appointed by the Central Gvoernment to monitor the working of the Company.
6.	M/s. Alwarpet Benefit Fund Limited, Chennai	-do-	The Hon'ble High Court of Madras has appointed a Commissioner to supervise the functioning of the company.
7.	M/s. Manipal Sowbhagya Nidhi Limited, Karnataka	-do-	A scheme of repayment of deposits by the company is pending before the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka. Any further intervention by the Ministry would be entertained only after the disposal of this case in the High Court.

[English]

Professional Activities in Residential Premises

4654. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether professional activities have been permitted from residential premises based on professional skills;

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

(c) the definition of Media Professionals allowed to operate from residential premises;

(d) whether publishers and writers of small newspapers/magazines duly registered of Newspapers come under the ambit of "Media Professionals" as per Master Plan 2021; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per MPD-2021, professional activities are permissible in plotted development and group housing under certain specific conditions. For this purpose, professional activities shall mean those activities involving services based on professional skills namely Doctor, Lawyer, Architect and Chartered Accountant, Company Secretary, Cost and Works Accountant, Engineer, Town Planner, Media Professionals and Documentary Film Maker.

(c) to (e) Only those media professionals imparting services based on professional skills are allowed to operate from residential premises.

SFIO's Recommendations

4655. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) has recommended to the Government to file criminal cases against some companies after the completion of investigations for violation of Company Law and breach of IPC provisions;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on the recommendations of the SFIO; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations contained in the investigation Reports have been accepted by the Central Government and instructions have been issued to the SFIO to file complaints for the violations of law brought out in these Reports. The details of the complaints filed in the courts are enclosed as the statement.

(c) Question does not arise.

Statement

Details of court cases filed by SFIO against various companies investigated by them as on 21.4.2008

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Company Law	IPC	Total cases filed
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Daewoo Motors India Ltd	21	02	23
2.	Design Auto Systems Ltd.	11	02	13
3.	Bonanza Biotech Ltd.	16	01	17
4.	Vatsa Corporation Ltd.	106	08	114
5.	Mardia Chemicals Ltd.	22	01	23
6.	Soundcraft industries Ltd.	35	09	44
7.	Kolar Biotech Ltd.	24	04	28
8.	Adam Comsof Ltd.	21	04	25
9.	DSQ Software Ltd.	23	02	25
10.	Usha India Ltd.	27	07	34
11.	Malvika Steels Ltd.	27	06	33
12.	Koshika Telecom Ltd.	41	03	44

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Chitrakoot Computers Pvt. Ltd.	16	02	18
14.	Classic Credit Ltd.	17	01	18
15.	Classic Shares & Stock Broking Services Ltd.	36	-	36
16.	Goldfish Computers Pvt. Ltd.	22	01	23
17.	KNP Securities Pvt. Ltd.	15	-	15
18.	Luminant Investment Pvt. Ltd.	11	-	11
19.	Manmandir Estates Dev. Ltd.	02	01	03
20.	N.H. Securities Ltd.	24	01	25
21.	Panther Fincap and Management Services Ltd.	24	02	26
22.	Panther Industrial Products Ltd.	25	-	25
23.	Panther Investrade Ltd.	14	01	15
24.	Saimangal Investrade Ltd.	18	01	19
25.	Triumph International Finance India Ltd.	10	02	12
26.	V.N. Parekh Securities Pvt. Ltd.	12	-	12
27.	Triumph Securities Pvt. Ltd.	22	01	23
28.	Nakshtra Software Pvt. Ltd.	17	02	19
29.	Morepen Laboratories Ltd.	12	05	17
	Total	671	69	740

Interest Rate on Loans to Farmers

4656. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to lower the rate of interest on loans to marginal and small farmers at the rate of 4% to save them from the clutches of private money lenders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) After deregulation of interest rates on loans, banks are free to determine the lending rate of interest taking into account, *inter-alia*, the cost of funds and the risk element involved. RBI has stipulated that interest rate on loans by Commercial Banks upto Rs. 2.00 lakhs should not exceed the Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) and loans upto Rs. 50,000/- should be collateral free.

To reduce the burden of interest on Crop Loans availed by farmers for Kharif and Rabi 2005-06, an amount equal to two percentage points of the borrowers liability on the principal amount upto Rs. 1,00,000/- was credited to their account. Thereafter, from Kharif 2006, to ensure that the farmer receives Short-Term Production Credit at 7% with an upper limit of Rs. 3 lakh on the principal amount, the Government is providing interest subvention of 2% per annum to Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks on their

lending from their own resources. The Government is also providing interest subvention to National Banks for Agriculture and Rural Development for making refinance available at concessional rates to Cooperative banks and Regional Rural Banks.

As of now, there is no scheme before Government to lower the rate of interest to 4% per annum.

Revenue Collection from Pan Masala and Gutkha Industries

4657. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of duty collected by the Government from Pan Masala and gutkha industries during each of the last 3 years, year wise;

(b) whether the Government has introduced an optional compounded levy scheme for pan masala and gutkha industries;

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

(d) the matter in which tax evasion by pan masala and gutkha industries will be checked by such scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Central Excise duty collected from pan masala and gutkha during last three years was as follows:

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (April-Sept.)
Pan Masala (without tobacco)	151.3	246.6	87.88
Gutkha (pan masala containing tobacco)	261.7	360	177.7

Provisional figures.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. Notification 38/2007 Central Excise (N.T.) dated 19.12.2007 provides the details of the scheme.

(d) Under the scheme, duty has been prescribed per packing machine irrespective of actual production. Units that were under-reporting their productions are likely to pay a higher amount of duty under the scheme.

[Translation]

Schemes for Protection of Child and Upliftment of Women

4658. DR. RAMLAKHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the schemes being run by the Union Government for protection of children and upliftment of women, State-wise;

(b) the funds sanctioned/allocated and utilized for the said schemes during each of the last three years, scheme-wise;

(c) whether some sanctioned schemes has not been launched in Madhya Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The names of the schemes being run by the Ministry of Women and Child Development for protection of children and upliftment of women and the funds released for those schemes during last three years are available in the Annual Reports of respective years and also in the Ministry's website www.wcd.nic.in.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Does not arise.

[English]

Sale of SGRY Foodgrains in Open Market

4659. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the foodgrains allocated under Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) is being sold in the open market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) was in operation till 2007-08. Primary responsibility for distribution of foodgrains provided under SGRY lied on the part of State Government/Union Territory Administration. As and when irregularities came to the notice of the Union Government, the concerned State Government/UT Administration was advised to investigate the matter and take appropriate action. Entire SGRY programme has been subsumed in National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) with effect from 1st April, 2008. Allocation of foodgrains is not made under NREGS.

Irregularities in IFCI

4660. SHRI ANIL SHUKLA WARSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding irregularities committed by the senior executives to Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Facilities to Medaram Jatra

4661. SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide/ improve the basic facilities for the pilgrims of tribal Medaram Jatra in Warangal District of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) to (c) It has been informed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Medaram Jatara has been declared as a State Festival. The Tribal Welfare Department of Andhra Pradesh has taken up 34 works with an estimated cost of Rs. 369.50 lakhs towards improvement of internal roads, construction of culvert, supply of drinking water etc. at Medaram and surrounding places in view of Jatara held on 21st to 23rd February, 2008. Other Departments of the State Government also took up developmental works from their own budget.

Sipat Power Plant

4662. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRAKUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether commissioning of 500 MW unit of Sipat Power Plant has been delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The status of commissioning of Unit 4 & 5 (500 MW) of Sipat Thermal Power Project (STPP) is as follows:

Unit#4 (500 MW)

Unit-4 (500 MW) of Sipat Stage II (2x500 MW) was commissioned in May, 2007 and coal operation commenced in November, 2007 using stored water (last drawn in December, 2006). However, continuous generation could not be sustained as water supply was not available due to cancellation of water allocation by the Water Resources Department, Government of Chhattisgarh in September, 2007. Power generation would now be possible only after water is released on a regular basis by the Water Resources Department, Government of Chhattisgarh.

Unit#5 (500 MW)

The commissioning of the Unit-5 (500 MW) was scheduled in December, 2007. Boiler Light up of the Unit was achieved in November, 2007, but subsequent

commissioning activities were affected due to non-availability of water. Progress of work has also been partly affected due to agitation by the villagers of the local areas since January, 2008. Although work has resumed from first week of April, 2008, water supply is yet to be restored by the Government of Chhattisgarh, which is affecting the commissioning schedule of the Unit.

(c) NTPC Ltd. and the Ministry of Power have been continuously following up with the Government of Chhattisgarh to resolve the issues concerning the Sipat Thermal Power Project. Minister of Power has requested Chief Minister, Government of Chhattisgarh to issue necessary instructions for honouring the commitment already made by the Chhattisgarh Government and release the water immediately for operation of 1st Unit of 500 MW and commissioning of 2nd Unit of 500 MW. Minister of State for Power has held a meeting with the Chief Minister, Government of Chhattisgarh on 20.04.2008 to resolve the issues concerning the project.

Sale of Cigarettes Through Duty free Shops

4663. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sale of cigarettes is done through duty free shops;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to withdraw sale of cigarettes from such shops; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) (a) Yes Madam. The sale of cigarettes is permitted through duty free shops.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal under consideration to ban the sale of cigarettes from such duty free shops.

Security of ATMs

4664. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that many of the ATMs lacks adequate security and the public are fearing to use the ATMs in the country particularly in Chennai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by nationalized banks to improve the security of ATMs at least in the sensitive and other locations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that a few instances have been brought to their notice where attempts were made by some persons to use plastic cards other than credit/debit cards at ATMs to effect withdrawal of cash particularly at Chennai.

(c) RBI had issued a circular to banks, on 26th June, 2006 advising the banks to take various preventive measures to combat frauds, relating to skimming of ATM/Debit/Credit Cards that can result in fraudulent withdrawals through ATMs. Operational/security measures to be adopted by banks at ATM centres were also elaborated in the said circular. Banks were also advised to educate the customers through handouts, e-mails, display at ATM terminals, web-site etc.

Enquiry against LIC of India

4665. SHRI VASANTRAO MORE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry into the expenditure incurred by the LIC of India on Zee TV Cine Award function held at Mauritius in 2006 in view of the total premium income from all the three foreign branches was 1.61 million US $ in 2006-07; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Branches of Public Sector Banks

4666. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of private sector banks opened in rural areas during the last three years in the country, State-wise, Bank-wise;

(b) whether a number of private sector banks have closed their branches in rural areas during the above period;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise, Bank-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to stop closure of private sector banks in rural area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the State-wise & Bank-wise details regarding number of branches opened by private sector banks in rural areas as in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (April 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007) are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) State-wise & Bank-wise details regarding number of branches of private sector banks closed/ merged/converted in rural areas as in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (April 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007) are as under:

Details regarding number of branches of Private Sector Banks Closed/Merged/Converted

State Name	Bank Name	Apr. 1, 2005-Mar 31, 2006	Apr. 1, 2006-Mar. 31, 2007	Apr. 1, 2007-Dec. 31, 2007
Andhra Pradesh	ING Vysya Bank Ltd.	1	—	—
Tamil Nadu	Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	2	—	—
	South Indian Bank Ltd.	2	—	—
	Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Ltd.	—	—	1
Total		5	—	1

Under the extant Branch Authorisation Policy of RBI, closure of even loss making branches in rural centres having a single commercial bank branch (excluding Regional Rural Bank branch) is not permitted, as the closure would render the centre unbanked. The proposals for closure of a rural branch at a centre served by more than one commercial bank branch are required to be submitted to RBI by banks in the Annual Branch Expansion Plan after obtaining approval of District Consultative Committee (DCC). RBI considers these proposals on a case-to-case basis and closure of rural branches is approved only under exceptional circumstances like adverse law and order problem, natural calamities, etc.

Statement

State-wise & bank-wise details regarding number of branches opened by private sector banks in rural areas as on March 31, 2006, 2007 & April 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007

(Opened during the period)

State Name	Bank Name	Apr. 1, 2005-Mar 31, 2006	Apr. 1, 2006-Mar. 31, 2007	Apr. 1, 2007-Dec. 31, 2007	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	Axis Bank Limited	—	1	1	2
	HDFC Bank Ltd.	1	1	—	2

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	—	1	—	1
	Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.	—	—	1	1
Assam	HDFC Bank Ltd.	—	1	—	1
Chandigarh	Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.	—	—	1	1
Goa	HDFC Bank Ltd.	—	3	—	3
Gujarat	Axis Bank Limited	—	1	—	1
	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	—	1	—	1
	Development Credit Bank Ltd.	—	—	1	1
	ICICI Bank Limited	2	—	—	2
	Indusind Bank Ltd.	—	1	1	2
	Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.	—	2	2	4
Haryana	Centurion Bank of Punjab Ltd.	—	2	—	2
	HDFC Bank Ltd.	—	2	—	2
	Yes Bank Ltd.	—	—	2	2
Himachal Pradesh	HDFC Bank Ltd.	—	2	—	2
	Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.	—	—	1	1
Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.	6	2	7	15
Jharkhand	ICICI Bank Limited	—	1	—	1
Karnataka	Axis Bank Limited	—	1	—	1
	Federal Bank Ltd.	—	—	1	1
	HDFC Bank Ltd.	—	2	—	2
	Indusind Bank Ltd.	—	1	—	1
	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	—	1	—	1
	Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.	—	—	1	1
	South Indian Bank Ltd.	—	1	—	1
	Yes Bank Ltd.	—	—	1	1
Kerala	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	1	—	—	1
	Federal Bank Ltd.	1	—	1	2
	HDFC Bank Ltd.	—	1	—	1
	South Indian Bank Ltd.	—	1	1	2

1	2	3	4	5	6
Maharashtra	HDFC Bank Ltd.	—	1	—	1
	ICICI Bank Limited	—	—	2	2
	Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	—	1	—	1
	Yes Bank Ltd.	—	3	—	3
Orissa	Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	—	1	—	1
Punjab	Axis Bank Limited	1	—	—	1
	Centurion Bank of Punjab Ltd.	—	1	—	1
	HDFC Bank Ltd.	—	1	—	1
	Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.	—	—	1	1
Rajasthan	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	1	—	—	1
Sikkim	Axis Bank Limited	—	1	—	1
Tamil Nadu	HDFC Bank Ltd.	—	3	—	3
	ICICI Bank Limited	—	—	1	1
	Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	—	2	—	2
	Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	—	1	—	1
	Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank Ltd.	—	2	1	3
Uttar Pradesh	HDFC Bank Ltd.	—	3	—	3
	Yes Bank Ltd.	—	1	1	2
Uttarakhand	Axis Bank Limited	—	1	—	1
	Nainital Bank Ltd.	—	—	2	2
West Bengal	Axis Bank Limited	—	1	—	1
	HDFC Bank Ltd.	—	2	—	2
Total		13	54	30	97

Source: Master Office File of RBI (latest updated version) on Commercial Banks.
2. 'Rural' Centre includes Population with less than 10,000.

[English]

Legal Professionals for Cases against Vanishing Companies

4667. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of legal professionals engaged in the country to flight the cases against vanishing companies; State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to appoint more legal professionals to dispose off such cases expeditiously; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) The details relating to number of legal professionals engaged by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs for prosecution cases filed in various courts against the vanishing companies are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Legal professionals are engaged in all the cases of prosecutions filed against the vanishing companies and their promoters/directors. These professionals are engaged from the panels approved/ maintained by the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice at various locations through out the country, as per requirement. The Ministry has also issued instructions for engaging "Senior Government Counsels" in cases of companies having vanished after mobilising funds to the tune of Rs. 5.00 crore of above.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Number of Legal Professionals engaged
1	2	3
1.	West Bengal	01
2.	Bihar	01
3.	Tamil Nadu	05
4.	Karnataka	01
5.	Andhra Pradesh	02
6.	Delhi	07
7.	Uttar Pradesh	05
8.	Punjab	01
9.	Maharashtra	01
10.	Gujarat	03
	Total	27

Review of Urban Development Schemes

4668. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken review of the implementation of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana, Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana, National Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents, Integrated Low Cost Sanitation and Night Shelter for Urban Shelterless;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the number of persons/families benefited during the last three years from each of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The details are given in enclosed statement.

Statement

Name of the Scheme	Review	Findings	Number of Beneficiaries
1	2	3	4
Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJRSY)	The scheme titled Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) has been independently evaluated by M/s. Access Development Services, New Delhi in 9 representative States/ UTs of Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat, Assam, Kerala, Goa, Haryana and Delhi during the period November, 2006 & March 2007.	* Focus of the scheme should be on supporting urban self-employment. * Creation of more micro-enterprises by the urban poor, individually and in groups should be encouraged. * Marketing and credit linkages should be provided to the beneficiaries. * Service sector and small business activities are areas that have high potential for self-employment opportunities.	The total number of beneficiaries assisted under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJRSY) during last three years, as reported by State Governments in their Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs), is as under: 2006-08 2006-07 2007-08 Number of urban poor assisted to set up individual/ group micro enterprises for self employment. 100824 138178 91152 Number of urban poor imparted skill training 142973 167384 11492

1	2	3	4
		* Proper market assessment needs to be undertaken for the micro-entrepreneurs before decidiing on micro-enterprises and other ventures to be set up. * Training needs assessment should be conducted before providing skills training to the urban poor. * Community mobilization is critical for success of employment creation and income generation programmes. * Social security aspects of the poor need to be addressed in conjunction with poverty alleviation programmes. * Community-based credit programmes should be designed with the involvement of Non-Government Organisation (NGOs)/ Community Based Organisation (CBOs). * Capacity building of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and other stakeholders is essential for the success of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY).	
Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY)	The Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) has been subsumed in the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Prgramme (IHSDP) under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) since 03.12.2005.	There have been several reviews at the levels of Secretary & Joint Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. The critical finding of these reviews is that the unit cost under the scheme is below the actual market cost of construction. This shortcoming is the key reason for the scheme being subsumed under IHSDP.	Physical progress under VAMBAY during the last three years is as under:- Year / Housing Units (Completed / In progress) / Toilets (Completed / In progress) 2004-05: 81581 / 8085 / 31194 / 1897 2005-06: 70185 / 12904 / 638 / 646 2006-07: 10882 / 7521 / 0 / 2448
National Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavenger and their dependents (NSLRS)	The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is currently implementing a new scheme titled Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers for implmentation in all the States replacing the earlier scheme	No evaluation study was undertaken	No funds were allocated w.e.f. 2005-06
Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme (ILCS)	The Scheme was evaluated by the Agricultural Finance Corporation Ltd.	The findings of the team are as follows:	This Ministry has released subsidy to implement the Scheme during the

1	2	3	4
	The said agency submitted the final report in the month of October, 2007	(i) For better implementation of the programme, the subsidy norm should be increased. (ii) Super-structure should be included in the Scheme as most of the beneficaries are from BPL and EWS categories. State Governments and Central Government should bear the entire cost of super-structure. (iii) The unit cost of ILCS in view of escalation in the cost of raw material should be reviewed. (iv) Area specific latrines should be constructed. There should be flexibility to adapt the design of latrines. Factors such as lack of space/land constraint, non suitability of soil, & pollution of water sources have to be taken into consideration. (v) Separate funds should be allocated for Awareness generation & hygiene education through community health workers, NGOs, newspaper advertisements etc. (vi) A viable framework for training and capacity building must be designed. (vii) MIS should be done through Quarterly Progress Reports along with Utilization Certificates which will ensure smooth release of subsequent installment of funds. (viii) Preparation of IEC materials for dissemination of the Scheme among the target groups should be done. The Government incorporated the above findings in the revised guidelines of the Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme w.e.f. 17.1.2008. The revised guidelines will be implemented in a time bound manner to convert existing 6 lakhs dry latrines into water borne flush toilets in the country by 2009-10.	year 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 as follows:- Rs. in Crores 2005-06 2006-07 2007-08 Funds released to HUDCO 2.00 27.00 70.97 The number of persons/families benefited during the last 3 years under the Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme are as follows:- 2005-06 2006-07 2007-08 Number of Scavengers Liberated 6788 2484 4944
Night Shelter for Urban Shelterless	The scheme was transferred to the state sector w.e.f. 1.4.2005 and no allocation or release of funds has been made by the Central Government from 2005-06 onwards.	No evaluation study was undertaken	Not applicable since no funds were allocated w.e.f. 1.4.2005.

Reservation to Women in Legislature

4669. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any consensus has been reached with political parties on various provisions of the bill providing of reservation of seats to women in legislatures; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

TCMDFI

4670. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of norms for releasing loans, recovery of loans and fixing the rate of interest by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TCMDFI);

(b) the details of the target set and achievements made by TCMDFI during the last three years;

(c) the details of the beneficiaries under the scheme of TCMDFI during the last three years, State-wise;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) does not release any loans.

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

[English]

PSBS as Brokers

4671. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Banks have plans to get into broking as reported in the *Asian Age* dated February 18, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted Canara Bank to carry on certain activities which included broking in equity by the Gilt Securities Trading Corporation Ltd. (GSTCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Bank. However, no other bank indicated in the news-item *i.e.* State Bank of India and United Bank of India, have submitted any such proposal to RBI.

Expansion of NHPC

4672. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) has worked out an ambitious expansion Plan; and

(b) if so, the details of funding pattern thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) has proposed to commission 10 projects with aggregate installed capacity of 5233 MW during 11th Five Year Plan (2007-12). The list of these projects is given in the enclosed Statement. Out of these, two projects namely Teesta-V and Omkareshwar have already been commissioned. NHPC has proposed a plan outlay of Rs. 28,000 crore during the 11th Five Year Plan. NHPC proposes to fund these projects from various sources such as an initial Public Offering (IPO), Internal Resource Generation (IRG) and market borrowings.

Statement

Sl.No.	Project Name	State	Installed capacity (MW)	Commissioning schedule
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Teesta V	Sikkim	510	Project commissioned in March 2008
2.	Parbati Stage II	Himachal Pradesh	800	December, 2010
3.	Sewa II	Jammu & Kashmir	120	June, 2009
4.	Subansiri (Lower)	Arunachal Pradesh	2000	January, 2012
5.	Teesta Low Dam III	West Bengal	132	December, 2009
6.	Uri II	Jammu & Kashmir	240	August, 2010
7.	Chamera III	Himachal Pradesh	231	August, 2010

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Teesta Low Dam IV	West Bengal	160	August, 2010
9.	Parbati III	Himachal Pradesh	520	November, 2010
10.	Omkareshwar (JV)#	Madhya Pradesh	520	Project commissioned in November, 2007
		Total	5233	

#Joint Venture project between NHPC and Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Uniform Power Tariff Policy

4673. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether per unit cost of power generated by private sector is much higher than the power generated by the public sector power plants in the country;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to form a uniform tariff policy for both sectors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The per unit cost of power generation varies from plant to plant, and depends mainly on the type of plant and fuel used, its location, size, age and efficiency. Depending on these factors, there is variation in the cost of generation both in private and public sector power plants.

Under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, determination power tariffs of distribution licensees is the statutory function of the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs). The tariff of electricity depends on the overall power purchase cost as well as the operational and financial performance of the Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) *i.e.* Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses, operational expenses, capital investment for system upgradation/augmentation etc.

The SERCs are required to determine tariff in a transparent way after hearing various stakeholders. Furthermore, in determining tariffs, SERcs are guided by the provisions contained in section 61 of the Electricity Act, 2003 which, *inter alia*, include the factors that would encourage competition, efficiency, economical use of resources, safeguarding of consumers interests and at the same time ensure recovery of cost of electricity in a reasonable manner, and the National Electricity Policy and the Tariff Policy. The Tariff Policy lays down the approach for determination of tariffs for the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity. However, a uniform power tariff throughout the country is not envisaged.

National Investment Fund

4674. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds have been credited to the National Investment Fund (NIF);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which funds would be credited to NIF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) As on date, funds totalling to Rs. 1651 crore have been credited to the National Investment Fund (NIF).

(c) In view of reply to part (b) above, the question does not arise.

UIDSSMT

4675. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received the alternative projects from Maharashtra for including Latur Under Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns; and

(b) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) in its meeting held on 8.6.2006 approved 6 projects in Latur town under Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) with an estimated cost of Rs. 10857.00 lakh and Additional Central Assistance (ACA) amounting to Rs. 4342.80 lakh has been released to the State. The details of projects sanctioned and funds released are given in the enclosed statement.

However, State Government has requested to replace one of the sanctioned projects with another project having same cost. The request of the State Government being not in accordance with the scheme guidelines has not been agreed to and Ministry of Finance has withdrawn the earlier released amount for the project from the State Government.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of town/city	Scheme/Name of component	Cost approved by SLSC	Total eligible Central Share (80%)	Ist Instalment of the eligible Central Share (50%)	Ist Instalment of ACA released
1.	Latur	Construction of drains	5531.00	4424.80	2212.40	2212.40
2.	Latur	Improvement of arterial & Arterial Roads	3591.00	2872.80	1436.40	1436.40
3.	Latur	Six lane road with joggers tract	755.00	604.00	302.00	302.00
4.	Latur	Construction of road dividers & foot path	880.00	704.00	352.00	352.00
5.	Latur	Beautification of Golai	63.00	50.40	25.20	25.20
6.	Latur	Parking plaza at Ganjgolai	37.00	29.60	14.80	14.80
		Total	10857.00	8685.60	4342.80	4342.80

[Translation]

Special Funds for Rural Development

4676. SHRI PUNNULAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some rural areas have remained neglected for several years and are still out of sight;

(b) if so, whether the Government is considering to set-up a special fund for promoting development activities in neglected rural areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (c) So far as the pace of development is concerned, the regional disparities still persist due to varied geographical, natural resources and socio-economic conditions in the country and this fact has been recognized in various Plan Documents also. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) has been extended to all the districts. Under NREGA, 100 days guaranteed job is provided to a rural household who are willing to do unskilled job. Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) has been revamped to give emphasis on placement based training and skill development. For development of infrastructure, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is being implemented all over the country to provide rural connectivity. Similarly, Drinking Water Supply in rural areas is being implemented in all the villages. Social Security Scheme of Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) is also implemented in all the villages to provide Old Age Pension of Rs. 200 from the Centre and Supplementary by the States to all Below Poverty Line (BPL) Families having age of 65 years and above.

In order to develop all rural areas, a Special Business Plan under the name of 'Bharat Nirman' has been launched by the Government. Bharat Nirman aims at developing rural infrastructure having six components namely, irrigation, rural roads, rural housing, rural drinking water supply, rural telephone connectivity and rural electricity. Bharat Nirman is being implemented as a time bound Plan for the period 2005-09 with the total estimated investment of Rs. 1,74,000 crore. The Government have also taken other initiatives such as National Rural Health Mission and Sarvshiksha Ahiyan to improve the living conditions of the rural masses.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is also operating the Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) Programmme in 250 backward districts of the country identified by the Planning Commission. The BRGF is designed to redress

the regional imbalances in development. The programme has two components, namely, District Components covering 250 districts and special Plans for Bihar and the KBK Districts of Orissa. The Districts Component of the BRGF will provide financial resources for supplementing and converging existing developmental inflows into the identified districts to bridge critical gaps with the involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The special Plan for Bihar has been formulated to bring about improvement in sectors like power, road, connectivity, irrigation, forestry and watershed development. The Special Plan for the KBK districts aims at addressing the development gaps in this region. The BRGF will continue during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period. A provision of Rs. 5800 crore has been made for BRGF annually for 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Tax Relief for Investment by NRIs

4677. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to provide rebate to NRIs in rate of tax imposed on income generated from investment made in India by them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the percentage of corporate tax imposed on income generated in corporate sector by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) The rate of corporate income tax is 30 per cent of the total income in the case of a domestic company and 40 per cent in the case of a foreign company. Where the total income exceeds Rupees one crore, surcharge is leviable at the rate of 10% and 2.5% of such income-tax in the case of a domestic company and a foreign company respectively. Also, 'education cess on income tax' and 'secondary and higher education cess on income tax' are leviable at the rate of 2% and 1% respectively on such income-tax and surcharge in the case of all companies.

[English]

Ultra Mega Power Project

4678. SHRI RAMESH DUBE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector Power Companies are not taking up any ultra mega power projects; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Any company or consortium of companies, including Public Sector Companies (PSUs), can participate in the bidding process for Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs). NTPC Limited has, in fact, participated in the process for Sasan and Krishnapatnam UMPP at different stages of the bidding process. The participation by any PSU in the bidding process initiated/being initiated in respect of UMPPs is purely a commercial decision of the concerned PSU.

[Translation]

Cases of Theft and Loot in Public Sector Banks

4679. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of theft and loot etc. which have come to light in various financial institutions including Public & Private Sector Banks from August, 2007 till date in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of arrangements in place to check such incidents;

(c) the number of such cases in which action has been taken against the accused persons alongwith the number of cases in which offences have not been proved during the last three years and current year; and

(d) the effective measures taken by the Government to check bank-loot cases and provide security to the banks in sensitive areas and particularly in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The State-wise details of crimes against banks which were reported by the banks to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from July, 2007 till date are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) RBI has reported that, though security arrangements at bank branches are primarily the responsibility of each bank, it has stipulated deployment of armed police guards in so far as currency chest branches are concerned. At other branches and ATMs etc., the banks may devise their own arrangements, including deployment of modern security equipments, such as alarm system, CCTV collapsible door/shutters, night latches, grill gate to strong room, armoured cash vans and time-lock devices etc.

RBI has further reported that security measures implemented by the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) are reviewed in State Level Security Committee meetings convened periodically by the RBI. The Committee takes stock of the security environment in the stage and issues necessary instructions accordingly.

As regards ensuring security to currency chests, instructions issued by the RBI, inter-alia, contain following measures:

(i) Currency chests to be guarded by State Armed Police.

(ii) Establishing hotlines with nearest Police Stations.

(iii) CCTV coverage of peripheral areas as well as of cash handling operations inside the chest areas in all currency chest branches.

(iv) Security inspection of currency chest branches located in sensitive areas/border areas at least once in a year, and once in two years in respect of other currency chest branches. Inspection to be conducted by the Chief/Zonal Security Officers of the bank concerned.

The details regarding number of cases in which action is taken against the accused persons and the number of cases in which offences have not been proved is not maintained by the RBI.

Statement

State-wise details of crimes against banks as reported to RBI from July 2007 to till date

Sl.No.	State	No. of crimes
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2
3.	Assam	15
4.	Bihar	11
5.	Chandigarh	2
6.	Chhattisgarh	13
7.	Delhi	7
8.	Goa, Daman and Diu	2
9.	Gujarat	14
10.	Haryana	14
11.	Himachal Pradesh	3
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	6
13.	Jharkhand	15
14.	Karnataka	12
15.	Kerala	8
16.	Madhya Pradesh	18
17.	Maharashtra	17
18.	Manipur	—
19.	Meghalaya	1
20.	Mizoram	—
21.	Nagaland	—
22.	Orissa	11
23.	Punjab	34
24.	Rajasthan	16

1	2	3
25.	Sikkim	—
26.	Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry	9
27.	Tripura	—
28.	Uttar Pradesh	24
29.	Uttarakhand	6
30.	West Bengal	10
	Total	278

[English]

Import Duty on Titanium Dioxide

4680. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

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

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) At present there is no such proposal.

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

Problem regarding Widow

4681. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

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

(a) whether the Government has the details of widows in the country;

(b) if not, whether Government proposes to conduct a survey to know the details;

(c) whether the Government proposes to give them training to enable them to earn their livelihood and become self-dependent;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government also proposes any scheme for remarriage of young widows in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Registrar General of India conducts the largest demographic survey in the country which includes data on population composition by broad age groups, sex, marital status and the like which includes widows separated & divorced women. The details are available on their website www.censusindia.gov.in.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is running Swadhar Scheme which is a shelter based scheme to cater the requirements of various types of women in distress in diverse situations including destitute widows. The package of services made available under the Scheme include provision for food, clothing, shelter, health care counseling and legal support, social and economic rehabilitation through education, awareness generation, skill up gradation and behavioral training. The details of Swadhar Scheme are available at the Ministry's website namely www.wed.nic.in.

(e) and (f) The Ministry of Women and Child Development has no proposal for the remarriage of young widows in the country.

[Translation]

Shortage of Power Generation Equipments

4682. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI RAMESH DUBE:
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Power Ministry looks beyond Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) for high-end equipment as reported in the Business Standard dated the January 29, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Considering the massive capacity addition programme envisaged in the next 20-25 years, the Ministry of Power is of the view that there is a need for substantial step up of world class power equipment manufacturing capability including Supercritical Thermal Power Units in the country. The Ministry supports the development and diversification of power generation equipment with the objective of increasing competition vendor choice among domestic manufacturers and improvement in supply schedules and quality.

Encroachment of Forest Land

4683. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the outside people have encroached the forest land and are exploiting the tribal people by forcing them to do agricultural work therein;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to allot forest land to tribal people on lease basis and encourage them to do farming thereby dissuading them to migrate to urban areas in search of employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) Such instances have not come to the notice of this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of this Ministry.

[English]

Investment Commission of India

4684. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted Investment Commission during the recent time;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the terms of reference;

(c) whether the Commission has submitted any report or recommendations to the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(f) whether the Commission has also requested the Government that the export of India's minerals resources including iron ore without adding value should be avoided at all costs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) As a sequel to an announcement made by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech 2004-05, to make the environment attractive for investors in India, an Investment Commission with Shri Ratan Tata as Chairman and Dr. Ashok Ganguly and Shri Deepak Parekh as Members was set up on 13th December, 2004. The terms of reference of the Commission are given in the Statement.

(c) to (e) The Investment Commission has submitted its first Report titled "Investment Strategy for India" in February, 2006 and its second Report titled "Thrust Areas" in December, 2007. While the first Report contained 152 main recommendations in Infrastructure, Manufacturing, Service sectors as also on Knowledge Economy, the second Report contained recommendations on four Thrust areas viz, Tourism, Agriculture and Food Processing, Textiles and Garments and Power. All these recommendations are being vigorously pursued with the Ministeries/Departments concerned for implementation.

(f) and (g) The Investment Commission has, inter-alia, recommended to ensure that exports out of India are the most value added form of the metal rather than of ore. The National Mineral Policy, 2008 announced by the Government stipulates that efforts shall be made to export minerals in value added form as far as possible.

Statement

Terms of Reference

(a) The Investment Commission will be constituted initially for a period of 3 years.

(b) The Investment Commission will be located within the Government (in the Ministry of Finance as decided by the Prime Minister) and will enjoy operational autonomy and Government support.

(c) The Commission will seek meetings and visit with industrial groups/houses in India and with large companies abroad, particularly in sectors where there is a dire need for investment but adequate investment has not flowed so far. The Commission will interact closely with the Boards of Directors of potential investing companies.

(d) In respect of Indian investors, the Commission would also address the issue of bridging the gap between "announcements" and "proposals" and also the gap between "proposals" and "project implementation".

(e) The Commission will endeavour to secure a certain level of investment every year and its progress will be reviewed at the end of every quarter.

(f) The Commission will make recommendations to Government both on policy and procedures to facilitate greater FDI flows into India.

[Translation]

Compulsory Voting

4685. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to bring an amendment to the Constitution for making voting compulsory; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) There is no proposal under consideration with the Government to make voting right mandatory. The issue has been considered by the Committee on Electoral Reforms, 1990 (Dinesh Goswami Committee) and also in the meeting of all political parties held in 1998. The measures was, however, not accepted because of the practical difficulties involved in its implementation.

Per Day Income

4686. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether per capita income in the country has increased to twenty nine thousand rupees as per the figures released for 2006-07 by the Government;

(b) if so, whether attention of the Government has also been drawn to the figures released by the National Sample Survey Organisation according to which many people in the country earn 12 rupees per day and about one third of the population live in kuchha houses;

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

(d) whether Government has analysed the reasons with a view to targeting the scheme and realistically increasing the income level of such people;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) further steps taken/proposed to be taken for realistically reducing the gap between the poor and the rich?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to the quick estimates of National Income, Consumption Expenditrue, Saving and Capital Formation 2006-07 released by the Central Statistical Organisation, the per capita income (per capita net national product at factor cost) in the country at current prices is estimated at Rs. 29642 in 2006-07 as against Rs. 25956 for the previous year. In the Report No. 508 on level and pattern of consumer expenditure 2004-05 of NSS 61st Round brought out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), the per capita consumption expenditure of 30% rural population in the country is less than Rs. 12 per day. Similarly, Report No. 488 of NSS 58th Round (July-December, 2020) contained the information on percentage of pucca and kutcha dwelling units by State/UT highlighted that 21% of the rural dwelling units were kuttcha.

(c) to (f) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing the poverty alleviation programmes to provide wage and self employment with the objective of generating incremental income for the rural households. With effect from 1st April, 2008, all the districts of the country have been covered under National Rural

Employment Guarantee Scheme which is a major wage employment scheme. Under this scheme, each rural household is guaranteed 100 days of wage employment in a financial year whose adult members are willing to take up unskilled manual work. The Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is a self-employment programme under which the rural poor are provided assistance in the form of subsidy and credit to take up economic activities which could generate income on a sustainable basis. The Government have also extended the Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme to all the BPL persons who are of the age of 65 and above and are given a pension of Rs. 200 per month. The State Governments are also required to supplement this amount. A rural housing programme of Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is being implemented for the rural poor under which financial assistance is provided. On an average more than 20 lakh dwelling units are being constructed annually under this programme. The programmes of Rural Drinking Water supply and Total Sanitation Campaign aim at improving the living conditions of the rural poor households so that their productivity is enhanced.

[English]

Listing of Public Sector Enterprises in Stock Exchanges

4687. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) are listed in Stock Exchanges across the country;

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

(c) whether some applications of PSEs are pending for listing;

(d) if so, the details thereof for each of the last two years; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to encourage the PSEs to list themselves on the Stock Exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) 73 Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) are listed at Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and 58 PSEs are listed at National Stock Exchange (NSE). SEBI has informed that presently, no application for new listing of PSE's pending with BSE and NSE. The policy decisions on CPSEs including the listing of CPSEs are taken by concerned administrative Ministry/Department.

Protective Equipments for People Working in Garbage Disposal Works

4688. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that the staff working in various civic agencies engaged in garbage disposal works including hazardous and unsafe substances are not properly provided with the protective equipments for such jobs in the country;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has issued any instruction to the State Governments to follow norms strictly and to protect the health of the employees engaged in garbage disposal and make provision for regular medical check-up for them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Municipal Solid Waste Management is one of the Municipal functions of the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and therefore the responsibility of providing adequate protective equipment for the staff working in various civic agencies engaged in garbage disposal lies with the State Governments and ULBs.

(c) and (d) Policy Guidelines given in the Manual on Municipal Solid Waste Management published by the Ministry of Urban Development in May, 2000 stipulate that the local body, as a policy, should provide adequate protective clothing and health check up from time to time to the staff to ensure that their health is not adversely affected on account of their handling of solid waste. Free medical services should be made available to those whose health is affected on account of handling solid waste.

FDI in Banking and Insurance Sector

4689. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM:
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Public/Private Sector Banks and Public/Private Insurance Companies during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has prepared any guidelines to increase FDI limit in the above sectors;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the insurance sector has asked for exemption of service tax for health insurance; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The details of inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the ban and insurance companies, under the Automatic Route, during the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 are given below:-

Rs. in crore

	2005	2006	2007
Banks	413.05	343.53	986.14
Insurance Companies	111.37	184.40	410.55

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to increase FDI limit in the banking sector. However, a proposal to increase FDI limit in Indian Insurance Companies from 26% to 49% is under consideration of the Group of Ministries.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Amendment to the Constitution to fight Corruption

4690. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) whether the National Conference on Effects of Corruption on Good Governance organised by NHRC in May 2006 recommended an amendment to the Constitution by adding a clause to Article 51A in the Fundamental Duties Chapter;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that National Conference on 'Effects of Corruption on Good Governance on Human Rights" organised by NHRC on 9th to 10th May, 2006 recommended that there is a need to amend the Constitution of India by adding one more clause to Article 51A in the Fundamental Duties Chapter. Since the recommendation revolves around corruption, it was forwarded to Department of Personnel & Training.

(c) The Department of Personnel & Training has informed that the Government is fully alive to the need to eradicate corruption and implement its policy of "zero tolerance" against corruption. Several steps have been initiated to remove corruption and to improve functioning of Government. The Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003, the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, etc. already provide the requisite legal framework to deal with corrupt practices of public servants. Enactment of Right to Information Act, 2005 is another step in the direction of curbing corruption by increasing transparency in the functioning of the Government.

[English]

Delimitation Commission

4691. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delimitation Commission has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has approved any scheme for delimitation of Parliamentary Constituencies recently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Delimitation Commission has so far issued Orders in respect of 25 States/Union territories. In pursuance of section 10A of the Delimitation Act, 2008, the delimitation exercise in

respect of the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland have been deferred vide four Orders dated 8th February, 2008. Further, section 10B of the said Act nullified the Delimitation Commission's Orders issued with respect to the State of Jharkhand. Thus, the delimitation exercise in respect of all the States except the State of Jammu and Kashmir has been completed.

(c) and (d) In pursuance of the second proviso to article 82 and the second proviso the clause (3) of article 170 of the Constitution, the Presidential Order has been issued on the 19th February, 2008 making delimitation Orders effective from immediate effect in all the 22 States/ Union territories except in the States of Tripura and Meghalaya where the delimitation order has taken effect from 20th March, 2008. To enable the Election Commission of India to consolidate the delimitation orders and take such other steps as may be required for conduct of future elections in terms of the new delimitation orders, necessary amendments to the Representation of the People Act, 1950 have been made vide the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2008 (10 of 2008) and given effect to on 16th April, 2008.

MRTPC Inquiry into Cartel of Chemists

4692. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) has conducted an inquiry into a cartel formed by chemists and wholesalers who are pushing drug makers to stop selling to big retail chains and also depriving the consumers a genuine 10 per cent discount often offered by retail chains;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received the inquiry report;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) the action taken against the guilty persons; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to stop such practice in future?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (d) Following some reports in the media, the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) has directed the Director General (Investigation & Registration) to conduct an investigation into certain practices allegedly resorted to by chemists and wholesalers that may have the effect of drug makers not selling to big retail chains, and to file Preliminary Investigation Report. The Preliminary Investigation Report is awaited.

(e) Being a quasi judicial body, the MRTP Commission would adjudicate on the cases in process before it and after completion of the relevant proceedings, make orders as it deems fit on such practices as it finds violative of the provisions of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969.

[Translation]

Committee on Bio-Diesel

4693. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a committee in regard to development of Bio-diesel;

(b) if so, whether the committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the recommendations made therein; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SAHU): (a) In July 2002, the Planning Commission had constituted a Committee on Development of Bio-fuels to suggest strategy and approach for promotion of bio-fuels on commercial scale.

(b) and (c) The Committee submitted its report in April 2003, wherein it was recommended that a national Mission on Bio-diesel, with special focus on the plantation of *jatropha curcas,* be launched in two phases. Phase I would be a demonstration project involving promotion of *jatropha curcas* cultivation in forest and non-forest areas (2 lakh hectares each) especially on waste and degraded lands over a period of 5 years. This would be followed by the second phase which would be a self-sustaining programme with plantation of *jatropha* in 11.2 million hectares, both in government and private lands for

production of bio-diesel to achieve a target of 20% blending with petroleum diesel.

(d) the Ministry of Rural Development has been identified as the Nodal Ministry to operationalize the recommendations of the Committee. Accordingly, the Ministry of Rural Development has proposed to launch the Demonstration Phase of the National Mission on Bio-diesel. The proposal envisages promotion of jatropha (Ratanjot) and pongamia (Karanj) plantations on 5 lakh hectares in degraded forest areas and non-forest public wastelands over a period of 5 years and at a total estimated cost of Rs. 1500 crore.

[English]

Government Expenditure on ST Welfare

4694. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total expenditure on welfare of Scheduled Tribes has not been more than one per cent of the total allocation in any of the past four budgets;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has analysed the reasons with a view to give more allocations for Scheduled Tribe welfare during 2008-09; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) So far as the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is concerned, the details of the budgetary allocations made for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes in the last four financial year (2004-05 to 2007-08) and the expenditure incurred during the said period are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Budget Estimates (BE)	Revised Estimates (RE)	Actual Expenditure (AE)	% of AE w.r.t. BE
2004-05	1146.00	1069.45	1053.06	91.89%
2005-06	1498.82	1398.82	1391.95	92.86%
2006-07	1656.90	1652.68	1647.73	99.44%
2007-08	1719.71	1719.71	1524.88	88.67%

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) During 2008-09, a budget allocation of Rs. 2121.00 crores has been approved by the Planning Commission for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes, which is 23.33% increase over the allocation made during the last financial year, 2007-08.

Sustainable Urban Transport

4695. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of Sustainable Urban Transport Programme;

(b) details of cities that have been identified to develop as viable models of sustainable urban transport and also to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to make the identified cities under less pollution; and

(d) the steps taken to promote non-motorised vehicles in the country, particularly in rapidly growing cities in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The aims and objectives of Sustainable Urban Transport Programme (SUTP) are as under:-

(i) To strengthen capacity of GoI, and participating States and cities in planning, financing, operating and managing sustainable urban transport systems; and

(ii) To assist States and cities in preparing and implementing demonstration "Urban Transport" projects, which will help in reduction of emission of greenhouse gases (GHG).

(b) The cities that have been identified as demonstration cities for SUTP are Hyderabad, Indore, Pune, Mysore, Ahmedabad, Ajmer-Pushkar, Thiruvanathapuram, Naya Raipur and Jalandhar.

(c) The measures proposed to be undertaken varies from city to city and includes that following:

(i) Improvement of pedestrianisation infrastructure.

(ii) Non-motorized transport system

(iii) Incentivising multi modal travel.

(iv) Enhancements and improvements to bus rapid transit operations.

(v) Information Technology System (ITS) improvements to bus rapid transit system.

(d) The Ministry has circulated and disseminated National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP). 2006 to all States, which emphasizes the greater use of public transport, pedestrianisation and non-motorised modes. The Ministry has also advised the State Governments to ensure that central assistance sought by the city authorities for urban transport under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) should be NUTP compliant. The Ministry has further advised the State Governments to ensure that enough provision should be made for dedicated path for pedestrian and cycle users while building new or widening roads, preparing Master Plans and developing new township, satellite towns, Special Economic Zones (SEZ), etc.

[Translation]

ST Reservation Benefits

4696. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the benefits of Scheduled Tribe reservation are not percolating uniformly among the communities of STs in most of the cases;

(b) whether the benefits are being reaped by few communities among STs which have become well-off;

(c) whether the Government has examined this aspect of reservation; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) and (b) No such information is available with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Post Matric Scholarship to ST Student

4697. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether obtaining atleast 60% marks criteria for eligibility for Scheduled Tribe (ST) students to get post matric scholarship to professional institutions has been opposed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) and (b) The condition relating to benchmark of 60% where admission is one the basis of 12th standard examination marks, for availing of the Post Matric Scholarship in case of professional courses, is no longer applicable for Scheduled Tribe students, following a decision of the Government in this regard, in a similar scheme of Post Matric Scholarships for SCs being implemented by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Polavaram Hydel Power Project

4698. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a multipurpose Polavaram Hydel Power Project is pending for clearance with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and since when; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government for speedy clearance of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Polavaram being a multi-purpose project needs clearance by the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources. The appraisal of the project is being Co-ordinated by the Central Water Commission (CWC). The CWC have informed that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the Polavaram multi-purpose Project has received by them in the last quarter of 2005 and that the appraisal of the same has been completed by CWC. The DPR of Polavaram Project is now required to be submitted to the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources after the grant of the necessary Forest and Wild Life clearances by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Shortage of Coal for Power Plants

4699. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the leading Public sector power generation companies as well as captive power plants are lying underutilized due to shortage of coal and natural gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the contracted quantity of coal and gas is not being fully supplied leading to lower operational capacity of the power plants;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the total loss suffered in power generation capacity due to shortage of coal and gas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) The coal supply position to Thermal Power Stations (TPSs) in the country is not comfortable. As on 22nd April, 2008, out of total 77 coal based thermal power stations, 23 power stations, 23 power stations are critical having a coal stock of less than 7 days. The All India coal stock is also low at 10.122 Million Tonne (MT) against a normative requirement of 22 MT.

During 2007-08, the actual Plan Load Factor (PLF) of coal based TPSs in the country was 78.91% against a target of 77.78%. However, according to NTPC, during 2007-08 there was loss in PLF of 4 of their power stations, namely Farakka, Kahalgaon, Talcher (Kaniha) and Vindhyachal to the tune of 4.66% 0.65%, 0.08% and 0.33% respectively due to shortage of coal.

According to the information received from Coal India Limited, allocation of coal to Captive Power Plants (CPPs) without Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) for Quarter-I (April to June, 2008) is 1.104 Million Tonne Per Month (MTPM) against the allocation of 1.099 MTPM for Quarter-II (2007-08); marginal increase is on account of allocation to new plants commissioned. The allocation of coal to CPPs with FSA for the Quarter I (April to June, 2008) is 2.058 MTPM against the allocation of 2.110 MTPM for Quarter IV (2007-08); marginal reduction being due to the variation in quarterly contracted quantity for some of the CPPs. The overall allocation of coal to CPPs has been 3.162 MTPM during Quarter I (April to June, 2008) against the allocation of 3.209 MTPM during Quarter IV (2007-08).

The production and supply of gas in the country is also not keeping pace with the growing demand for gas in the country, including for that for power sector. The average gas supply during 2007-08 (April-February 2008) has been 37.06 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meter Per Day (MMSCMD), against the requirement of 65.67 MMSCMD to operate the stations at 90% PLF, resulting in generation loss of about 29 Billion Units.

(f) Following steps have been taken by the Government to meet the shortages of gas and coal for power stations:

(i) Rigorous monitoring of supply of coal to thermal power stations for optimizing coal supply to the power stations from various sources.

(ii) Ministry of Coal is being insisted upon to enhance the production of coal in the country.

(iii) Import of coal to meet the shortfall in domestic availability of coal.

(iv) Arranging spot Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG).

(v) New coal blocks are being allocated by the Ministry of Coal to power producers/utilities for captive mining to meet requirement of their power plants.

[Translation]

Grants to Vocational Training Centre

4700. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for establishment of Vocational Training Centres for Scheduled Tribes in the country during the last three years, and its utilization State-wise; and

(b) the number of Tribal Youth imparted training in these centres, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) and (b) The information in so far as it relates to State run Vocational Training Centres is concerned, is given in the enclosed Statement. The beneficiaries include tribal youth.

Statement

Grants-in-aid released to various state run Vocational Training Centres under the scheme of Vocational Training in Tribal Areas

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	States	2005-06			2006-07			2007-08		
		Amt. Released	Fund Utilised	Beneficiaries	Amt. Released	Fund Utilised	Beneficiaries	Amt. Released	Fund Utilised	Beneficiaries
1.	Andhra Pradesh	107.90	107.90	900	67.50	67.50	900	0	0	0
2.	Assam	65.37	65.37	500	65.37	65.37	500	0	0	0
3.	Gujarat	0	0	0	94.50	94.50	1300	54.83	0	1300
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	15.50	15.50	50	0	0	0	13.50	0	100
5.	Karnataka	68.27	68.27	1000	67.50	67.50	500	0	0	0
6.	Kerala	0	0	0	17.32	0	175	0	0	0
7.	Madhya Pradesh	57.00	57.00	500	198.81	198.81	1000	220.75	0	1000
8.	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Mizoram	64.78	64.78	500	0	0	0	65.28	0	500
10.	Orissa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Tripura	0	0	0	54.00	0	400	0	0	0
12.	West Bengal	63.60	0	400	54.00	0	400	0	0	0
13.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	81.00	81.00	1100	302.34	0	1100
14.	Sikkim	42.57	42.57	300	0	0	0	18.30	0	240

[English]

Modifications in NREGS

4701. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI SURESH ANGADI:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from various States for modification in the norms prescribed for the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to include works done in plantations and field work of small and marginal farmers under the scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir. No proposals have been received in the Ministry from States for modification in the norms prescribed for the implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Drought proofing including afforestation and tree plantation is a permissible activity under para 1 (ii) of Schedule I of NREG Act, 2005. No specific provision for field work of small and marginal farmers has been stipulated in the NREG Act. However provision of irrigation facility, horticulture plantation and land development facilities on land owned by households belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes or to Below Poverty Line families or to beneficiaries of land reforms or to the beneficiaries under the Indira Awas Yojana of the Government of India have been made in para 1 (iv) of Schedule I of NREGA.

Kayamkulam Power Project

4702. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has reduced the supply of 150 MW power recently from the power allocated to Karnataka;

(b) whether the Karnataka Government has urged the Union Government to provide 500 MW power from the Kayamkulam Power Project;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The allocation of Karnataka State from the Central Generating Stations of Southern Region was reduced by 150 MW (during 1800-2200 hours) and was allocated to Tamil Nadu with effect from 26th December, 2007 to mitigate higher shortage of power prevailing in Tamil Nadu. This was restored to Karnataka in two phases, 50 MW on 11.01.2008, and 100 MW on 18.03.2008.

(b) and (d) No, Sir. The installed capacity of existing Kayamkulam Combined Cycle Power Project is 360 MW.

[Translation]

Deposits in Banks

4703. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount deposited under various categories in the nationalised banks, bank-wise during the last three years;

(b) the details of interest paid thereon during the above period bank-wise; and

(c) the details of the profit/loss incurred by the nationalised banks during the above period, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) As reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the bank-wise details of the amount in respect of Demand Deposits, Savings Deposits, Term Deposits, interest expenses on such deposits and Net profit/loss in respect of Nationalised Banks as on March 31, 2005, 2006 and 2007 are given in the enclosed statement I, II & III, respectively.

Statement I

Bank-wise details of deposits under various categories, interest expenses on deposits and net profit/loss in respect of Nationalised Banks

Sl.No.	Bank Name	For the year ended March 31, 2005 (Rs. crores)					
		Demand Deposit	Savings Deposit	Term Deposit	Total Deposit	Interest expense on deposits	Net profit/ loss
1.	Allahabad Bank	3299	12472	24991	40762	1767	542
2.	Andhra Bank	2558	7401	17592	27551	1129	520
3.	Bank of Baroda	6871	22777	51685	81333	3248	677
4.	Bank of India	6098	21132	51591	78821	3137	340
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	2399	7133	19311	28844	1396	177
6.	Canara Bank	8957	23867	64085	96908	4215	1110
7.	Central Bank of India	6139	20327	34286	60752	2703	357
8.	Corporation Bank	4093	5326	17814	27233	1075	402
9.	Dena Bank	2124	6660	11312	20096	980	61
10.	Indian Bank	2858	9276	22674	34808	1508	408
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	5011	12191	27039	44241	1991	651
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	4311	9209	34330	47850	1966	760
13.	Punjab & Sind Bank	1406	5153	7611	14171	646	-71
14.	Punjab National Bank	12467	35341	55359	103167	4163	1410
15.	Syndicate Bank	4981	12171	29142	46295	2001	403
16.	UCO Bank	3945	10516	35009	49470	2048	346
17.	Union Bank of India	5010	15197	41623	61831	2710	719
18.	United Bank of India	2685	9122	13541	25348	1197	300
19.	Vijaya Bank	2945	5396	17277	25618	1072	381

Statement II

Bank-wise details of deposits under various categories, interest expenses on deposits and net profit/loss in respect of Nationalised Banks

Sl.No.	Bank Name	For the year ended March 31, 2006 (Rs. crores)					
		Demand Deposit	Savings Deposit	Term Deposit	Total Deposit	Interest expense on deposits	Net profit/ loss
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Allahabad Bank	4081	14967	29451	48500	2116	706
2.	Andhra Bank	3085	9232	21605	33922	1389	486

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Bank of Baroda	8379	27160	58123	93662	3517	827
4.	Bank of India	7407	25486	61039	93932	3498	701
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	2864	8661	15381	26906	1381	51
6.	Canara Bank	10262	28627	77914	116803	4825	1343
7.	Central Bank of India	7631	23480	35372	66483	2880	257
8.	Corporation Bank	4746	6540	21590	32877	1289	444
9.	Dena Bank	2381	7931	13312	23623	973	73
10.	Indian Bank	3204	11003	26599	40806	1730	504
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	5700	14468	30361	50529	2186	783
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	5021	11369	33808	50197	2412	557
13.	Punjab & Sind Bank	2781	6043	8101	16925	636	108
14.	Punjab National Bank	16724	41908	61053	119685	4612	1439
15.	Syndicate Bank	6025	14450	33149	53624	2055	536
16.	UCO Bank	4006	12112	38425	54544	2606	197
17.	Union Bank of India	5979	17997	50119	74094	3156	675
18.	United Bank of India	3133	10434	15683	29250	1289	205
19.	Vijaya Bank	3417	6369	17923	27709	1262	127

Statement III

Bank-wise details of deposits under various categories, interest expenses on deposits and net profit/loss in respect of Nationalised Banks

Sl.No.	Bank Name	For the year ended March 31, 2007 (Rs. crores)					
		Demand Deposit	Savings Deposit	Term Deposit	Total Deposit	Interest expense on deposits	Net profit/ loss
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Allahabad Bank	5492	17120	36932	59544	3013	750
2.	Andhra Bank	3662	10652	27140	41454	1811	538
3.	Bank of Baroda	9875	31577	83464	124916	4986	1026
4.	Bank of India	9366	29255	81261	119882	4608	1123

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	4121	10518	19280	33919	1499	272
6.	Canara Bank	12445	32435	97501	142381	6888	1421
7.	Central Bank of India	8526	26312	47938	82776	3571	498
8.	Corporation Bank	6777	7652	27928	42357	1882	536
9.	Dena Bank	3281	9044	15365	27690	1190	202
10.	Indian Bank	3632	13045	30414	47091	2219	760
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	6815	17145	44780	68740	2896	1008
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	6358	13032	44606	63996	3297	581
13.	Punjab & Sind Bank	2129	6703	10487	19319	904	219
14.	Punjab National Bank	16466	48089	75305	139860	5617	1540
15.	Syndicate Bank	7611	16472	54550	78634	3639	716
16.	UCO Bank	5474	13463	45923	64860	3211	316
17.	Union Bank of India	8623	20763	55795	85180	4040	845
18.	United Bank of India	3954	11669	21544	37167	1603	267
19.	Vijaya Bank	4171	7408	26025	37604	1676	331

Implementation of Projects under PPP

4704. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of organisations involved in Public-Private Partnership (PPP);

(b) whether a few companies have benefitted on account of the guidelines on Public-Private Partnership and there is no competition;

(c) whether the bigger companies are not letting the smaller companies enter into the PPP structure and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the outcome of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission are involved in formulation of guidelines and preparation of Standard documents to be followed for PPP Projects. The Central Infrastructure line Ministries and the State Governments are implementing the PPP Projects. Public Private Partnership involves a public sector entity, which is a Government or statutory entity, owning the underlying asset, and a private sector entity in which 51% or more of equity is owned and controlled by private partners for the creation and/or management of infrastructure for public purposes for a specified period of time (concession period).

(b) and (c) No Sir. The guidelines for formulation, appraisal and approval of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Projects in the Central Sector mandate the procedure for appraisal and approval of central sector PPP projects. During appraisal/approval of projects, it is ascertained that the PPP projects are bid/procured in a transparent and fair manner, which helps in increasing private participation and competition and allows all companies to bid for projects.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Repayment of Borrowings

4705. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the repayment as percentage of Governmental borrowings has increased over the last ten years;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Based on actuals, repayments as percentage of Gross Market Borrowings (in case of Internal Debt) and Gross External Borrowings (in respect of External Debt) of the Central Government have not increased in 2006-07 as compared to the position obtaining in 1997-98. While repayment of Market Borrowings as percentage of Gross Market Borrowings has gone down from 25 per cent in 1997-98 to 24 per cent in 2006-07, repayment as percentage of Gross External Borrowings has gone down from 86 per cent in 1997-98 to 48 per cent in 2006-07.

Water Supply Schemes in Assam

4706. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposal for water supply amounting to Rs. 1100 crore from Government of Assam;

(b) if so, the status thereof alongwith cities to the covered; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Four Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) in the Water Supply Sector have been received from the Government of Assam with an estimated cost of Rs. 1209.72 crore for the city of Guwahati. One water supply project for South Guwahati West Zone has been sanctioned on 29.2.2008 for an approved cost of Rs. 280.94 crore with a commitment of Rs. 252.80 crore as an Additional Central Assistance (ACA). One water supply project for North Guwahati has been returned to State Government to revise DPR as per norms of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). Remaining two projects are under technical appraisal and will be sanctioned subject to fulfilling all the requirements.

Credit Mobilization of Commercial Banks

4707. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the credit mobilization of commercial banks has increased by only 16.7% during 2007-08 as against 22.6% in the previous year that shows slowing down of the economy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the credit extended by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), including Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) increased by 21.6 per cent during the financial year 2007-08 as compared with 28.1 per cent in the previous year.

As stated in RBI's Annual Policy Statement of April 2007, banks' non-food credit expanded above 30 per cent for three years in succession, driving up money supply and squeezing overall liquidity. During this phase of high growth in bank credit, there was substantial increase in lending to retail sector, particularly housing, real estate, trade, transport and professional services and non-banking financial companies-sectors, which hitherto were not significant in the credit market. While banks' exposures to some of these new sectors is still relatively small,

given the low base, the high rates of growth have raised worries about the quality of these assets and potential non-performance. Accordingly, the Annual Policy Statement for 2007-08 indicated that, based on an overall assessment of the sources of funding, a graduated deceleration of non-food credit including investments in bonds/debentures/shares of public sector undertakings and private corporate sector and commercial paper (CP) to 24.0-25.0 per cent in 2007-08 from the average of 29.8 per cent over 2004-07 is consistent with the monetary projections.

In accordance with this broad policy stance, various monetary measures, including raising of key rates, have been undertaken by the RBI. Since September 2004, repo/ reverse repo rates have been increased by 175/150 basis points, the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) has been raised by 300 basis points, risk weights have been raised in the case of commercial real estate (from 100 per cent to 150 per cent) and consumer credit (from 100 per cent to 125 per cent) and general provisioning requirement for standard advances in specific sectors has been raised to 2 per cent of standard advances. Accordingly, a slowdown in non-food credit growth in 2007-08 from the persistent high rates that prevailed during 2004-07 is broadly in alignment with the indicative trajectory given in the Annual Policy Statement of April 2007.

As indicated in the Third Quarter Review of the Annual Policy Statement (January 2008), the overall stance of monetary policy in the period ahead will broadly continue to be:

- To reinforce the emphasis on price stability and well-anchored inflation expectations while ensuring a monetary and interest rate environment conducive to continuation of the growth momentum and orderly conditions in financial markets.
- To emphasise credit quality as well as credit delivery, in particular, for employment-intensive sectors, while pursuing financial inclusion.
- To monitor the evolving heightened global uncertainties and domestic situation impinging on inflation expectations, financial stability and growth momentum in order to respond swiftly with both conventional and unconventional measures, as appropriate.

Rural Infrastructure Development Fund

4708. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME:
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up rural infrastructure development fund for financing development of rural infrastructure in the country; and

(b) if so, the spheres of rural development and the funds allocated and utilized by State, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government set up a rural infrastructure development fund (RIDF) in the year 1995-96 with an initial corpus of Rs. 2,000 crore for financing development of rural infrastructure in the country. Since then the scheme has continued year after year with its annual allocation being announced in the successive Union Budgets. A corpus of Rs. 14,000 crore has been announced by the Government in the Union Budget 2008-09. State-wise details of funds sanctioned and disbursed to State is given in the enclosed Statement.

Some of important activities, covered under the RIDF, are as follows:

- Rural roads and bridges;
- Micro, minor and medium irrigation projects;
- Soil Conservation, flood protection, watershed development/reclamation of waterlogged areas;
- Drainage, forest development;
- Market yard/godown, apna andi, rural haats and other marketing infrastructure;
- Cold Storage: Public or Joint Sector cold storage at various exist points;
- Seed/Agriculture/Horticulture Farms;
- Grading and certifying mechanisms such as testing and certifying laboratories, etc.
- Fishing harbour/jetties, riverine fisheries, animal husbandry;
- Mini Hydel Projects/Small Hydel Projects (upto 10 MW).
- Drinking water and public health institution
- Infrastructure for Rural Education Institutions
- Construction of toilet blocks in existing schools, where necessary, specially for girl students, so as to improve the amenities available in schools;

- Desalination Plants in Coastal areas.
- Infrastructure for Information Technology in Rural areas.
- Construction of Anganwadi Centres.
- Setting up of rural industrial estates (KVIC)/ Centres.

Statement

State-wise Cumulative Sanctions and Disbursements—
- *RIDF—(As on 31 March 2008)*

(Rs. Crores)

Name of State	State Total	
	Sanctioned	Disbursed
1	2	3
South Zone		
Andhra Pradesh	9401.11	5991.13
Karnataka	4247.88	2426.99
Kerala	2108.13	1322.24
Tamilnadu	5466.75	3723.54
SZ Total	**21223.87**	**13463.89**
West Zone		
Goa	94.03	50.07
Gujarat	6316.77	4405.70
Maharashtra	4597.08	2967.43
WZ Total	**11007.88**	**7423.20**
North Zone		
Haryana	1875.20	1260.42
Himachal Pradesh	1812.49	1194.93
Jammu and Kashmir	2160.32	1243.45
Punjab	2937.68	2014.59
Rajasthan	4298.11	2647.40
Uttar Pradesh	6219.16	3864.15
Uttarakhand	968.70	683.35
NZ Total	**20271.66**	**12908.29**
Central Zone		
Chattisgarh	1398.19	970.23
Madhya Pradesh	5487.17	3379.16
CZ Total	**6885.36**	**4349.39**
East Zone		
Bihar	2396.06	747.30
Jharkhand	1283.51	607.87
Orissa	3261.23	1648.23
West Bengal	4539.91	2730.17
EZ Total	**11480.71**	**5733.57**
NER States & Sikkim		
Arunachal Pradesh	542.62	295.93
Assam	1432.84	763.75
Manipur	45.09	14.63
Meghalaya	252.30	160.13
Mizoram	139.97	116.80
Nagaland	200.88	142.50
Tripura	469.33	146.94
Sikkim	120.90	75.84
Total NER & Sikkim	**3203.93**	**1716.52**
Grand Total	**74073.41**	**45594.85**

Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme in Andaman & Nicobar Islands

4709. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of cities covered in Andaman and Nicobar Islands under Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme (UIDS); and

(b) the funds allocated for the purpose as yet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) has been launched on 3.12.2005 for the Mission Period of seven years from 2005-2012 and three towns of Andaman & Nicobar Islands as per Census 2001 namely Bambooflat, Garacharma and Port Blair are eligible to be considered under the scheme.

In accordance with the scheme guidelines, State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) of the States/UTs is required to sanction of the projects on the admissible components to access the funds under the scheme. UT Administration of Andaman & Nicobar is yet to constitute SLSC for sanctioning the projects. Hence, no project has been sanctioned to UT Administration of Andaman & Nicobar Islands under UIDSSMT so far.

(b) Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance has provided Rs. 4.48 crore to Andaman & Nicobar Islands for the whole Mission Period under UIDSSMT.

ICDS

4710. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to extend more maternity benefits to pregnant and lactating mothers under the ICDS scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received funds from World Bank for the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated and utilized by each State and Union Territory during each of the last three years; and

(e) the State-wise details of the achievements made under this scheme during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India received funds from the World Bank for ICDS III Project which was implemented between 1999 and 2000 and ICDS Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring Project (APERP) which was implemented from 1999 to 2005 (September).

(d) The ICDS III Project was initially implemented in 5 states namely Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Kerala. The Project was restructured in the year 2002 and 6 more States were included. Further, the construction activities were carried out in another nine States/UTs only. Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring Project (APERP) was also implemented from 1999 to 2005 (September) in Andhra Pradesh. A Statement indicating state-wise releases and expenditure during the last three years, under World Bank Assisted ICDS III Project and APERP is enclosed.

(e) The relevant information is available in the data table on Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme at the website of this Ministry i.e. www.wed.nic.in.

Statement

Release of grants and expenditure to States/UTs during the last 3 years under World Bank assisted ICDS Projects (ICDS III/APER)

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	State	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
		Release	Expenditure	Release	Expenditure	Release	Expenditure	Release	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	54.90	63.82	66.03	34.25	-	-	-	-
2.	Uttar Pradesh	70.67	57.88	9.62	26.78	0.40	-	0.00	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Rajasthan	40.13	28.33	9.65	9.65	6.09	—	0.00	—
4.	Maharashtra	21.03	42.49	52.09	41.37	28.58	—	0.00	—
5.	Kerala	24.48	28.35	18.18	13.20	0.00	—	0.00	—
6.	Tamil Nadu	15.68	2.46	0.00	—	0.00	—	0.00	—
7.	Madhya Pradesh	68.36	86.53	61.73	75.83	35.64	—	0.00	—
8.	Chhattisgarh	28.46	28.83	21.96	26.00	8.54	—	0.00	—
9.	Bihar	41.03	46.62	45.00	63.19	35.00	—	0.00	—
10.	Jharkhand	36.84	17.14	12.00	31.18	9.63	—	0.00	—
11.	Orissa	15.00	8.15	5.48	14.26	0.00	—	0.00	—
12.	Uttaranchal	6.00	3.97	3.88	12.05	0.00	—	0.00	—
13.	Gujarat	0.00	5.91	1.00	—	0.00	—	0.00	—
14.	West Bengal	0.00	7.00	3.92	—	0.00	—	0.00	—
15.	Karnataka	0.00	4.47	1.43	1.16	0.00	—	0.00	—
16.	Haryana	0.00	3.44	0.72	0.65	0.00	—	0.00	—
17.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	—
18.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	—	0.00	—
19.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	1.90	—	0.00	—	0.00	—
20.	Pondicherry	0.17	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	—	0.00	—
21.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.15	—	0.00	—	0.00	—
	Total	422.75	435.38	314.74	383.47	123.88*	—	0.00	—

*The ICDS APER Project ended in September, 2005 and World Bank assisted ICDS III Project ended on 31.3.2006. However during the year 2005-06 some States had made excess expenditure against the funds released to them. Thus funds to the tune of Rs. 123.88 crore were released during 2006-07 to compensate the excess expenditure already incurred by the States during the pervious financial year i.e., 2005-06.

[Translation]

Education to Tribal Children

4711. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes introduced by the Union Government for providing good quality education to the tribal children in the country;

(b) the details of the financial assistance provided by the Union Government to the State Government for running these schemes during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote education among the tribal children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) and

(b) Ministry of Human Resource and Development is the nodal Ministry for education in general. Ministry of Tribal Affairs only supplements the efforts of the Ministry of HRD. In so far as the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is concerned, it is administering the scheme of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) with the objective of providing quality education to the tribal students. It was decided during 1997-98 to utilize a part of the funds under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India for setting up of 100 Model Residential Schools from Class VI to Class XII in different States. 100 schools have been sanctioned to 24 States, and 79 are in operation. A statement indicating grants released by the Ministry to State Governments towards Eklavya Model Residential Schools during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 is enclosed. From the year 2007-08, no separate funds have been earmarked for EMRSs and the State Governments have been advised to accommodate their requirement for EMRSs within the amount released under Article 275(1) of the Constitution, as per the prescribed guidelines of the Ministry.

(c) In order to promote education among tribal children, Ministry of Tribal Affairs also runs the following Schemes:

(1) Scheme of Construction of Hostels for Girls and Boys.

(2) Scheme of Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan Areas.

(3) Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship to ST students.

(4) Scheme of Upgradation of Merit.

(5) Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations for Residential School, Non-Residential School and Hostel.

(6) Scheme of Educational Complex in low literacy pockets for development of women literacy in tribal areas which has recently been revised and renamed as Strengthening education among ST girls in low literacy districts.

Statement

Grants released to State Governments for EMRS during 2005-06 & 2006-07

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of States	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	360.00	530.00
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00
3.	Bihar	0.00	0.00
4.	Gujarat	1850.00	540.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	175.00
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00
7.	Karnataka	387.76	189.87
8.	Kerala	0.00	330.00
9.	Madhya Pradesh	577.75	452.25
10.	Maharashtra	520.00	120.00
11.	Manipur	0.00	125.00
12.	Orissa	1029.79	300.00
13.	Rajasthan	0.00	420.00
14.	Sikkim	100.00	0.00
15.	Tamil Nadu	205.00	180.00
16.	Tripura	0.00	115.00
17.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00
18.	West Bengal	325.00	450.00
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	105.44	0.00
20.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00
21.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4
22.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00
23.	Jharkhand	400.00	0.00
24.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	1115.00
25.	Uttaranchal	0.00	150.00
	Total	5860.74	5192.12

Domestic and Foreign Investment

4712. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of domestic investment and foreign investment made during 2007-08 in the country separately;

(b) the details of the projects in which the said investment have been made; and

(c) the sectors in which domestic investment as well as foreign investment have increased during the 2007-08 as against the previous year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The details of domestic investment [compiled in terms of Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda (IEM)] and foreign investment made during 2007-08, along with the sectors, are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively.

(c) The sectors in which domestic investment as well as foreign investment have increased during 2007-08, as against of the previous year, are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement I

Scheduled Industry-wise Break up of Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum filed from April, 2007 to March 2008

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheduled Industry	2007-08	
		Numbers	Proposed Investment (Rs. Crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	Mettallurgical Industries	639	331335
2.	Fuels	46	71387
3.	Boilers & Steam Generating Plants	1	7
4.	Prime Movers other than Electrical Generators	104	5043
5.	Electricals Equipment	380	365553
6.	Telecommunications	40	1394
7.	Transportation Industry	73	11358
8.	Industrial Machinery	63	2625
9.	Machine Tools	3	20
10.	Agricultural Machinery	2	46

1	2	3	
11.	Earth-moving Machinery	10	617
12.	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering Industries	136	4267
13.	Commercial, Office and Household Equipment	5	59
14.	Medical and Surgical Appliances	7	127
15.	Industrial Instruments	0	0
16.	Scientific Instruments	10	175
17.	Fertilizers	24	298
18.	Chemicals (Other than Fertilizers)	319	88846
19.	Dye-Stuffs	5	84
20.	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	117	3374
21.	Textiles	380	16839
22.	Paper and Pupl including Paper Products	73	5811
23.	Sugar	97	8673
24.	Fermentation Industries	141	6371
25.	Food Processing Industry	80	1741
26.	Vegetable Oil & Vanaspati	74	1979
27.	Soaps, Cosmetics & Toilet Preparations	20	687
28.	Rubber Goods	38	2090
29.	Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers	17	235
30.	Glue and Gelatin	2	12
31.	Glass	11	2210
32.	Ceramics	51	4121
33.	Cement & Gypsum Products	238	120896
34.	Timber Products	6	237
35.	Miscellaneous Industries	30	879
36.	Others	431	176365
	Grand Total	3673	1225761

Statement II

Sector-wise FDI Inflows

From April 2007 to February 2008

(Amount in US$ million)

Sl.No.	Sector	Amount of FDI Inflows (in US$)
1	2	3
1.	Services Sector	5,491.69
2.	Housing & Real Estate (Including Cineplex, Multiplex, Integrated Townships & Commercial Complexes etc.)	1,791.65
3.	Construction Activities	1,526.93
4.	Computer Software & Hardware	1,373.03
5.	Telecommunications	1,197.92
6.	Metallurgical Industries	971.30
7.	Electrical Equipments	631.25
8.	Ports	623.31
9.	Trading	580.16
10.	Miscellaneous Industries	553.73
11.	Automobile Industry	552.57
12.	Power	503.46
13.	Mining	444.26
14.	Petroleum & Natural Gas	385.87
15.	Hotel & Tourism	375.87
16.	Drugs & Pharmaceuticals	334.00
17.	Consultancy Services	314.60
18.	Information & Broadcasting (Including Print Media)	314.09
19.	Fermentation Industries	268.59
20.	Hospital & Diagnostic Centres	237.50
21.	Chemicals (Other than Fertilizers)	216.28

1	2	3
22.	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering Industries	205.40
23.	Sea Transport	128.34
24.	Agriculture Services	111.36
25.	Electronics	106.48
26.	Textiles (Including Dyed, Printed)	105.20
27.	Air Transport (Including Air Freight)	99.08
28.	Ceramics	93.08
29.	Food Processing Industries	68.71
30.	Earth-Moving Machinery	66.09
31.	Industrial Machinery	58.49
32.	Machine Tools	55.87
33.	Photographic Raw Film and Paper	52.84
34.	Diamond, Gold Ornaments	38.21
35.	Non-Conventional Energy	32.96
36.	Paper and Pulp (Including Paper Products)	31.23
37.	Education	27.69
38.	Printing of Books (Including Litho Printing Industry)	19.50
39.	Tea and Coffee (Processing & Warehousing Coffee & Rubber)	18.94
40.	Coal Production	14.08
41.	Rubber Goods	13.08
42.	Railway Related Components	12.36
43.	Cement and Gypsum Products	11.52
44.	Glass	11.04
45.	Medical and Surgical Appliances	10.08
46.	Sugar	10.07
47.	Soaps, Cosmetics & Toilet Preparations	10.01
48.	Commercial, Office & Household Equipments	9.78
49.	Agricultural Machinery	6.10

1	2	3
50.	Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers	5.33
51.	Glue and Gelatin	2.28
52.	Industrial Instruments	2.23
53.	Retail Trading (Single Brand)	1.98
54.	Fertilizers	1.95
55.	Dye-Stuffs	1.93
56.	Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati	1.53
57.	Boilers and Steam Generating Plants	1.51
58.	Mathematical, Surveying and Drawing Instruments	1.26
59.	Timber Products	0.39
60.	Prime Mover (Other than Electrical Generators)	0.28
61.	Coir	0.01
62.	Scientific Instruments	0.00
	Sub Total	20,137.36
63.	Stock Swapped	0.17
	Grand Total	20,137.63

Statement III

Sectors in which domestic investment (as per IEMM) has registered an increase in 2007-08, the previous year		Sectors in which foreign investment has registered an increase in 2007-08, over the previous year	
1		2	
1.	Metallurgical Industries	1.	Service Sector
2.	Fuels	2.	Housing and Real Estate
3.	Electrical equipment	3.	Construction activities
4.	Transportation industry	4.	Telecommunications
5.	Industrial machinery	5.	Metallurgical Industries
6.	Earth moving machinery	6.	Electrical Equipments
7.	Commercial, office and household equipment	7.	Ports

1		2	
8.	Medical and surgical appliances	8.	Trading
9.	Scientific instruments	9.	Miscellaneous Industries
10.	Chemicals (other than fertilizers)	10.	Automobile Industry
11.	Vegetable oil & Vanaspati	11.	Power
12.	Leather, leather goods and pickers	12.	Mining
13.	Glue and Gelatin	13.	Petroleum & Natural Gas
14.	Glass	14.	Hotel & Tourism
15.	Ceramics	15.	Drugs & Pharmaceuticals
16.	Cements & Gypsum Products	16.	Consultancy Services
17.	Timber Products	17.	Information & Broadcasting (including print media)
18.	Others	18.	Fermentation industries
		19.	Hospital & Diagnostic Centres
		20.	Chemicals (other than fertilizers)
		21.	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engg. Industries
		22.	Sea Transport
		23.	Agricultural Services
		24.	Electronics
		25.	Air Transport (including air freight)
		26.	Ceramics
		27.	Food Processing Industries
		28.	Earth moving machinery
		29.	Industrial machinery
		30.	Machine tools
		31.	Photogrpahic raw film and paper
		32.	Non-conventional energy
		33.	Paper and Pulp (including Paper products)
		34.	Tea and Coffeee (Processing and warehhousing)
		35.	Coal production
		36.	Glass
		37.	Medical and Surgical appliances
		38.	Soaps, Cosmetics and toiler preparations
		39.	Glue and Gelatin
		40.	Timber products

[English]

Waste Flowing Water for Hydro Power Generation

4713. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge potential of hydel power in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposed to harness the waste flowing river water of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the efforts being made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the re-assessment studies of hydro-electric potential of the country, completed by Central Electricity Authority in 1987, the economically exploitable hydro power potential has been estimated at 84,044 MW at 60% load factor. When fully developed this would result in an installed capacity of about 1,50,000 MW. A total of 845 hydro-electric schemes have been identified in various basins.

Further, the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) had conducted a Ranking Study in 2001-02 in which 399 schemes with an aggregate capacity of 1,06,910 MW were prioritized on the basis of various aspects involved in the development of hydro schemes. Based on the Ranking Studies, the 50,000 MW Hydroelectric Initiative was launched by Government of India during 2003-04, under which Preliminary Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of 162 attractive hydroelectric projects in 16 states have been prepared. Based on the results of the Pre-Feasibility Reports, 77 schemes aggregating to an installed capacity of 33,951 MW, whose first year tariff works out below Rs. 2.50/ kWh, have been taken up for detailed survey & investigation and preparation of DPRs. This exercise would provide a shelf of bankable DPRs for development of hydroelectric schemes which would yield benefits during 11th Plan period and beyond.

In addition to above, the Government has recently announced a new Hydro Policy incorporating several steps and measures to facilitate accelerated development of hydro power. The Policy also encourages greater participation by the private sector.

The hydro installed capacity at the end of 10th Plan was 34,654 MW. A target of hydro capacity addition of 16,553 MW has been set for the 11th Plan period.

Working Women Population

4714. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any data regarding the working female population at present; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the approximate number of women employed sector-wise in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the information received from the Ministry of Labour and Employment, 50.16 lakh women were employed in the organized sector as on 31.3.2005, an increase of 1.7% over the previous year. Of these, 29.21 lakh women were employed in the public sector and 20.95 lakh in the private sector.

Wind Energy

4715. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is immense potential for harnessing wind energy in the country;

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

(c) the total wind energy being generated in the each State as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Gross wind power potential in the country has been estimated at over 45,000 MW, based on the areas having wind power density of 200 Watts per square meter or more and assuming land availability in potential areas @ one percent and land requirement @ 12 hectares per MW. State-wise details of potential is given in the enclosed Statement I.

(c) A total Wind Power capacity of 8748 MW has been installed in the country, till 31st March, 2008. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement II.

Statement I

Gross Wind Power Potential in the country

Sl.No.	States	Gross Potential
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8275
2.	Gujarat	9675
3.	Karnataka	6620
4.	Kerala	875
5.	Madhya Pradesh	5500
6.	Maharashtra	3650
7.	Orissa	1700
8.	Rajasthan	5400
9.	Tamil Nadu	3050*
10.	West Bengal	450
	Total	45195

*Recently revised by State Government to 5200 MW

Statement II

State-wise & Year-wise Wind Power Installed Capacity (MW) (as on 31.03.2008)

States	Capacity
Andhra Pradesh	122.5
Gujarat	1252.9
Karnataka	1011.4
Kerala	2.0
Madhya Pradesh	187.7
Maharashtra	1755.9
Rajasthan	538.8
Tamil Nadu	3873.4
West Bengal	1.1
Others	3.2
Total	8748.7

Illegal Transaction of Foreign Exchange

4716. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has detected any case of illegal transaction of foreign exchange in the country during the last six months.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange recovered during the above period, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the illegal transaction of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Directorate of Enforcement has issued Show Cause Notices under provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) in 17 cases of illegal transactions in foreign exchange during the last 6 months. These involve contravention to the tune of Rs. 10509.97 lakh.

(c) Details of foreign exchange recovered under the provisions of FEMA during the last 6 months, State-wise are as under:—

	State	Amount (in Rs. Lakhs)
1.	Karnataka	24.70
2.	Delhi	02.66

(d) All possible steps as provided under the provisions of FEMA, 1999 are taken to check the illegal transactions in foreign exchange.

[Translation]

Decrease in Opium Growing Land

4717. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether steep decrease has been noticed in total area of opium growing land;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether complaints about low yield of opium has affected some industries situated at Gazipur of

Uttar Pradesh and Neemach of Madhya Pradesh has been received; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The total area licenced (ha) to cultivate opium poppy during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 is as follows:

2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
7252	6269	4680

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Houses for BPL

4718. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state then umber of housing facilities provided to the people living below the poverty line in urban areas of each State with assistance from Union Government during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): State-wise details of housing units approved for the people living below the poverty line in urban areas under the Sub-Mission Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) components of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

JNNURM—Basic Service to the Urban Poor (Sub-Mission-II)

(in Rs. Crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the States/UTs	No. of Projects Approved	Total Approved Project Cost	Total No. of Dwelling Units Approved	Total Central Share Approved
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	511.27	14675	250.63
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	4.10	100	3.36
3.	Assam	1	53.95	1232	48.56
4.	Chandigarh (UT)	0	0.00	0	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0.00	0	0.00
6.	Bihar	9	367.72	14596	179.54
7.	Delhi	11	1506.89	57504	630.90
8.	Gujarat	3	240.55	15136	115.63
9.	Haryana	0	0.00	0	0.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1	14.01	384	11.21
11.	Goa	1	10.22	155	4.60

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	105.17	5208	84.88
13.	Jharkhand	5	195.29	7218	132.91
14.	Karnataka	4	271.43	7335	147.57
15.	Kerala	3	234.92	17460	155.22
16.	Madhya Pradesh	1	17.41	1320	13.26
17.	Maharashtra	5	1200.65	30034	632.62
18.	Meghalaya	2	30.33	600	23.77
19.	Mizoram	2	34.33	408	28.91
20.	Nagaland	0	0.00	0	0.00
21.	Orissa	5	67.17	2316	48.77
22.	Punjab	2	72.43	5152	36.15
23.	Puducherry	2	43.97	1304	32.31
24.	Rajasthan	0	0.00	0	0.00
25.	Sikkim	1	3.25	52	2.79
26.	Tamilnadu	5	1303.85	41586	587.69
27.	Tripura	1	16.73	256	13.96
28.	Uttar Pradesh	7	355.58	17072	162.50
29.	Uttarakhand	4	22.88	524	18.08
30.	West Bengal	31	1241.80	54932	610.01
	Year 2007-08	114	7926.02	296559	3975.84
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9	572.61	30320	284.34
2.	Chandigarh (UT)	2	564.94	25728	396.13
3.	Chhattisgarh	4	391.45	27976	312.18
4.	Gujarat	10	1028.32	72368	497.29
5.	Haryana	2	64.23	3248	31.18
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1	9.99	252	7.05
7.	Karnataka	3	238.84	14511	125.40
8.	Kerala	3	69.20	4748	47.17
9.	Madhya Pradesh	14	428.22	26205	206.02

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Maharashtra	31	2934.82	100578	1299.50
11.	Nagaland	1	134.50	3504	105.60
12.	Rajasthan	2	277.14	17337	169.20
13.	Tamil Nadu	19	830.26	44021	359.67
14.	Uttar Pradesh	5	82.13	4680	38.58
15.	West Bengal	45	1169.51	60312	556.54
	Year 2006-07	151	8796.16	435788	4435.86
	Total	265	16722.18	732347	8411.70

Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP)
Total Projects Approved (Year-Statewise)

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Total Projects Approved	Total Project Cost Approved	Total No. of Dwelling Units Approved	Total Central Share Approved
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32	385.34	4087	300.55
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	1	5.2674	40	4.7407
3.	Assam	9	26.07	4780	22.32
4.	Bihar	3	31.92	2333	23.21
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0.00	0	0.00
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	0.5	0	0.45
7.	Daman and Diu	1	0.6888	16	0.5796
8.	Gujarat	15	155.43	12205	101.59
9.	Haryana	0	0.00	0	0.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	3	23.44	816	16.19
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	10	42.40	2654	32.23
12.	Jharkhand	1	19.67	1292	15.58

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Karnataka	20	171.81	8983	103.86
14.	Kerala	11	71.45	6267	53.85
15.	Madhya Pradesh	10	44.72	2518	33.07
16.	Rajasthan	10	186.37	11526	122.24
17.	Maharashtra	20	245.77	18091	181.94
18.	Meghalaya	1	21.82	456	8.97
19.	Mizoram	1	8.27	500	6.21
20.	Manipur	2	16.5029	1103	12.3672
21.	Nagaland	0	0.00	0	0.00
22.	Orissa	15	83.63	4884	59.13
23.	Puducherry	1	17.03	432	5.4774
24.	Punjab	2	42.40	3938	25.55
25.	Tamil Nadu	8	79.61	6832	56.64
26.	Tripura	1	7.19	400	6.33
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1	4.29	204	2.78
28.	Uttrakhand	2	5.85	231	2.91
29.	West Bengal	44	365.43	20061	260.70
	Year 2007-08	225	2062.873	114649	1459.4757
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25	301.92	25170	210.57
2.	Assam	3	12.24	613	10.79
3.	Bihar	7	48.81	4167	36.55
4.	Chhattisgarh	14	176.50	14846	122.01
5.	Gujarat	8	72.07	6200	51.54
6.	Haryana	15	238.84	14641	182.96
7.	Karnataka	5	68.46	4070	41.90
8.	Kerala	15	65.25	5985	50.10
9.	Madhya Pradesh	23	197.17	14646	137.99

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Rajasthan	17	140.06	10758	110.08
11.	Maharashtra	15	152.67	13036	120.71
12.	Nagaland	1	87.74	2496	44.14
13.	Tamil Nadu	22	146.05	12931	112.56
14.	Uttar Pradesh	8	29.01	2032	22.11
15.	West Bengal	16	201.20	12824	150.57
	Year 2006-07	194	1938.00	144415	1404.56
	Total	419	4000.87	259064	2864.03

[English]

ATM Facility to Co-Operative Bank Customers

4719. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to extend free ATM Facility across the bank affiliation to Urban Co-operative Bank customers in the country as reported in the *Times of India* dated March 13, 2008; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank has issued instructions regarding customer charges for use of ATMs for cash withdrawal and balance enquiry to all Primary (Urban) co-operative banks on March 12, 2008. As per the guidelines, (i) For use of a banks own ATMs for any purpose, the services will be free with immediate effect (ii) For use of other banks' ATMs for balance enquiries, the services will be free with immediate effect (iii) For use of other banks ATMs for cash withdrawals, the instructions are as indicated below:-

1. No banks shall increase the charges prevailing as on December 23, 2007 (i.e. the date of release of Approach Paper on RBI website)

2. Banks which are charging more than Rs. 20/- per transaction shall reduce the charges to a maximum of Rs. 20/- per transaction by March 31, 2008.

3. Free with effect from April 1, 2009.

Fertilizer Subsidy for 2008-09

4720. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has estimated anticipated fertilizer subsidy bill for 2008-09, and;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The BE 2008-09 provides for Rs. 30,986.36 crore (net of recoveries) for Fertilizer Subsidy.

Opening of Bank Branches in Kerur

4721. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open another branch of Nationalised Bank in Kerur at Badami Taluk;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) A branch of Syndicate Bank already exists in Kerur, District Bagalkote, Karnataka. State Bank

of India has also opened a branch at Kerur on 31.03.2008.

Power Projects for Metro Rail

4722. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning, power project of 300 MW for Delhi Metro Rail Corp. Ltd. in Joint Venture with National Thermal Power Corp. Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Use of Geo-Thermal Technology for Power Generation

4723. SHRI RAKESH SINGH:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new technology viz. Geo-thermal technology has been applied for power generation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any success has been achieved in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) According to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), a research, development and demonstration programme for utilization of geothermal energy in the country for power generation and direct heat applications is being implemented. MNRE has been supporting magnetotelluric (MT) studies by the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad for identification of potential geo-thermal sites in the country. Puga Valley in Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir and Titapani in Sarguja District in Chhattisgarh have been identified as potential sites for power generation. Such studies by NGRI are also in progress in Surajkund area in Jharkhand, Badrinath-Tapovan in Uttarakhand and Satluj-Beas and Parvati Valley in Himachal Pradesh.

(c) and (d) An experimental geothermal power plant of 5 kW capacity was set up by the National Aeronautical Laboratory, Bangalore in 1992 at Manikaran, in Himachal Pradesh which was in operation for some time but was subsequently damaged by a landslide. No geothermal based power plant has been set up in the country thereafter.

Modernisation/Technology Upgradation of Power Sector

4724. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow foreign/private-sector participation in modernization and technology upgradation in the power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the role of private and public sectors in this regard; and

(d) the funds likely to be required for the purpose during the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) According to the existing policy of the Government, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under the automatic route is allowed for power including generation (except atomic energy); transmission, distribution and power trading, subject to the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003.

Ministry of Power had announced the policy guidelines in October, 1995, enabling private sector participation in the renovation and modernisation (R&M) of power plants.

R&M programmes are also being implemented through international cooperation, including programme with the German Government and the World Bank.

The Working Group on Power for the Eleventh Plan has emphasized the introduction of advanced technology in generation, transmission & distribution and encouraging Research & Development consistent with the anticipated power sector growth during the Eleventh Plan. It has also been recommended that major organizations on the generation side should aim at least about 1% of the profit being utilized for Research & Development and those on the manufacturing side should consider 3-4% of the profit to be provided for technology development.

Ministry of Power has taken an initiative in 2006 for facilitating the development of Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs) of about 4000 MW capacity each under tariff based competitive bidding route using supercritical environment-friendly technology. Three UMPPs have been awarded to the private developers at Mundra (Gujarat), Sasan (M.P.) and Krishnapatnam (A.P.), so far.

According to the estimate of the Working Group on Power, the fund requirement in the power sector during Eleventh Plan is Rs. 15,875 crores for R&M works and Rs. 1,214 crores for Research and Development.

[English]

Atrocities on Tribals

4725. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the atrocities on tribals noticed by the Government during the last three years, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) and (b) Statement giving State/UT-wise details of the cases registered alongwith their status under the Scheduled Castes And the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 during 2004-2006 for crime against persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes is enclosed. The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime are the responsibilities of the State Governments as Police and Public Order are State Subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.

The Government of India undertakes the following remedial as well as preventive actions:

(i) Issue guidelines to States/UT Administrations from time to time to make concerted efforts to improve the administration of Criminal Justice System and to take effective measures to control crime against vulnerable sections of the society including tribals.

(ii) To address the State Governments and UT Administrations from time to time in connection with the effective implementation of the relevant provisions of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes And the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention Of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

(iii) Provide Central Assistance to the States/and UT Administrations under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 for strengthening the administrative and judicial machinery, inter-caste marriages, awareness generation and relief and rehabilitation of the affected persons. The details of Central Assistance released to the States/UT Administrations during the last three years are as under:

Year	Assistance Released (Rs. in Crore)
2005-06	38.31
2006-07	36.44
2007-08	39.06

(iv) National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) also intervenes whenever cases of atrocities are brought to its notice, for remedial action.

Statement

The Details of Cases Registered (CR), Cases Chargesheeted (CS), Cases Convicted (CV), Persons Arrested (PAR), Persons Chargesheeted (PCS) & Persons Convicted (PCV) Under SC/ST Prevention of Attrocities Act (Including All IPC Crimes against ST) during 2004-06

Sl.No.	State	2004						2005						2006					
		CR	CS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1.	Andhra Pradesh	562	274	46	868	737	143	515	428	40	737	680	114	781	438	42	874	960	71
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	75	57	0	43	31	0	54	37	7	38	23	8	27	18	2	18	16	2
3.	Assam	12	12	4	20	22	1	216	105	17	280	137	16	244	114	20	278	125	20
4.	Bihar	40	16	2	63	48	2	82	20	2	48	33	2	56	30	5	87	58	8
5.	Chhattisgarh	676	628	183	1003	1046	493	497	470	147	751	754	253	583	524	172	895	877	172
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
7.	Gujarat	241	185	13	461	455	16	237	207	2	555	553	1	164	159	5	382	371	9
8.	Haryana	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	11	8	0	15	29	0	8	3	0	7	4	0	15	9	1	10	10	4
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	123	81	11	189	149	15	323	214	24	307	240	37	298	212	23	287	306	53
12.	Karnataka	172	138	2	534	536	3	161	129	9	490	475	30	213	156	10	607	585	16
13.	Kerala	82	54	1	166	105	7	82	82	14	94	123	17	75	51	11	57	62	22
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1667	1668	340	2874	2873	618	1615	1526	485	2919	2983	814	1498	1437	584	2680	2751	1213
15.	Maharashtra	231	207	17	724	649	36	224	203	7	542	493	16	267	227	8	631	691	15
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	126	655	0	205	279	0	0	0	0	0	0	109	32	17	38	36	17
20.	Orissa	519	399	57	762	764	120	602	418	39	728	687	99	349	256	64	348	349	75
21.	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	1031	532	204	1318	1318	426	863	548	237	989	992	460	967	440	220	963	946	451
23.	Sikkim	32	8	0	9	7	0	22	22	4	22	13	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	26	15	9	60	45	10	13	9	0	19	42	1	24	16	1	53	35	1
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	7	0	18	13	0	9	8	0	12	6	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
26.	Uttar Pradesh	5	4	23	17	21	58	6	7	20	15	14	46	11	9	18	21	21	28
27.	Uttaranchal	3	2	6	7	5	4	1	1	8	0	2	8	1	2	3	0	0	0
28.	West Bengal	9	3	1	19	16	1	12	2	1	16	3	2	7	13	1	9	18	2
	Total State	5518	4418	1577	9154	9063	2233	5546	4438	1063	8575	8264	1934	5724	4152	1207	8251	8228	2179
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	1	2	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	17	16	0	60	59	0
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4	9	1	12	13	1	2	1	0	4	1	0	1	2	0	2	6	0
32.	Daman and Diu	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi UT	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total UT	6	14	1	15	16	1	5	6	0	7	4	0	18	18	0	62	65	0
	Total All India	5524	4432	1578	9169	9079	2234	5551	4444	1063	8582	8268	1934	5742	4170	1207	8313	8291	2179

Source: National Crime Records Bureau

Irregularities in HUDCO

4726. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of financial irregularities in the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) during the last several years;

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

(c) whether the Government has since identified officials involved in multi-crore scam;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether CVC has probed the various financial irregularities of HUDCO and submitted its report to the Government; and

(f) if so, the details of the recommendations made and further action contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (f) The Central Vigilance Commission on the directions of the Supreme Court in a Public Interest Litigation [Writ Petition (Civil) No. 573/2003] filed by Centre for Public Interest Litigation against Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) & others had conducted an enquiry against alleged irregularities committed by the Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd. in the matter of sanctioning of loans and making investments. The Commission recommended appropriate action against the officers if found responsible for irregularities. The Supreme Court thereafter directed the Union of India to look into the report and take appropriate action. Accordingly, an Action Taken Report has been filed on behalf of the Union of India in the Supreme Court. The matter is subjudice.

Workshop/Seminars of Credit Outflow to Rural Masses

4727. ADV. SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the bank-wise details of Workshop/Seminars conducted by the Nationalised Banks in rural areas to enhance credit outflow to rural masses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Various Working Groups constituted by Reserve Bank of India have suggested measures for assisting distressed farmers. They have recommended that the financial and livelihood counselling are important for increasing viability of credit and that banks should actively consider opening counselling centres in rural areas for credit and technical counseling.

Pursuant to the above, several Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have set up Rural Development and Self Employment Institutes (RUDSETIs) and Training Institutes for conducting training programmes from time to time. Some of the PSBs have also opened Farmers Training Centres and Credit Couselling Centres on pilot basis to ensure timely and affordable credit to the rural masses.

Nationalization of Rural Banks

4728. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to improve rural banking in the country;

(b) whether the Government has received any proposal from employees associations of rural bank to nationalize rural banks; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Government of India has taken the following major steps to improve rural banking.

(1) Amalgamation of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) sponsor bank-wise at State level. The amalgamated RRBs will provide better customer service due to better infrastructure, computerization of branches, pooling of experienced work force, common publicity and marketing efforts etc. They will also reap benefits of a large area of operation and enhanced credit exposure limits.

(2) Recapitalization of weak RRBs in a phased manner.

(3) Branch expansion of RRBs with a view to provide banking services in the uncovered areas.

(4) Expansion of non-fund based business activities such as sale of insurance policies, disbursement of pension, salaries etc. and handling of government business to increase income generation.

(5) Opening of 'no-frill' accounts with low or minimum balance.

(6) Permitting RRBs to accept Foreign Currency Non-Residents (FCNR) Deposits.

(7) Allowing consoritium lending to RRBs.

(b) and (c) Representations have been received from various quarters including employees assoications giving a number of suggestions like de-linking RRBs from sponsor banks, amalgamation of RRBs to State/Zonal entities under an apex umbrella i.e. National Rural Bank of India etc.

Waiving of Loans of Companies

4729. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed certain banks to waive huge amount of loans of certain companies as bad debt;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some companies has also availed the facility to repay a part of loan in a long term basis;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total amount waived during the last three years, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The banks write off amounts in non-performing asset (NPA) account in accordance with their board approved policies and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines, either as part of compromise settlement with the borrowers or where the debt has been classified as a 'loss' asset.

(e) The bank-wise details of amount written off by the scheduled commercial banks during the year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are given the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Total Write-off, which Includes Compromise of Scheduled Commercial Banks

(Rs. in crores)

Bank Name	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4
Allahabad Bank	275	264	448
Andhra Bank	170	82	158
Bank of Baroda	609	892	587
Bank of India	329	523	441
Bank of Maharashtra	79	155	198
Canara Bank	973	576	515
Central Bank of India	583	215	354
Corporation Bank	91	71	78
Dena Bank	317	274	415
IDBI Ltd.	104	1191	464
Indian Bank	482	98	145
Indian Overseas Bank	244	219	311
Oriental Bank of Commerce	117	199	777
Punjab & Sind Bank	37	66	544
Punjab National Bank	704	616	883
Syndicate Bank	220	126	323
UCO Bank	334	299	253
Union Bank of India	308	278	320
United Bank of India	111	142	189
Vijaya Bank	125	77	94
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	82	88	47
State Bank of Hyderabad	153	173	128

1	2	3	4
State Bank of India	1337	1810	1397
State Bank of Indore	41	88	71
State Bank of Mysore	73	56	43
State Bank of Patiala	90	109	98
State Bank of Saurashtra	53	51	30
State Bank of Travancore	62	94	113
Total (Public Sector Banks)	8102	8833	9423
Axis Bank Ltd.	70	86	88
Bank of Punjab Ltd.	3	0	0
Centurion Bank of Punjab Ltd.	59	96	112
Development Credit Bank Ltd.	56	4	151
HDFC Bank Ltd.	120	500	613
ICICI Bank Ltd.	1205	672	151
Indusind Bank Ltd.	156	44	102
Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.	12	9	15
Yes Bank Ltd.	0	0	0
Total (New Pvt. Sector Banks)	1682	1409	1232
Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	14	3	1
Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	9	9	0
Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	13	19	19
City Union Bank Ltd.	38	28	31
Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.	4	5	18
Federal Bank Ltd.	30	132	157
ING Vysya Bank Ltd.	52	78	138
Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.	48	11	8
Karnataka Bank Ltd.	71	57	70
Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	0	0	11
Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	60	20	42
Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	10	11	0
Nainital Bank Ltd.	1	2	2

1	2	3	4
Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	0	8	4
SBI Commercial & International Bank Ltd.	12	30	17
Sangli Bank Ltd.	7	4	0
South Indian Bank Ltd.	11	45	51
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.	4	29	53
United Western Bank Ltd.	79	53	0
Total (Old Pvt. Sector Banks)	464	544	618
AMN AMRO Bank N.V.	10	263	173
Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank Ltd.	33	5	8
Amercian Express Bank Ltd.	116	1	18
Antwerp Diamond Bank NV	0	0	0
Arab Bangladesh Bank	0	0	0
BNP Paribas	15	15	0
Bank International Indonesia	0	35	0
Bank of America N.T. & S.A.	2	3	3
Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait BSC	1	6	6
Bank of Ceylon	2	0	2
Bank of Nova Scotia	90	2	33
Barclays Bank Plc	4	0	0
Calyon Bank	14	16	1
China Trust Commercial Bank	3	14	0
Citibank N.A.	15	0	0
Deutsche Bank (Asia)	0	0	2
Development Bank of Singapore Ltd.	0	0	0
HSBC	133	334	251
JP Morgan Chase Bank, National Association	0	0	0
Krung Thai Bank pcl	0	0	0
Mashreq Bank PSC	0	0	12
Mizuho Corporate Bank, Ltd.	0	17	0

1	2	3	4
Oman International Bank S.A.O.G.	68	0	0
Shinhan Bank	0	0	0
Societe Generale	4	6	0
Sonali Bank Ltd.	0	0	0
Standard Chartered Bank	116	186	76
State Bank of Mauritius Ltd.	0	0	6
The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd.	1	0	0
Total (Foreign Banks)	628	905	590
Total (All Banks)	10676	11691	11863

Home Loans

4730. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to reduce the rate of interest on home loan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir. With effect from October, 18, 1994, the Reserve Bank of India has deregulated the interest rates on advances above Rs. 2 lakh and these rates are determined by the banks themselves with the approval of their respective Boards.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Curbing Carbon Emission

4731. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of News Item appearing in Indian Express (Delhi) dated the December 11, 2007 about a proposal of BMC in Mumbai of shutting up of Garbage Dumps to improve and to cut Carbon Emission rates drastically;

(b) if so, whether the same is expected to be a revenue earner for BMC by way of earning carbon credits;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to undertake feasibility studies in other metropolitan cities and major district level towns; and

(d) if so, the time by which such studies are likely to be taken place?

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

(c) and (d) The State Governments/ULBs are responsible for planning, designing, implementation, operation & maintenance of Municipal Solid Waste Management. (MSWM) projects including formulation of proposals for availing carbon credits. Ministry of Urban Development does not propose to undertake any feasibility studies in respect of all metropolitan cities and district level towns for curbing carbon emissions.

Guidance to Banks on Rural Developmental Activities

4732. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the Banks in addition to their primary functions are involved in rural developmental activities;

(b) whether there is any coordinating agency to give guidance to the Banks in all rural developmental activities such as technical, financial schemes to the trainees, self employment opportunities etc; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Bank for Agriculture Rural Development (NABARD) has been coordinating with the banks for upscaling the Self Help Group-Bank Linkage Programme and providing guidance and financial support to banks, Non Governmental Organisations/Voluntary Agencies, Development Agencies/Professional Institutes for taking up various rural development activities. NABARD's guidance and support to the above agencies includes:

- Treat SHG lending as a normal lending activity of the bank as a priority sector lending;
- Relaxation in margin and security norms and Simplified documentation for SHGs;
- providing comprehensive training support to various levels of Bank staff;
- providing grant support to Self Help Promoting Institutions (SHPIs) for promoting and credit linking SHGs through banks;
- enhancing credit absorption capacity in rural areas and training innovations for hassle-free credit delivery;
- Capacity building of stake holders associated with various development programmes;
- Ensure participation of people in the process of development;
- Setting up of Women Development Cells (WDCs) in Cooperative banks and RRBs;
- Conduct Rural Entrepreneurship Development Training (REDPs) for enabling rural youth to take up self employment ventures;
- Setting up of Rural Development and Self Employment Training Institutes (RUDSETI);
- Setting up of Business Development Cells (BDCs) in Cooperative banks;
- NABARD had formulated 143 model schemes covering various agricultural and allied activities and put on its webeite for the benefit of banks and general public;

Govt. Accommodation for Staff

4733. SHRI K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether many of the Central Government employees are still in waiting list for want of Government accommodation in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase Government quarters in each type to cater to the number of employees especially in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir. except in Type-A category accommodation in Delhi.

(b) Construction of houses for Government employees is an on-going process depending upon the requirement at various stations and availability of budget. Details of various types of houses under construction at present are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of Houses under Construction

Sl.No.	Station	Number of Quarters (Type-wise)							Total No. of Qtrs.
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	
1.	Siliguri		22	23	14					59
2.	Shimla		12	06						18
3.	Mumbai				176					176
4.	Guwahati		08	08	08					24
5.	Delhi		300				376	104	19	799
6.	Calicut		14	14	14	14	02			58
	Total		356	51	212	14	378	104	19	1134

Interest Free Loan for Weaker Sections

4734. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:
SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of houses for weaker sections, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country;

(b) whether any scheme is available to provide interest free loans to weaker sections of the society; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) According to the estimates made by the Technical Group constituted by the Ministry for assessment of the urban housing shortage at the end of the 10th Five Year Plan, the total housing shortage in the country is 24.71 million. The category-wise housing shortage of all categories including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is as follows:-

Category	Housing shortage in Million as on 2007
Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)	21.78
Low Income Group (LIG)	2.89
Middle Income Group (MIG)	
High Income Group (HIG)}	0.04
Total	24.71

(b) and (c) A provision of Rs. 95 crores has been made in the Budget Grant of this Ministry for the year 2008-09 for an Interest Subsidy Scheme for Housing the Urban Poor. The details of the scheme are being worked out.

Ownership regarding Government Flats

4735. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal regarding ownership of flats being allotted by the Government on rent/license fee basis; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The Government does not have any proposal regarding ownership of flats being allotted by the Government on rent/license fee basis.

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

Recovery of Loan Through Lok Adalats

4736. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has advised banks to use the forum of Lok-Adalat for recovery of personal loans, credit-card loans housing loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the RBI has issued guidelines to the banks that they shall be responsible for the actions of agents appointed for recovery of said loans; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the banks in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has placed on its website, on 30th November, 2007, draft Guidelines for 'Banks engaging Recovery Agents' for feedback. Based on the feedback received from banks/ individuals/organisations, the guidelines have been revised and a second draft has been issued on 25th March, 2008 for comments/feedback. In terms of the draft guidelines, banks are encouraged to use the forum of Lok Adalats for recovery of personal loans, credit card loans or housing loans with less than Rs. 10 lakh. Both these guidelines are available at RBI website www.rbi.org.in.

(c) and (d) RBI has issued guidelines on 'Managing Risks and Code of Conduct in Outsourcing of Financial Services by banks'. In terms of these guidelines, banks have been advised that the outsourcing of any activity by bank does not diminish its obligations, and those of its Board and senior management, who have the ultimate responsibility for the outsourced activity. Banks would therefore be responsible for the actions of their service providers including Direct Sales Agents/Direct Marketing Agents and recovery agents and the confidentiality of information pertaining to the customers that is available with the service provider. Further, the draft guidelines on 'engaging recovery agents by banks' provide that the banks, as principals, would be responsible for the actions of their agents, and they should ensure that their agents engaged for recovery of their dues should strictly adhere to the above guidelines and instruction, including the Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI) Code, while engaged in the process of recovery of dues. However, banks have not given any feedback in this regard.

Income Tax Collection

4737. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is not fully implementing norms/criteria/laws for income tax collection;

(b) if so, the details of hurdles coming in the ways; and

(c) steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No Sir. The Government is fully implementing norms/criteria/laws for income tax collection. The measures taken by the Government have resulted in substantial increase in collection of revenues from Direct Taxes. During Financial Year 2006-07, the Department collected revenue of Rs. 2,30,184 crore from Direct Taxes *vis-a-vis* budget estimates of Rs. 2,10,684 crore and revised estimates of Rs. 2,29,272 crore. In 2007-08, the Department has been able to collect Rs. 3,06,815 crore (provisional data) against budget estimates of Rs. 2,67,490 crore and revised estmates of Rs. 3,04,760 crore.

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

Discrimination against Girl Child

4738. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the newspaper report "For girls, raw deal begins at home" regarding discrimination against girl child published in 'Times of India' dated March 8, 2008;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring girls and boys equally in the mainstream of society particularly targeted towards deprived ones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) has reported that the information contained in the new report has not been supplied by them. However, in order to improve the status of girl children in society, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched a new Scheme of Dhan Laxmi-Conditional Cash Transfer for girl child with Insurance Cover, which includes cash transfers to the family of the girl child based on the fulfillment of four important conditionalities viz. birth and registration of the girl child, immunization, retention in school and delaying marriage beyond 18 years of age. The Ministry is also undertaking awareness and sensitization programmes.

Seminar on Judicial Reforms

4739. SHRI. UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar on Judicial Reforms was held at New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details of the points on which discussions were held in the seminar;

(c) whether the Government is aware of lynching by mob phenomenon; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure justice in time period?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A conference was held on 1st February, 2008 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi to discuss the establishment of Gram Nyayalayas and other related matters like timeframe and financial arrangements for setting up the Gram Nyayalayas in pursuance of the "Gram Nyayalayas Bill, 2007" which has been introduced in the Parliament.

(c) and (d) Government is conscious of the need to speed up the justice delivery system to reduce the huge backlog of cases in courts and to ensure provisions of quick and affordable justice to the people. Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored plan scheme for development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary. Another Central Scheme for computerization of District and Subordinate courts in the country is also being implemented. Government has continued Fast Track Courts to reduce arrears at Sessions Courts level. Further, with a view to providing speedy, affordable and substantive justice to the poor at the grassroots level, the Government has introduced the Gram Nyayalayas Bill, 2007 in the Parliament.

Public Sector Banks

4740. SHRI PRASANTA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government/Reserve Banks of India had given permission to the Public Sector Banks to tie up with the Private Insurance and Mutual Fund Companies to enhance business in lieu of Commission to the Public Sector Banks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is a possibility to leak out the customer profile to the agents of the Private Insurance/ Mutual Fund Companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the customers are likely to be affected as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) In terms of 'Master Circular on para-banking activities' issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 02.07.2007, banks may engage themselves in insurance agency business or referral arrangement and may enter into agreements with mutual funds for marketing the mutual fund units.

(c) to (e) RBI has, vide its circular dated 12.05.2004, advised the banks that the information provided by the customers for Know Your Customer (KYC) compliance while opening an account is confidential and divulging

any details thereof for crorss selling or any other purpose would be in breach of customer confidentiality obligations. Further, banks have also been advised that whenever they desire to collect any information about the customer for a purpose other than KYC requirements, it should not form part of the account opening form. Such information may be collected separately, purely on a voluntary basis, after expalaining the objectives to the customer and taking his/her express approval for the specific uses to which such information could be put. The banks have been advised to ensure compliance with their obligations to the customers with regard to customer confidentiality obligations.

National Tribal Policy

4741. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated National Tribal Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) to (c) Ministry of Tribal Affairs has formulated a draft National Tribal Policy in June 2006, in order to address the issues concerning tribals viz. lower Human Development Index, poor infrastructure, diminishing control over the natural resource base persistent threats of eviction from their natural habitat, exclusion from mainstream society, inequality in distribution of wealth and opportunities, non-empowerment, and inadequate implementation of Constitutional provisions, and to ensure their active and informed participation in development. After extensive consulation with various stakeholders, the final draft of Policy was placed before the Union Cabinet for approval on 31st May 2007. The Union Cabinet has referred it to a Group of Ministers for harmonization with the National Rehabilitation Policy. Three meetings of Group of Ministers have already held. Since the Policy is required to be finalized following the laid down procedure, no specific time period can be stipulated at this juncture.

Foreign Companies in India

4742. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign companies operating in India at present, State-wise;

(b) the number of foreign companies registered during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government receives revenue from the foreign companies by way of fees/charges for filling/ registering various documents; and

(d) if so, the details of amount received from these companies during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) A statement is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The number of foreign companies registered during the last three years is as under:

Financial Year	No. of Companies Registered
2005-06	211
2006-07	276
2007-08	338

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The amount of fee received from these companies during the last three years is as under:

Financial Year	Fees received (Rs.)
2005-06	3,56,45,689
2006-07	4,76,75,000
2007-08	5,26,47,000

Statement

The State-wise break up of number of foreign companies operating in India as on 31.03.2008 is as under:

Sl.No.	State/UT	Number
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50
2.	Bihar	01

1	2	3
3.	Chhattisgarh	01
4.	Delhi	1405
5.	Goa	02
6.	Gujarat	27
7.	Haryana	100
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	02
9.	Karnataka	222
10.	Kerala	11
11.	Madhya Pradesh	01
12.	Maharashtra	553
13.	Orissa	07
14.	Puducherry	01
15.	Rajasthan	02
16.	Tamil Nadu	122
17.	Uttar Pradesh	29
18.	West Bengal	57
	Grand Total	2593

Shifting of SBI Foreign Department Office

4743. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India proposes to shift the Foreign Department Office from Kolkata to Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the employees associations are protesting against the proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, in view of its business requirements/technological interventions, State Bank of India proposed to shift a few of its foreign department operations from Kolkata to Mumbai.

(c) and (d) The protesting local staff unions/ associations have recently withdrawn their protests.

Number of Judges Per Million Population

4744. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Judges per million of population in India;

(b) the number of Judges per million as suggested by the apex court; and

(c) the steps the Government is taking to comply with the order including the fund required for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The Law Commission in its 120th Report recommended that the strength of judges per million population may be increased from 10.5 to 50 judges. The present judge strength in India is 14 per million population (approx). Government has already increased the Judge strength in the Hing Courts by 152.

With regard to subordinate judiciary, the Supreme Court, in its judgement of 21st March, 2002, in All India Judges' Association & Ors Vs. Union of India & Ors., directed that an increase in the Judge strength from the existing 10.5 per 10 lakh people to 50 judges per 10 lakh people should be effected and implemented within a period of five years in a phased manner to be determined and directed by the Union Ministry of Law. As directed by the apex court, the Central Government filed an affidavit indicating the quantum of funds required in compliance of the aforesaid Supreme Court's judgement. The Central Government have also filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court praying that the increase in judge strength in the Union Territories for which Central Government is administratively responsible be allowed based on workload and pendency of cases. The matter is sub-judice.

All State Governments are also party to this case. Under article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High

Court and the State Government. Accordingly, the Central Government has requested all the State Governments for taking necessary action to increase the judge strength as per the direction of the Supreme Court and also to fill up the vacant posts of judicial officers on urgent basis.

New Standards for Agriculture Pumpsets

4745. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Energy Efficiency has fixed new standards for Agriculture pumpsets in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which new standard agriculture pumpsets is likely to be available in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Migration of Tribal Women

4746. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of tribal women and girls are migrating to major cities in the country;

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

(c) step taken by the Government to check migration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) and (b) Such information and data is not available in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(c) However, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, being the nodal ministry for the overall welfare and development of Schedule Tribes implements all programmes on education, vocational training, income generation and infrastructure development for developing skills of the tribals for a variety of jobs as well as for self-employment. The Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED), was created with the prime objective of providing marketing assistance and remunerative prices to Scheduled Tribe communities for their Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and Surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP) and to wean them away from exploitative private traders and middlemen. The National Scheduled Trible Finance & Development Corporation (NSTFDC), which is the Apex institution for financing schemes/projects for the economic development of eligible Scheduled Tribes, has an exclusive scheme for the economic development of Scheduled Tribe women beneficiaries titled "Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana" (AMSY) for providing concessional financial assistance.

Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a demand driven National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) which provides a guarantee of 100 days of wage employment to each rural household including all tribal population. Other Ministries too, have programmes that generate employment or work.

Availability of work and employment under these programmes checks migration.

Shortage of Water Supply in Delhi

4747. SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of water supply in some colonies in Delhi due to differences between Central Public Works Department (CPWD) & Delhi Jal Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaint from the Government Residents Welfare Association including the Aram Bagh area in this regards; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) Delhi Jal Board has informed that Central Public Works Department (CPWD) flats in Delhi including Aram Bagh area have been given bulk water connections by DJB. The internal distribution of water inside the complex is managed by CPWD. In case of shortage of water from DJB, sometimes there is shortage in CPWD complexes.

DJB has informed that in case of Aram Bagh area, water come from Chandrawal Water Treatment Plant. Because of low level at Wazirabad Pond for about one and half month, there was less production at Chandrawal Water Treatment Plant and, therefore, there was shortage of drinking water in the entire command area of Chandrawal water Treatment Plant. However, presently near normal situation has been achieved.

Closure of IFCI Offices

4748. SHRI ANIL SHUKLA WARSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to close the offices of Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd. (IFCI) located at Lucknow, Bhopal, Patna, Guwahati and Bhubaneshwar; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) IFCI has informed that they are not considering closing their offices located at Lucknow, Bhopal, Patna, Guwahati and Bhubaneshwar.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SJSRY in Punjab

4749. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of towns covered under Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana in Punjab;

(b) the details of profitable employment opportunities made available to urban unemployed and underemployed persons in the State of Punjab during the last three years; and

(c) the year-wise and town-wise details of industries set-up by the poor youth under the said scheme during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) As reported by the State Government of Punjab in Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs), the total number of towns covered under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana in the State of Punjab is 134.

(b) and (c) Under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) town-wise data is not maintained at the Central level. The total number of beneficiaries assisted under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) in the State of Punjab during last three years, year-wise, as reported by State Government in their Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs), is as under:

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2006-2008
Number of urban poor assisted to set up individual/group micro-enterprises for self employment	17	0	0
Number of urban poor imparted skill training	597	1185	1195

[English]

Kisan Credit Cards

4750. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) issued during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the amount disbursed to the farmers through Kisan Credit Card during the above period, State-wise; and

(c) the number of farmers benefited by Kisan Credit Cards as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The State-wise details of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) issued during the years 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto February 2008 since inception) and the amount of loan sanctioned is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise Kisan Credit Cards issued during the last three years, viz., 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and cumulative position as on 29 February 2008 (since inception)

(Rs. lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	31 March 2005		31 March 2006		31 March 2007		Cumulative position as on 29 February 2008 (since inception)	
		Cards issued	Amt. sanctioned	Cards issued	Amt. sanctioned	Cards issued	Amt. sanctioned	Cards issued	Amt. sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh**	1582480	333725	1345804	450460	1506641	675266	11267385	2595921
2.	Assam	83416	11666	64963	9109	43034	8269	333472	51961
3.	Arunachal Pradesh#	4345	700	2173	145	1717	606	14084	2080
4.	Bihar**	231781	58229	209249	64293	346960	125379	2197012	473944
5.	Gujarat	209758	399035	238534	415277	249249	472738	2372271	2095772
6.	Goa$	2131	845	2826	3771	798	697	12030	11773
7.	Haryana	158441	220179	253997	304559	134607	181153	2145434	1514197
8.	Himachal Pradesh	32191	11330	35170	32752	35098	13996	240887	88642
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	12678	2533	9056	2356	5400	3734	70463	18878
10.	Karnataka	406589	226631	505037	790727	861	207077	4021868	2037640
11.	Kerala	318899	107932	240090	0.00	342681	124503	2631699	705770
12.	Madhya Pradesh	759448	264813	497850	346072	433431	306268	4487470	2155930
13.	Maharashtra	590723	536061	8374	510106	1131391	477475	6889844	3724182
14.	Meghalaya#	10883	1180	9855	1589	12461	2575	51990	7472
15.	Mizoram#	3495	724	3748	593	4471	1548	15726	3746
16.	Manipur#	5769	1084	6045	773	15054	3799	32254	6343
17.	Nagaland	4277	519	4321	802	5177	1094	17828	2648
18.	Orissa	602605	122972	493979	220654	377477	173399	4085197	984385
19.	Punjab	152243	193046	179235	196410	151480	240024	1975700	1448724
20.	Rajasthan	875218	361055	346500	300246	301787	225738	4236372	1671266
21.	Sikkim#$	1438	211	1726	371	1127	303	6899	1383
22.	Tamil Nadu	614641	162447	527892	190379	686940	296447	4658082	1234947
23.	Tripura#	10415	1345	11476	2124	15617	3231	60343	9519
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1998378	247887	1333064	653768	1567678	828411	13770981	3186130

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
25.	West Bengal	498094	96899	479726	78699	250715	141334	2645122	665142
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands$	902	182	364	146	671	164	4236	1045
27.	Chandigarh#$	928	164	1	2	0	0	935	177
28.	Daman & Diu@#			71	30	215	205	286	230
29.	New Delhi#$	1139	657	658	607	1650	1628	6512	4537
30.	Dadara & Nagar Haveli@$	3	1	5	3	537	441	553	455
31.	Lakshdweep@#	75	32	109	0	101	41	497	180
32.	Pondicherry#$	5378	1563	5222	724	9283	3283	38391	11290
33.	Jharkhand	158472	16964	12683	29200	218171	52913	777910	126863
34.	Chhattisgarh	251944	18505	238537	35625	183444	57559	126437	249725
35.	Uttaranchal	91197	16392	59956	24916	40545	41525	501628	160377
	Other States					4	1	4	1
	Breakup not available for CBs (1998-99)							188005	26604
	Total	9680374	3418508	8012251	4760137	8511478	4672844	71005867	25279879

Note: #SCB functions as CFA.
@No Cooperative Banks in these UTs.
$No RRB in these States/UTs.
*No. of banks implementing the Scheme.
Amount sanctioned data provisional.
**Data for Co-op under reconciliation.

[Translation]

Energy from Tidal Waves

4751. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is undertaking any research/study to generate electricity from the tidal waves in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Ministry is promoting a research, development and demonstration programme for harnessing the tidal energy potential in the country for power generation. In February, 2008, the Ministry sanctioned a demonstration project for setting up of a 3.75 MW capacity tidal power project at Durgaduani Creek in the Sunderbans area of West Bengal to the West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency (WBREDA) Kolkata. The total cost of the project is Rs. 48.00 crores. The Ministry would provide 90% support for the project, while the State Government would meet the balance 10%. The project would be completed within 33 months.

[English]

Reduction in Lutyens Bunglows Zone

4752. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Urban Arts Commission and New Delhi Municipal Council have recommended large scale reduction in Lutyens Bungalow Zone (LBZ) acreage as reported in the Indian Express dated 18 February, 2008;

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

(c) the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that it has received the draft Zonal Development plans 2021 in respect of the area falling under the jurisdiction of New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) within Zone 'D'. prepared by NDMC and Delhi Urban Arts Commission (DUAC), to be processed under Delhi Development Act, 1957 read with Development (Master Plan and Zonal Development Plan) Rules, 1959. LBZ is located in Zone-D and the draft of NDMC suggests, *inter-alia*, reduction in the present total area of the Luyens Bungalow Zone (LBZ). DUAC has recommended, *inter-alia*, that the concept of LBZ should be replaced by that of Lutyens Conservation Zone (LCZ), which incorporates a larger area. The finalization of zonal plan involves a detailed procedure including publication of draft plan, calling suggestions/objections from public, consideration by the Authority and approval by Central Government.

Per Capita Loan Burden of NE Region

4753. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative figures of per capita loan burden of the people of Assam and other States in the North Eastern Region *vis-a-vis* other States in the country;

(b) whether any special package has been granted to the States in the North East;

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

(d) steps being taken to help/reduce the per-capita loan burden of people in Assam and the North-Eastern Region States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Statement showing per capita loan of North Eastern region *vis-a-vis* other States is enclosed.

(b) to (d) Government of India has exempted the special category states which includes States in the North Eastern Region from the back to back arrangements for external assistance loan recommended by Twelfth Finance Commission, from 1.4.2005 so that special category states will continue to receive external assistance loan as ACA from Government of India in the ratio of 90% grant and 10% loan.

Statement

Per Capita Loan Burden of North Eastern States vis-a-vis Other States

(Rs.)

Sl.No.	State	Per Capita Loan burden
I.	**North Eastern States**	
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	21000
2.	Assam	6086
3.	Manipur	13309
4.	Meghalaya	9791
5.	Mizoram	20611
6.	Nagaland	16075
7.	Sikkim	25060
8.	Tripura	10500
II.	**Other States**	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10762
2.	Bihar	4714
3.	Chhattisgarh	5734
4.	Goa	42646
5.	Gujarat	15679
6.	Haryana	10476
7.	Himachal Pradesh	22946
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	15663
9.	Jharkhand	8609
10.	Karnataka	8495
11.	Kerala	13114
12.	Madhya Pradesh	7652
13.	Maharashtra	12179
14.	Orissa	7724
15.	Punjab	19706
16.	Rajasthan	9687
17.	Tamil Nadu	9839
18.	Uttar Pradesh	7716
19.	Uttarakhand	14740
20.	West Bengal	14918

Source: State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2007-08.

[Translation]

Disposal of Cases within Time

4754. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to amend the laws in order to dispose of the civil and criminal cases within two years so as to reduce the number of undertrials lodged in various jails;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) There is no proposal under consideration of Government to amend law to dispose of civil and criminal cases in courts within two years as the time taken to dispose of a case in the courts is within the domain of the judiciary. To facilitate disposal of long pending cases of under-trial prisoners, Fast Track Courts have been established.

[English]

Forest Right Act

4755. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
DR. R. SENTHIL:
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:
SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA:
ADV. SURESH KURUP:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:
DR. BABURAO MEDIYAM:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started to process of implementing the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006;

(b) if so, the details of the implementation strategies along with the name of implementing agencies;

(c) whether the protections ensures in the Act also cover critical wildlife habitats (CWHs) within existing national parks of wildlife sanctuaries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes any amendment to the existing clause related to CWHs in the Act;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to encourage speedy implementation of the above act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) and (b) The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been notified for operation with effect from 31st December, 2007. The responsibility for implementing the Act lies with the State/UT Governments. State/UT Governments have been last addressed on 11.1.2008 for constituting various Committees under the Act and for initiating necessary action for recognition and vesting of the forest rights in the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.

(c) and (d) The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 seeks to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations, but whose rights could not be recorded. As per Section 2(d) of the Act, the term "forest land" includes land within the sancturaries and national parks also.

(e) and (f) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(g) In order to ensure speedy implementation of the Act, this Ministry has conveyed the major actionable points along with timelines to the State/UT Governments for initiating follow up action.

[Translation]

Decline in Ground Water Level

4756. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Pani Pane Ke Prayason Par Bhi Break' regarding fall of water level appearing in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated March 11, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Nangloi Water Treatment Plant (WTP) in Delhi was completed in 1998. Delhi did not have raw water to run the plant. Supreme Court ordered on 10th May, 2000 that the Bhakhra Beas Management Board (BBMB) shall supply additional 125 cusec of water at Nangal. This was reduced to 60 cusec on 27.5.2000, as decided by the Central Water Commission (CWC) after inspection and review.

On 31.5.2007, CWC, based on further inspection of the system, ordered that the full 125 cusecs water supply shall be released by the BBMB, and that the Governments of Punjab and Haryana should carry the additional discharge through their respective canals. While the additional water was released on 7.6.2007, and was carried by Punjab upto Haryana, Haryana did not agree to carry it further and started utilizing the additional water supply since then.

A meetingg was held by CWC on 3.8.2007, and Haryana was directed to implement orders for carrying the additional water to Delhi meant for the Nangloi WTP. Haryana has refused to implement the orders. Delhi Jal Board has informed that it has filed a Contempt Petition in the Supreme Court.

[English]

Powers to Competition Commission

4757. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MRTPC has conducted an inquiry on banks not offering discounts to existing home loan borrowers;

(b) if so, the findings thereof and action taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government proposes to empower the Competition Commission with penal powers against public sector banks;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Competition Commission has given up its jurisdiction regarding the functioning of the public sector banks on cartelisation against the interest of ordinary consumers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) has initiated certain enquiries regarding home loans against some banks. These cases are at various stages of consideration of the MRTPC which is a quasi-judicial body. The details of cases at present under consideration of the Commission are indicated below:-

Sl.No.	Enquiry No.	Title
1.	*UTPE 14/2003	Ravi Luthra vs. Citi Bank NA & Anr.
2.	# RTPE 33/2007	^DG (I&R) vs. various Commercial Banks
3.	UTPE 106/2007	Sandeep P. Goyal vs. HDFC Limited & Ors
4.	UTPE 46/2008	Rathindra Prasad Lahri vs. HDFC
5.	UTPE 16/2008	G.V. Nagarajarao vs. ICICI Bank

(c) to (f) The provisions of the Competition Act, 2002 are applicable to the public sector banks also and all the penal provisions in the Competition Act will apply to public sector banks. The Commission is, however, not fully operational as yet and is currently undertaking only administrative and advocacy functions.

*UTPE	—	Unfair Trade Practices Enquiry
#RTPE	—	Restrictive Trade Practices Enquiry
^DG (I&R)	—	Director General of Investigation and Registration

PSEs Registered with BIFR

4758. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of unviable Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) referred to Board for industrial & Financial

Reconstruction (BIFR) during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to revive such PSEs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that five cases of Public Sector Enterprises, namely, M/s. Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited, M/s. HMT Bearings Limited, M/s. Traco Cable Company Limited, M/s. Steel Industrial Kerala Limited and M/s. Optel Telecommunications Limited were registered during 2005 and M/s. HMT Machine Tools Limited and M/s. Madras Fertilisers Limited were registered during 2006 and 2007 respectively.

(b) The sick industries registered with BIFR are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 and wherever feasible, rehabilitation schemes are sanctioned for the revival of these companies by various measures provided under Section 18 of the Act, which includes restructuring of the capital, induction of fresh funds by the promoters including Government assistance for public sector units, merger with other companies, change of management, relief and concessions by Financial Institutions/Banks, relief and concessions by the State and Central Government in the form of rescheduleme nt of dues, etc.

Collapse of Northern Grid

4759. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether tripping of power supply lines of the Northern Grid caused blackouts in several parts of the country recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has set up any Committee to find the reasons behind it;

(d) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(e) if so, the main recommendations made by the Committee in the report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) A number of high voltage power transmission lines tripped from 7th to 9th March, 2008 affecting supply of power in isolated parts of Northern Region on 7th and 9th March 2008. The tripping of transmission lines lead to backing down in generating stations and interruption of power supply in parts of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir as well as Railways.

(c) to (f) A committee has been set up by the Central Electricity Authority on 13th March, 2008 to inquire into the above incidences. The report is to be submitted by the Committee within two months.

Anganwadi Workers

4760. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has allocated and released funds towards life insurance cover to Anganwadi workers and helpers under the "Anganwadi Karya Karthe Bima Yojana" to various State Governments during each of the last five years and till date; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The "Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana" was launched by Government of India in the year 2004-05 as a Social Security Group Scheme of Life Insurance Corporation of

India. The Scheme is intended to cover the risk benefits of Angangwadi Workers and Helpers. The premium amount of Rs. 280/- per beneficiary per annum is shared as under:

(i) Rs. 100/- from the Social Security Fund of LIC

(ii) Rs. 100/- by Government of India

(iii) Rs. 80/- by the Anganwadi Worker/Helper (Insured Member)

It has been decided to waive off Rs. 80/- as the share of the premium from the Anganwadi Worker/Helper for a period of two years from the year 2007-08. The Government of India releases funds to the LIC towards its premium contribution. The funds are therefore, not released to any State Governments and UTs by GOI.

The year-wise funds released to LIC from 2004-05 till 2007-08 are as under:

Year	Amount
2004-05	Rs. 5.00 Crore
2005-06	Rs. 8.00 Crore
2006-07	Rs. 12.00 Crore
2007-08	Rs. 2.00 Crore (as required by LIC)

[Translation]

IT Evasion

4761. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases of evasion of income tax detected by the Income tax Department during each of the last three years;

(b) the value of such tax evaded, commisisonerate-wise;

(c) whether the brokers and stock exchanges have also been found involved therein and raids conducted by the Government against them;

(d) if so, the amount of black money recovered in these raids; and

(e) the further steps taken by the Gvoernment to check evasion of income tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Detection of evasion of Income tax by the Income Tax Department is a continuous and ongoing process. Various measures under the Direct tax laws such as Search, Survey, Collection of information, Scrutiny of returns of income etc. are undertaken to detect evasion of income tax. The findings of the income tax Depertmment in this regard are subjected to appeal before various appellate authorities and courts. The amount of undisclosed income detected and the tax component thereof can be finally known, when all appeals etc. are finalised. In view of these facts, it is not possible to exactly quantify and tabulate the details of cases of tax evasion detected and quantum of such evasion.

(c) and (d) The Government does not maintain a central data base regarding tax evasion detected or raids/ searches conducted in respect of any particular category or class of persons including Brokers and Stock exchanges. Whenever any instance of tax evasion comes to the notice of the Government, appropriate action under the law is taken.

(e) The Government takes several punitive and deterrent steps to check evasion of income tax, which include scrutiny of returns, survey, search and seizure action, imposition of penalty and launching of prosecution in appropriate cases. Furnishing of Annual Information Returns as prescribed under section 285 BA of the Income Tax Act, 1961 and furnishing of quarterly returns of payment of interest without deduction of tax as prescribed under section 206A of the Income tax Act 1961, are also measures introduced by the Government towards checking Tax Evasion.

Enforcement of Electricity Act, 2003

4762. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the guidleines issued by the Electricity Regulatory Authority under the Electricity Act 2003 during the last three years;

(b) the names and details of private power companies which have failed to comply with the said guidelines; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Electricity is a concurrent subject. The Electricity Act, 2003 delineates the powers of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) and the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) clearly.

The Electricity Regulatory Commissions including CERC are mandated to issue guidelines/regulations under the Electricity Act, 2003, National Electricity Policy and the Tariff Policy in the discharge of their functions.

CERC in terms of powers vested in it under section 178 of the Electricity Act, 2003 has during the past three years issued the following principal regulations to carry out the purpose of the Act:

(i) CERC (Fixation of Trading Margin) Regulations 2006

(ii) Indian Electricity Grid Code

(iii) CERC (Open Access in Inter-State Transmission) Regulation 2008

(iv) CERC (Sharing of Revenue derived from Utilization of Transmission Assets for other business) Regulations 2007.

CERC has also issued guidelines under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 for setting up of Power Exchanges.

While CERC has initiated action against distribution licensees which are Government companies/and State Electricity Boards/Power Departments for violation of Grid Code, no case of violation has been reported in respect of private companies. However, on a few instances of non-compliance of CERC (Procdure, Terms & Conditions for grant of Trading License and other related matters) Regulations 2004, particularly submission of periodic information to the Commission, having been noticed, show cause notices were issued by the CERC to the traders. On receipt of their explanation, the Commission after due consideration has dropped the proceedings against them with suitable directions. The details of the private companies are given in the enclosed Statement I.

Section 181 of the Act mandates the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) to frame regulations, by notification, consistent with the Electricity Act, 2003 and the rules generally to carry out the provisions of the Act.

As per information received from the SERCs, the Electricity Regulatory Commissions in the States of Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Delhi, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Orissa and Gujarat during the last three years have issued several regulations/guidelines. The regulations issued are on various matters such as State Electricity Supply Code, State Electricity Grid Code, Standards of Performance in Distribution of Electricity, Terms & Conditions for Open Access etc. The Gujarat State Electricity Regulatory Commission has notfiied guidelines on establishment of the Forum for redressal of grievances of consumers.

Section 142 of the Electricity Act, 2003 vests powers with the Regulatory Commissions that in the event there is contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules or Regulations made thereunder, or any direction issued by the Commissions, the Commissions may impose penalty after following the due process of law.

According to the information sent by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) mentioned above, violation of regulations by any private power company has not come to the notice of the SERCs except in the following cases:

(i) In Orissa where the Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission (OERC) had issued notice for revocation of licence of three distribution companies for non-compliance of licence conditions. The matter is sub-judice before the Supreme Court. The OERC had also revoked the license of another private distribution company CESCO, and at present, the utility is managed by a Management Board established by the Commission.

(ii) The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) has imposed penalties ranging from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,00,000 in 32 cases, the details of which are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

Private Licensees who have not complied with Regulation 11 (Submission of Information) of the CERC Trading Regulations, 2004

Sl.No.	Name of the Trading Licensee
1	2
1.	Lanco Electric Utility Ltd.
2.	Tata Power Trading Company Ltd.
3.	DLF Power Ltd.
4.	Chhattisgarh Electricity Company Ltd.
5.	Karamm Chand Thapar & Bros Ltd.
6.	Subhash Kabini Power Corporation Ltd.
7.	Maheshwari Ispat Ltd.
8.	Special Blasts Ltd.
9.	Instinct Advertisement & Marketing Ltd.
10.	Essar Electric Power Development Corporation
11.	Suryachakra Power Corporation Ltd.
12.	JSW Power Trading Company Limited
13.	GEA Energy System (India) Limited
14.	Malaxmi Energy Trading Private Limited

Statement II

Details of Cases wherein Penalty have been imposed on the Distribution Licensee under Electricity Act 2003

Sl.No.	Name of the Petitioner	Name of the Respondent	Name of the penalty imposing Authority	Amount of Penalty (Rs.)	Amount of Compensation (Rs.)	Date of Order on Penalty*	Date of Compliance of Order
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Sh. Ravi Dev Gupta	BRPL	DERC	500/-	1000/-	22.8.2005	6.9.2005
2.	Principal, Govt. Co-Ed. Sr. Sec. School, Vasant Kunj	BRPL	DERC	1,00,000/-	—	24.1.2006	3.2.2006
3.	M/s K.S. Pankaj Khurana	BRPL	DERC	5000/-	5000/-	7.4.2006	8.5.2006
4.	Sh. Mahadev Prasad	BRPL	DERC	8000/-	—	7.4.2006	8.5.2006
5.	Sh. M.M. Lal	BRPL	DERC	10,000/-	—	25.4.2006	8.5.2006
6.	Rajesh Kr. Sharma	BYPL	DERC	10,000/-	—	24.4.2006	1.6.2006
7.	Ishwar Dass	BYPL	DERC	1,00,000/-	10,000/-	24.1.2006	21.6.2006
8.	Resident Welfare Association, Jain Park, Uttam Nagar	BRPL	DERC	5000/-	—	23.3.2006	21.6.2006

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Sh. Parveen Gambhir	BRPL	DERC	5000/-	—	25.4.2006	21.6.2006
10.	Sh. H.B.S. Thukral Philips Co-op Group Housing Society Ltd.	BRPL	DERC	50,000/-	50,000/-	18.4.2006	22.6.2006
11.	M/s Jain Paper Products	BYPL	DERC	5000/-	5000/-	22.8.2006	14.10.2006
12.	Sh. Padmanabhan	BRPL	DERC	10,000/-	—	22.8.2006	14.10.2006
13.	Sh. Durga Prasad Biswal	BYPL	DERC	8,000/-	—	30.8.2006	14.10.2006
14.	Sh. Sukhpal	BRPL	DERC	25,000/-	—	30.8.2006	14.10.2006
15.	Sh. Jitendra	BYPL	DERC	10,000/-	—	5.9.2006	14.10.2006
16.	Sh. Tanvir A. Bukhari	BRPL	DERC	10,000/-	—	14.9.2006	5.12.2006
17.	Sh. Kamal Singh	BYPL	DERC	5000/-	5000/-	3.11.2006	8.1.2007
18.	Mahinder Engineering	BRPL	DERC	10000/-	5000/-	22.11.2006	04.06.2007
19.	Surjeet Singh	BYPL	DERC	10000/-	10,000/-	3.11.2006	20.3.2007
20.	Kaushalaya Rani Uppal	BYPL	DERC	2500/-	—	12.12.006	08.1.2007
21.	Mohinder Paswan	BRPL	DERC	10,000/-	—	13.2.2007	26.03.2007
22.	C. Kapoor & Mrs. Sudarshan Kapoor	BRPL	DERC	500/-	—	14.2.2007	26.3.2007
23.	Royal Laces Ltd.	BRPL	DERC	10,000/-	—	13.2.2007	26.03.2007
24.	Sh. Y.K. Gupta	BRPL	DERC	5000/-	5000/-	23.4.2007	24.7.2007
25.	Raghubir Singh	BRPL	DERC	25,000/-	10,000/-	23.4.2007	24.7.2007
26.	Sh. Ram Dass	BRPL	DERC	25000/-	—	7.5.2007	3.12.2007
27.	Sh. Mahabir Singh Yadav	NDPL	DERC	5000/-	—	7.5.2007	7.6.2007
28.	Sh. Ashok Sharma	BRPL	DERC	10,000/-	20,000/-	10.5.2007	24.7.2007
29.	Jitender Aggarwal	BYPL	DERC	5000/-	—	2.8.2007	7.11.2007
30.	B.K. Bedi	BYPL	DERC	1000/-	—	3.8.2007	7.11.2007
31.	Mohd. Khalil	BYPL	DERC	1000/-	—	2.8.2007	7.11.2007
32.	Sh. Vikas Jain	BYPL	DERC	10,000/-	—	17.8.2007	7.11.2007

NDPL : 01 BRPL : 19 BYPL : 12

Tax Assessment of BSES

4763. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether proper tax assessment is not being done of the BSES, a private electricity distribution company causing huge loss of revenue to the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has investigated the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The assessment of M/s BSES Ltd. (now M/s Reliance Energy Ltd.) is being completed after scrutiny and the assessment orders u/s. 143(3) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, have been passed, till Assessment Year 2005-06 (Financial Year 2004-05).

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) During the course of assessment proceedings, investigations have been made into claims of deduction by M/s BSES Ltd. in the returns of income filed by it, for various assessment years. After examination of the details filed by M/s BSES Ltd. and relevant enquiries, additions have been made to the returned income of various assessment years.

(e) Not applicable.

[English]

Demand and Supply of Power

4764. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:
SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT:
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is facing acute shortage of power these days;

(b) if so, the total demand and supply of power from various sources in each State as on date;

(c) whether any plan is being worked out by the Government to bring reforms in power sector with the coordination of State Government to enhance power generation capacity in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to upgrade the power projects which are generating the power below their installed capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) There is a continuing overall power shortage in the country. The quantum of shortage varies from day to day and hour to hour depending on demand and supply of power. The State-wise/system-wise power supply position for March, 2008 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Reforms in power sector is an on-going process. The Central Government has taken various reform initiatives, inter-alia, to enhance power generation capacity in the country by mobilizing investment in the power sector, such as:

1. The Electricity Act, 2003 has put in place a liberal and progressive legal framework including features like open access, non-requirement of license for generation and freely permitting captive power plants.

2. Promoting Public Private Partnership and Standardizing Bid Documents for attracting private investments.

3. Permitting 100/% foreign direct investment in power sector.

4. Mega Power Policy gives various tax incentives for promoting accelerated generation in capacity addition.

5. Establishment of Ultra-Mega Power Projects of 4000 MW each.

A capacity addition programme of 78,577 MW has been envisaged for the 11th Plan; out of which about 50% has been envisaged in the Central Sector. Ministry of Power has been actively interacting and monitoring, through meetings/discussions with the State Governments, BHEL as well as State Power Utilities for giving an impetus to various measures *inter-alia* the capacity addition. The capacity addition programme was discussed in the Chief Ministers' conference held on 26th-27th April, 2007 and Chief Ministers conference held on 28th May, 2007 wherein *inter-alia* early placement of orders for power projects proposed to be commissioned during the 11th Plan was emphasised. In the Chief Ministers' conference, it was resolved that the Centre and State would ensure timely placement of orders for all the projects intended to give benefit during the 11th Plan and ensure regular monthly projects monitoring for their timely commissioning along predetermined milestones. A meeting of Group of Ministers chaired by Minister of Power was held on 24th September, 2007 wherein a Task Force on hydro power project development was set up and detailed State-wise discussions were held with regard to accelerated power generation capacity addition for the 11th Plan. Subsequently, a follow-up meeting of Chief Secretaries of States was held on 19th Febuary, 2008 wherein expeditious completion of ordering of all the 11th Plan Power generation projects was emphasized. This matter was again discussed in the Chief Secretaries conference convened on 22nd April, 2008. According to the current status of projects, 9,263 MW has already been commissioned during the year 2007-08 and projects of 62,847 MW capacity are under construction. A Tasks Force on Hydro Development headed by Union Minister of Power has been constituted, hydro policy has been notified to attract private investments also.

(e) The following steps have been/are being taken by the Government of India to bring improvement in the generation capacity of power plants performing below their installed capacity:

(i) Rigorous monitoring of coal for optimizing supply to coal based power stations from various sources.

(ii) Continuous interaction of CEA engineers with Plant Authorities, BHEL and Other concerned agencies for solving bottlenecks in O&M activities.

(iii) Renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generating units.

(iv) Continuous interaction of CEA and the better performing utilities with the poor performing utilities to introduce better O&M practices so as to improve the plant load factor.

Statement

Power Supply Position (Provisional)

State / System Region	March, 2008							
	Requirement (MU)	Availability (MU)	Surplus/Deficit (-) (MU)	(%)	Peak Demand (MW)	Peak Met (MW)	Surplus/Deficit (-) (MW)	(%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chandigarh	94	94	0	0.0	200	200	0	0.0
Delhi	1,470	1,436	-34	-2.3	3,158	3,027	-131	-4.1
Haryana	2,263	1,824	-439	-19.4	4,635	3,917	-718	-15.5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Himachal Pradesh	468	468	0	0.0	919	919	0	0.0
Jammu & Kashmir	763	663	-100	-13.1	1,744	1,444	-300	-17.2
Punjab	2,969	2,445	-524	-17.6	6,016	4,807	-1,209	-20.1
Rajasthan	3,060	3,060	0	0.0	6,006	5,426	-580	-9.7
Uttar Pradesh	4,576	3,826	-750	-16.4	9,143	6,843	-2,300	-25.2
Uttaralchand	589	559	-30	-5.1	1,116	1,116	0	0.0
Northern Region	16,252	14,375	-1,877	-11.5	29,873	25,461	-4,412	-14.8
Chhattisgarh	1,364	1,314	-50	-3.7	2,421	2,188	-233	-9.6
Gujarat	6,595	5,224	-1,371	-20.8	12,119	8,591	-3,528	-29.1
Madhya Pradesh	3,957	3,085	-872	-22.0	6,501	5,502	-999	-15.4
Maharashtra	10,650	8,387	-2,263	-21.2	17,872	12,672	-5,200	-29.1
Daman & Diu	156	137	-19	-12.2	220	195	-25	-11.4
D.N. Haveli	300	297	-3	-1.0	454	424	-30	-6.6
Goa	245	242	-3	-1.2	446	400	-46	-10.3
Western Region	23,267	18,686	-4,581	-19.7	37,778	27,900	-9,878	-26.1
Andhra Pradesh	5,990	5,738	-252	-4.2	10,091	9,162	-929	-9.2
Karnataka	3,717	3,577	-140	-3.8	6,366	5,567	-799	-12.6
Kerala	1,381	1,337	-44	-3.2	2,908	2,742	-166	-5.7
Tamil Nadu	5,385	5,241	-144	-2.7	8,871	8,389	-482	-5.4
Puducherry	156	156	0	0.0	254	254	0	0.0
Lakshadweep#	2	2	0	0	6	6	0	0
Southern Region	16,629	16,049	-580	-3.5	28,669	24,368	-2,301	-8.6
Bihar	908	665	-243	-26.8	1,534	1,020	-514	-33.5
DVC	1,183	1,135	-48	-4.1	1,774	1,732	-42	-2.4
Jharkhand	421	370	-51	-12.1	809	696	-113	-14.0
Orissa	1,745	1,700	-45	-2.6	2,980	2,939	-41	-1.4
West Bengal	2,683	2,584	-99	-3.7	5,379	4,754	-625	-11.6
Sikkim	35	34	-1	-2.9	60	60	0	0.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andaman Nicobar#	20	15	-5	-25	40	32	-8	-20
Eastern Region	6,975	6,488	-487	-7.0	11,940	10,668	-1,272	-10.7
Arunachal Pradesh	44	22	-22	-50.0	101	67	-34	-33.7
Assam	418	333	-85	-20.3	827	753	-74	-8.9
Manipur	35	34	-1	-2.9	112	84	-28	-25.0
Meghalaya	123	82	-41	-33.3	455	213	-242	-53.2
Mizoram	26	22	-4	-15.4	97	55	-42	-43.3
Nagaland	34	33	-1	-2.9	91	88	-3	-3.3
Tripura	64	56	-8	-12.5	159	134	-25	-15.7
North-Eastern Region	744	582	-162	-21.8	1,742	1,279	-463	-26.6
All India	63,867	56,180	-7,687	-12.0	108,002	89,676	-18,326	-17.0

Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands are stand-alone systems, power supply position of these, does not form part of regional requirement and availability

Note: Both peak met and energy availability represent the net consumption (including the transmission losses) in the various States. Net export has been accounted for in the consumption of importing States.

Community Score Card and NREGS

4765. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI RAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments are using Community Score Card (CSC) to assess the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The Ministry has not received any report regarding use of Community Score Card by any of the State Governments to assess the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

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

Auction of Commercial Space Developed by HUDCO

4766. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the built up commercial space developed by Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) in Delhi, has not been utilized/auctioned for several years; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Housing & Urban Development Corporation, Ltd. (HUDCO), in Delhi has developed three properties at Bhikaji Cama Place namely, Trikoot, Vishala and August Kranti Bhavan. Out of these, Trikoot and Vishala have already been disposed of. As regard, August Kranti Bhavan 37% of space is still in possession of HUDCO, as no response was received with reference to open bid invited in April, 2006. Action for re-auctioning/re-tendering of this space has been initiated by HUDCO.

Apart from this there is another property at Andrews Ganj, New Delhi, where all commercial spaces have been allotted, but due to litigation with the allottees, 9 Guest Houses and Hotel site is still in the possession of HUDCO.

IREP in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

4767. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) is not giving desired results in the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) was implemented in Andaman & Nicobar Islands through the Electricity Department, Andaman & Nicobar Administration. Under the programme, energy surveys of different Islands/ Blocks/areas were conducted to assess the enrgy requirements of rural households for cooking, lighting and heating purposes. Seminars, awareness camps & training programmes were also organised in the rural areas.

So far, 182 biogas plants, 40333 improved chulhas, 7,252 solar lanterns, 69 solar home systems, 25 solar street lights and 2,870 improved kerosene stoves have been installed/distributed in these islands under the various renewable energy programmes.

The Ministry has discontinued IREP from the 11th Plan *i.e.* 1st April, 2007 onwards, as the programme has already demonstrated its objectives.

Maternal Mortality and Malnutrition

4768. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA:

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

(a) whether according to UNICEF report the cases of deaths due to malnutrition in India is more than 18 per cent of total deaths reported in the world;

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

(c) whether the maternal mortality ratio is high in various States during each of the last three years;

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

(e) whether nutrition level among women is much below comparing with other developing countries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per UNICEF report, "the State of World's Children, 2008", the mortality for children under the age of five in India is 76 thousand.

Under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme, run by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, following activities are being undertaken to improve the situation of Infant and Child mortality:

(i) Integrated management of Neonatal and childhood illnesses.

(ii) Home Based Newborn Care.

(iii) Promotion of breastfeeding and complementary feeding.

(iv) Control of deaths due to Acute Respiratory Infections.

(v) Control of deaths due to diarrhoeal diseases.

(vi) Supplementation with micronutrients: Vitamin A and Iron.

(vii) Universal Immunization Programme.

(viii) Several other National Health Programme under NRHM

(c) and (d) Based on the estimates made by the Registrar General of India (RGI), the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has declined from 398 per one lakh live

births (1997-98) to 301 per one lakh live births (2003). The MMR in India and major States for the years 1997-98, 1999-2001 and 2001-2003 is indicated in enclosed Statement I.

(e) and (f) As per the NFHS III report 2005-06, 36% of Women (15-49 age) in the country have Chronic Energy Deficiency (Body Mass Index below 18.5). The State-wise details are annexed in the Statement II.

Statement I

Maternal Mortality Ratio

Indian and State-wise

(Source: RGI, (SRS) 1997-98, 1999-01, 2001-03)

Major State	MMR (1997-98)	MMR (1999-01)	MMR (2001-03)
India Total*	398	327	301
Assam	568	398	490
Bihar/Jharkhand	531	400	371
Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh	441	407	379
Orissa	346	424	358
Rajasthan	508	501	445
Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	606	539	517
Andhra Pradesh	197	220	195
Karnataka	245	266	228
Kerala	150	149	110
Tamil Nadu	131	167	134
Gujarat	46	202	172
Haryana	136	176	162
Maharashtra	166	169	149
Punjab	280	177	178
West Bengal	303	218	194
Others	—	276	235

*Includes Others.

Statement II

Percentage of Women (Age 15-49 years) below BMI 18.5

S.No.	State/UT	Percentage of Women (Age 15-49 years) below BMI 18.5
1	2	3
	India	**35.6**
	North	
1.	Delhi	14.8
2.	Haryana	31.3
3.	Himachal Pradesh	29.9
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	24.6
5.	Punjab	18.9
6.	Rajasthan	36.7
7.	Uttaranchal	30.0
	Central	
8.	Chattisgarh	43.4
9.	Madhya Pradesh	41.7
10.	Uttar Pradesh	36.0
	East	
11.	Bihar	45.1
12.	Jharkhand	43.0
13.	Orissa	41.4
14.	West Bengal	39.1
	North East	
15.	Arunachal Pradesh	16.4
16.	Assam	36.5
17.	Manipur	14.8
18.	Meghalaya	14.6
19.	Mizoram	14.4
20.	Nagaland	17.4
21.	Sikkim	11.2
22.	Tripura	36.9
	West	
23.	Goa	27.9
24.	Gujarat	36.3
25.	Maharashtra	36.2
	South	
26.	Andhra Pradesh	33.5
27.	Karnataka	35.5
28.	Kerala	18.0
29.	Tamil Nadu	28.4

Source: National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3)

Foreign Exchange Reserve

4769. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a part of the foreign exchange reserves in India are held as securities issued by the U.S. Treasury;

(b) if so, the rate of return on such U.S. securities;

(c) whether any part of the Indian forex reserve was held in bonds issued in U.S.; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) India's foreign exchange reserves are invested by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in multi-currency, multi-market portfolio including securities issued by the US Treasury in accordance with the provisions of the RBI Act 1934 on holding of foreign assets. The RBI does not hold bonds issued by such agencies as the Federal National Mortage Association (FNMA) and Government National Mortage Association (GNMA) in U.S. The main objectives of investment of the country's foreign exchange reserves are safety and liquidity. The rate of

earnings on foreign exchange reserves (after accounting for depreciation and on the entire stock of assets) was 4.6 per cent in 2006-07.

Advance Pricing Rules

4770. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is likely to introduce advance pricing rules in the country;

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

(c) the main advantage of such arrangement;

(d) whether the official tax administration are equipped for introduction of the system; and

(e) if not, the steps taken or likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) No, Sir. Transfer pricing regulations in India are in their infancy. Further, tax administration in India also needs more time to acquire the requisite expertise in this field. Therefore, it is not feasible to introduce the system of advance pricing agreements in India at this stage.

Setting up of National Nutrition Mission

4771. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under the consideration of the Government to set up a National Nutrition Mission for supplementing the nutrient requirements of the poor and destitute children; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the likely time by which such commission would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The National Nutrition Mission (NNM) was constituted, vide Gazette Notification dated 31st July, 2003. Its main objective is to review the goals set out in the National Nutrition Policy, 1993 and strategies adopted by various Ministries/ Departments besides coordinating their activities.

Import duty on edible oils

4772. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of reduction in rate of customs duty effected on each items of edible oils during last three years;

(b) whether the price of palm oil/palmolein is being increased by producers after such cut in customs duty;

(c) if so, details thereof;

(d) whether representations have been received from farmers including coconut growers in this connection;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the response thereto; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for safeguarding the interests of farmers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Details of reduction in customs duty on commodities are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Since the prices charged by producers depend on a variety of factors such as the demand-supply balance, availability of substitutes and their prices etc., it is not possible to correlate price with changes in customs duty in the importing country.

(d) and (e) Representations have been received from the Government of Kerala and others to withdraw cut in custom duty as it affects various farmers including coconut growers. The references were examined taking into account all relevant factors primarily, the substantial increase in international prices and its negative impact on prices of edible oils. It was in order to maintain moderate domestic prices of edible oils that Government reduced customs duties on palm group of oils.

(f) In order to protect interests of farmers, export restrictions have been lifted in respect of coconut oil (through Cochin port) alongwith certain oils produced from minor forest origin w.e.f 1.4.2008.

Statement

Details of Reduction in import duty on edible oils

— 11.8.2006:

- from 80% to 70% on crude palm oil, crude palmolein and other fractions of crude palm oil
- from 87.5% to 80% on Refined Bleached Deodorized (RBD) palm oil, RBD palmolein and other refined palm oils.

— 24.1.2007:

- from 70% to 60% on crude palm oil, crude palmolein and other fractions of crude palm oil;
- from 80% to 67.5% on Refined Bleached Deodorized (RBD) palm oil, RBD palmolein and other refined palm oils;
- from 75% to 65% on crude sunflower oil
- from 85% to 75% on refined sunflower oil.

— 1.3.2007:

- all edible oils were exempted from the 4% additional duty of customs.
- tariff on crude and refined sunflower oils was reduced from 65% to 50% and 75% to 60% respectively.

— 13.4.2007:

- Crude palm oil, crude palmolein and other fractions of crude palm oil from 60% to 50%
- Refined Bleached Deodorized (RBD) palm oil, RBD palmolein and other refined palm oils from 67.5% to 57.5%.

— 23.7.3007:

- Crude palm oil including crude palmolein from 50% to 45%;
- Refined palm oil including RBD palmolein from 57.5% to 52.5%;
- Soya bean oils from 45% to 40%;
- Crude sunflower oil from 50% to 40%; and
- Refined sunflower oil from 60% to 50%.

— 20.3.2008 (w.e.f. 21.3.2008):

- Crude palm oil including crude palmolein from 45% to 20%;
- Refined palm oil including RBD palmolein from 52.5% to 27.5%;
- Crude Mustard/rapeseed/colza/canola oils from 75% to 20%;
- Refined Mustard/rapeseed/colza/canola oils from 75% to 27.5%;
- Crude sunflower oil from 40% to 20%;
- Refined sunflower oil from 50% to 27.5%; and

— 1.4.2008:

- soya bean oil (crude) from 40% to Nil and on soya bean oil (refined) from 40% to 7.5%;
- Crude Palm oil (including crude palmolein) from 20% to Nil and on RBD palm oil (including RBD palmolein) from 27.5% to 7.5%;
- All other miscellaneous edible oils (crude) such as coconut oil, ground nut, etc. to Nil;
- All other miscellaneous edible oils (refined) such as coconut oil, groundnut, etc. to 7.5%
- partly or wholly hydrogenated vegetable fats and oils commonly known as vanaspati margarine, etc. to 7.5%.

Shortcomings in Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Programmes

4773. SHRI HITEN BARMAN:
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of a recent study of the US based International Food Policy Research Institute having aspersions on poverty alleviation programme in India;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to take accelerative measures for poverty alleviation programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Solar Energy Generation

4774. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

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

(a) the target set and achievements made in the field of solar energy generation during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the targets fixed for the Eleventh Five Year Plan, and the steps being taken by the Government for achieving the targets during the Plan;

(c) the funds released and spent by each State during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred to promote and popularise the solar energy in the country during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) During the Tenth Five Year Plan period, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy had sanctioned projects for installation of 1500 kWp capacity of grid connected solar photovoltaic power plants in the country and projects for a total capacity of 900 kWp have been installed.

(b) The Ministry has fixed a target of 50 MW for setting up grid connected solar power plants during Eleventh Five Year Plan. In order to achieve this, a new demonstration programme to support MW size grid connected solar power plants has been announced. Under this programme the Ministry will provide generation based incentive up to Rs. 12 per kWh for the power actually fed to the grid from a solar photovoltaic power plant and up to Rs. 10 per kWh from a solar thermal power plant, taking into account the tariff given by the state utility, for a maximum period of ten years. The solar power projects are to be set up on build, own operate basis. Preference will be given to projects in the States, where the concerned State Electricity Regulatory Commissions have announced tariff for solar power.

(c) The details of the fund released to various States agencies for implementation of grid connected solar power projects during the 10th Five Year Plan are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) During 2008-09, an amount of Rs. 123.25 crores has been allocated for various activities relating to promotion and popularization of solar energy in the country, including an amount of Rs. 19.75 crores for setting up grid connected MW solar power plants.

Statement

State-wise details of Funds Released for Grid Interactive SPV Power Plants

S.No.	State/UT	Amount Released Rs. in lakh
1.	Andhra Pradesh	48.01
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	80.53
3.	Haryana	5.00
4.	Punjab	221.19
5.	Rajasthan	174.00
6.	Uttar Pradesh	30.86
7.	Uttarakhand	61.30
8.	West Bengal	24.05
9.	Andaman and Nicobar	88.92
10.	Chandigarh	5.00
11.	Lakshadweep	543.95
12.	Pondicherry	37.90
	Total	1320.71

Charge on Use of ATM

4775. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks charges transactions charges from their customers for use of ATM card;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether RBI has asked the banks to stop charges for transaction by its own customers using ATM card as reported in *Times of India* dated March 11, 2008;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which banks will stop levy of such charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that most of the banks do not charge their customers for use of their own ATMs. However, they levy charges for use of other bank ATMs by thoir customers and the charges livied range from Nil to Rs. 57/-

(c) to (e) RBI has issued a circular on March 10, 2008 laying down a framework of service charges to be levied on customers using the ATMs of banks to be implemnted by all banks, as under:-

Sr.No.	Service	Charges
1.	For use of own ATMs for any purpose	Free (with immediate effect)
2.	For use of other bank ATMs for balance enquiries	Free (with immediate effect)
3.	For use of other bank ATMs for cash withdrawals	• No bank shall increase the charges prevailing as on December 23, 2007 (i.e. the date of release of Approach Paper on RBI website) • Banks which are charging more than Rs. 20 per transaction shall reduce the charges to a maximum of Rs. 20 per transaction by March 31, 2008. • Free—with effect from April 1, 2009.

Operation of Schemes by States

4776. SHRI P. C. GADDIGOUDAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments have declined to operate some schemes relating to women and child welfare;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter;

(c) whether such schemes have been given to NGOs;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has assessed the working of such schemes; and

(f) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

Women in Banks

4777. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to recruit 33.33 per cent women in public Sector Banks in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The recruitment in Public Sector Banks is made without any gender based distinction. As of now, there is no proposal under consideration to recruit 33.33 per cent women in Public Sector Banks.

Refund of State Levies to Traders

4778. ADV. SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plans to refund State levies to traders and adjust the same against the State's accounts; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) There are no such plans. Under the Constitution of India, the powers of taxation are divided between the Union (Central Government) and the States. The taxation powers of the Union are in the Union List (List I), whereas the powers of the States are in the State List (List II) of the VII Schedule. Taxes levied by the State Governments are deposited in the Consolidated Fund of the State concerned. Central Government has no role in the levy or refund of taxes imposed by the State Governments.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Narmada Hydroelectric Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) Annual Report of the Narmada Hydroelectric Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8641/08]

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(3) A copy of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Open Access in inter-State Transmission) Regulation, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. L-7/105(121)/2007-CERC in Gazette of India dated the 7th February, 2008 under section 179 of the Electricity Act, 2003.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8642/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): Sir, on behalf of Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy of each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 58 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957:—

(i) The Delhi Development Authority (Levy/Charges for residential plotted development) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. S.O.1992(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th November, 2006.

(ii) The Delhi Development Authority (Fixation of Charges for mixed use and commercial use of premises) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. S.O.1993(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th November, 2006.

(iii) S.O.1015(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2007 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1993(E) dated the 20th November, 2006.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8643/08]

(2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Urban Development for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8644/08]

(3) A copy of the Annual Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding allotments made under 5% discretionary quota in accordance with the guidelines issued during the year ending 31st December, 2007.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8645/08]

(4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8646/08]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) on Quarterly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget during the third quarter of the financial year 2007-2008 under sub-section (1) of section 7 of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8647/08]

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy of the Thirty Sixth Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) pertaining to the execution of the provisions of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 for the period from 1st January, 2006 to 31st December, 2006.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8648/08]

(3) A copy of the Delhi State Mineral Development Corporation Limited and the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited Amalgamation Order, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1038 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 2007, under sub-section (5) of section 396 of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8649/08]

(4) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 423 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th March, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1038 (E) dated the 27th June, 2007 issued under section 396 of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8650/08]

(5) A copy of the Draft Notification No. F.No. 1/1/2008/ CL.V (Hindi and English versions) modifying the relevant provisions of various sections mentioned therein of the Companies Act, 1956 issued under section 610C of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8651/08]

(6) A copy of the Companies (Accounting Standards) Amendment Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 212(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2008, under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8652/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the securities and Exchange Board of India, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007 together with Audit Report 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-8655/08]

(3) A copy of the Canara Bank (Officers) Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. PWPM: 10475:078:VRR in weekly Gazette of India dated the 24th November, 2007 under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8656/08]

(4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) Annual Report of the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8657/08]

(6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956:—

(i) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Staff) (Amendment) Regulations, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 160(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 2008.

(ii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Class III Class IV Employees (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 72(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th February, 2008.

(7) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 15(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 2007 notifying the establishment of new Debts Recovery Tribunals at Mumbai and Chennai, under sub-section (3) of section 36 of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 294(E) dated the 16th April, 2008.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8658/08]

(9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:—

(i) G.S.R. 118(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 23/2006-CE(N.T) dated the 12th October, 2006.

(ii) G.S.R. 163(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th March, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 35/2001-CE(N.T) dated the 26th June, 2001.

(iii) G.S.R. 184(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th March, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 64/95-CE dated the 16th March, 1995.

(iv) G.S.R. 282(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 22/2003-CE dated the 31st March, 2003.

(v) G.S.R. 143(E) to G.S.R. 147(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding Central Excise duty charges and exemption in context of Budget proposals pertaining to Indirect Taxes as announced by

Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on 29th February, 2008.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8659/08]

(10) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:—

(i) G.S.R. 107(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding the Notification No. 114/2007-Cus, dated the 28th November, 2007.

(ii) G.S.R. 161(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on imports of phenol, originating in, or exported from, the United States of America, Korea RP and Taiwan.

(iii) G.S.R. 162(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding Notification No. 105/2007-Cus. dated the 19th September, 2007.

(iv) G.S.R. 174(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th March, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of Acetone, originating in, or exported from, European Union, Chinese Taipei, Singapore, South Africa and the United States of America into India.

(v) G.S.R. 179(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th March, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on imports of Compact disc-Recordable originating in or exported, from Iran, Malaysia, Korea ROK, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Vietnam to India.

(vi) G.S.R. 180(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend levy of anti-dumping duty levied on imports of Hexa Methylene Tetramine, originating in, or exported from, Iran, upto and inclusive of 16th March, 2009, pending finalization of Sunset review investigations being conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties.

(vii) G.S.R. 202(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 11/2008-Cus, dated the 23rd January, 2008.

(viii) G.S.R. 210(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 2008 seeking to extend levy of anti-dumping duty on imports of Sodium Hydroxide, originating in, or exported from, the European Union, Indonesia and Chinese Taipei, upto and inclusive of 26th March 2009 pending finalization of Sunset review investigations being conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties.

(ix) G.S.R. 211(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2008 seeking to continue imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of Caustic Soda, originating in, or exported from Qatar and imported into India at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority in final findings of Sunset Review Investigation for a further period of five years.

(x) G.S.R. 267(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th April, 2008 seeking to extend levy of anti-dumping duty levied on imports of Sodium hydrosulphite, originating in, or exported from, Germany and Korea RP, upto and inclusive of 31st March, 2009, pending finalization of Sunset review investigations being conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8660/08]

(11) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

(i) G.S.R. 168(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 69/2004-Cus. dated the 9th July, 2004.

(ii) G.S.R. 183(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th March, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 39/96-Cus. dated the 23rd July, 1996.

(iii) G.S.R. 200(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th March, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus. dated the 1st March, 2002.

(iv) G.S.R. 259(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus. dated the 1st March, 2002.

(v) G.S.R. 281(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 52/2003-Cus. dated the 31st March, 2003.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8661/08]

(12) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994:—

(i) G.S.R. 386(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt all taxable services specified in section 65 of the Finance Act, 1994, provided by any person, for the official use of a foreign diplomatic mission or consular post in India, from whole of the service tax leviable thereon, together with a corrigendum thereto published in notification No. G.S.R. 434(E) dated the 15th June, 2007.

(ii) G.S.R. 387(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt all taxable services specified in section 65 of the Finance Act, 1994, provided by any person, for the personal use or for the use of family members of diplomatic agents or career consular officers posted in a foreign diplomatic mission or consular post in India, from whole of the service tax leviable.

(iii) G.S.R. 388(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding six notifications mentioned therein.

(iv) G.S.R. 260(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 41/2007-Service Tax, dated the 6th October, 2007.

(13) Four statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (i) to (iii) of (12) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8662/08]

(14) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:—

(i) The Income-tax (Third Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 243(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th February, 2008 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(ii) G.S.R. 267(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th February, 2008, together with an explanatory memorandum specifying the bond with particulars mentioned therein as zero coupon bond for the purpose of clause 48 of section 2 of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8663/08]

(15) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) of the Market Borrowing by Central Government during the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8664/08]

(16) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 546(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.1282(E) dated the 10th November, 2003, issued under section 2 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8665/08]

12.01 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Thursday, the 20th March, 2008 adopted the following motion in regard to the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:-

"That this House resolves that the Rajya Sabha do join the Committee of both the Houses on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2008 and ending on the 30th April. 2009, and do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote, ten Members from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

(i) I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, the following Members of the Rajya Sabha have been duly elected to the said Committee:-

1. Shri Nandi Yellaiah
2. Shri Jesudasu Seelam
3. Dr. Radhakant Nayak
4. Miss Anusuiya Uikey
5. Shri Krishan Lal Balmiki
6. Shri Mahendra Sahni
7. Shri Brij Bhushan Tiwari
8. Shri Thomas Sangma
9. Shri Veer Singh
10. Shri Tiruchi Siva.

"I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Thursday, the 20th March, 2008 adopted the following motion in regard to the Committee on Public Accounts:-

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the Lok Sabha for the term beginning on the 1st of May, 2008 and ending on the 30th April, 2009, and do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, seven Members from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

(ii) I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, the following Members of the Rajya Sabha have been duly elected to the said Committee:-

1. Prof. P.J. Kurien
2. Shri Raashid Alvi
3. Shri B.K. Hariprasad
4. Shri Shanta Kumar
5. Dr. K. Malaisamy
6. Shri Tarlochan Singh
7. Shri Prasanta Chatterjee'.

"I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Thursday, the 20th March, 2008 adopted the following motion in regard to the Committee on Public Undertakings:—

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the Lok Sabha for the term beginning on the 1st of May, 2008 and ending on the 30th April, 2009, and do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, seven Members from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

(iii) I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, the following Members of the Rajya Sabha have been duly elected to the said Committee:-

1. Shri R.K. Dhawan
2. Shri Vikaykumar Rupani
3. Shri K. Chandran Pillai
4. Shri Amar Singh
5. Shri Sharad Anantrao Joshi
6. Shri Arjun Kumar Sengupta
7. Shri Rahul Bajaj.

12.01½ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

67th and 68th Reports

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee:—

(1) Sixty-seventh Report on "Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation".

(2) Sixty-eighth Report on Action Taken on 41st Report of Public Accounts Committee on "Concession meant for Small Scale Industries availed of by Large Scale Manufacturers."

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

27th and 28th Reports

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings:—

(1) Twenty-seventh Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Fourteenth Report on National Highways Authority of India — National Highways Development Project (NHDP), Phase-I.

(2) Twenty-eighth Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Twentieth Report on Performance Audit of WLL Services provided by BSNL.

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

Statements

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): I beg to lay on the Table the following Action Taken Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings:—

(1) Statements showing the action taken by the Government on the recommendation contained in Chapter-I of Thirteenth Action Taken Report on Airports Authority of India–Loss of revenue due to delay in award of licenses to operate Money Exchange Counters.

(2) Statements showing the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapters-I and V of Eighteenth Action Taken Report of 14th Lok Sabha on Health Insurance–A Horizontal Study.

12.03½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Statements

[English]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): I beg to lay on the Table the following Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture:—

(1) Statement showing further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 13th Action Taken Report of the Committee on Agriculture (2005-2006) based on the recommendations contained in their 9th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2005-2006)' of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation).

(2) Statement showing further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained

in the 14th Action Taken Report of the Committee on Agriculture (2005-06) based on the recommendations contained in their 10th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2005-06)' of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

(3) Statement showing further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 15th Action Taken Report of the Committee on Agriculture (2005-2006) based on the recommendations contained in their 11th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2005-2006)' of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying).

(4) Statement showing further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 16th Action Taken Report of the Committee on Agriculture (2005-06) based on the recommendations contained in their 12th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2005-06)' of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

(5) Statement showing further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 23rd Action Taken Report of the Committee on Agriculture (2006-2007) based on the recommendations contained in their 18th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2006-2007)' of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation).

(6) Statement showing further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 24th Action Taken Report of the Committee on Agriculture (2006-07) based on the recommendations contained in their 19th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2006-07)' of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

(7) Statement showing further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 25th Action Taken Report of the Committee on Agriculture (2006-2007) based on the recommendations contained in their 20th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2006-2007)' of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying).

(8) Statement showing further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 33rd Action Taken Report of the Committee on Agriculture (2007-2008) based on the recommendations contained in their 27th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2007-2008)' of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation).

(9) Statement showing further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 34th Action Taken Report of the Committee on Agriculture (2007-08) based on the recommendations contained in their 28th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2007-08)' of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

(10) Statement showing further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 35th Action Taken Report of the Committee on Agriculture (2007-2008) based on the recommendations contained in their 29th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2007-2008)' of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying).

(11) Statement showing further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 36th Action Taken Report of the Committee on Agriculture (2007-08) based on the recommendations contained in their 30th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2007-08)' of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

12.04 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Situation in Jammu and Kashmir*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister do you want to read out the whole thing? Hon. Members, there are six pages of the Statement. If you all agree, it can be laid on the Table of the House.

---

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8666/08.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You lay it on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir I beg to lay following statement:—

As the Hon'ble Members are aware, a process of wide-ranging consultations with different sections of the people in the State of Jammu & Kashmir regarding various aspects of the situation in the State had been initiated in the form of the Round Table Conference (RTC) on Jammu & Kashmir under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister in February, 2006. In pursuance to the 2nd RTC held at Srinagar on 24-25 May, 2006, five Working Groups were constituted to look into various aspects and recommend measures for bringing about further improvement in terms of restoration of peace and normalcy and for the overall balanced and socio-economic development of the people in the State. The reports of 4 of these Working Groups were presented in the 3rd RTC held in New Delhi on 24 April, 2007, which broadly endorsed the approach and recommendations made by them.

2. The Working Group on 'Confidence Building Measures across the segments of Society in the State' had made various recommendations, inter alia, in respect of relief and rehabilitation measures for widows, orphans and other victims of militancy and violence, facilitating the return and rehabilitation of the Kashmiri migrants, issues relating to refugees of 1947 from West Pakistan in POK, etc. After examination of the recommendations, the Government has taken the following decisions.

Victims of Militancy Related Violence

3. In 1994, the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir evolved a special scheme for providing compassionate employment to the eligible next of kin (NoK) of victims of militancy related violence. Due to non-avialability of adequate number of jobs, there is a large backlog of approved cases for such compassionate appointment. There are also a number of families where, despite relaxations in eligibility conditions, there are no members in the family eligible for employment. It was proposed by the State Government, as an exceptional measure, to offer a one time compensation of Rs. 5 lakhs in lieu of the agreed compassionate appointment. They have sought the assistance of the Government of India for re-imbursement of the expenditure that coverage of the backlog will entail. We have agreed to the request of the State Government.

4. We have also agreed to the request of the State Government to provide assistance for their proposal to increase the quantum of monthly pension payable to widows under the existing scheme of the Rehabilitation Council of J&K to Rs. 750 per month from the present level of Rs. 500 per month. Assistance to those orphaned in militancy related violence will now cover all such children without discrimination.

Problems of Migrants of the Valley

5. A major issue that has plagued the situation in Jammu & Kashmir is the fact that more than 55000 families who had been forced to leave their homes in the wake of the unfortunate events in the State, continue to be away from their homes in the Kashmir Valley. There is long standing tradition in the State of Jammu and Kashmir of people of different faiths living together in peace and harmony. We have a collective responsibility to rectify the situation, and to facilitate the return of these families, who are an integral part of the composite social fabric of the area and, in the process, address a major humanitarian concern that has been crying for attention over the years.

6. When they left the Valley, many migrant families had to resort to distress sale of their houses and properties in the Valley till legislation put a stop to it in 1997. The State Government is being requested to identify land for group housing societies of such families. The Government proposes to give these migrants families, who opt to return to the Valley, a lump sum grant of Rs. 7.5 lakh to build or buy homes through such societies.

7. It has also been decided to give a similar lump sum grant to migrant families whose houses have been fully or partially damaged, as well as assistance to those whose houses may not have been damaged, but may have got into disuse and dilapidation as a result of abandonment. It is proposed to assist suitably with transit accommodation and start-up expenses.

8. It has also been decided that the monthly relief being presently given to around 15,000 migrant families in Jammu and Delhi will be continued for such of these

[Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal]

families, who may opt to return to the Valley, for a period of two years to enable a smooth transition.

9. The Government will also provide assistance for education of children of migrant families through the J&K Rehabilitation Council.

10. The State Government has proposed to provide 6000 jobs, for the educated among migrant youth, in the State Government service. To assist the State Government in providing such employment opportunities, the Central Government will bear the cost towards salary for about 3000 youth till they are absorbed against regular posts in the State Government, within the specified time-frame. Fruther, the Government is considering a financial package for other unemployed youth from among the migrant community to help them engage in self-employment through vocational training.

11. The migrant families who are engaged in agriculture and horticulture would require assistance to renew their occupation in the field. We will provide lump-sum grants for restoration of agricultural holdings and orchards which may have been lying abandoned.

12. We are examining the feasibility of waiving the interest on unpaid loans taken by Kashmiri migrants before their migration as part of a one time settlement package.

13. The expenditure on all the above proposals is presently estimated to be around Rs. 1600 crore. These benefits will apply to all migrant families, who migrated bag and baggage after 1989, and have not been able to return to the valley. We hope that these measures will go a long way in bringing these families back home, and enable them to get back to a life of dignity and honour in the land of their forefathers where they belong.

Refugees from West Pakistan

14. We are conscious of the hardship that the refugees from West Pakistan have had to face because they are not considered to be permanent residents of the State. We have decided to work out a package for them.

15. Firstly, a dispensation is proposed to enable their children and grand children to seek admission in technical educational institutions in various parts of the country. Secondly, it is proposed to facilitate bank loans without security of land. A nodal cell will be set up by the Union Ministry of Finance to deal with this matter. Thirdly, we will provide vocational training opportunities under the Skill Development Initiative Programme of the Government of India.

PoK Refugees of 1947

16. We have also examined the problems faced by the families who migrated from PoK to the State of J&K in 1947. On the recommendations of the State Government, we have agreed to meet an expenditure of about Rs. 50 crores to resolve cases of land deficiency or where it has not been possible to allot plots in urban areas to these families. With these measures no further assistance will be required from the Government of India. We expect that this will bring the problem of PoK refugees of 1947 to rest.

Problems of compensation for lands used for construction of Border Works

17. In respect of a large quantum of the lands on which various border works, such as ditch-cum-bunds, border fencing, etc., were constructed, compensation remains to be paid to the affected farmers. Time bound steps will be taken for payment of compensation as per the law.

18. We had also given directions that, wherever public premises related to essential public services like education, health, water supply, etc., are being used by the security forces deployed int he State, measures maybe taken to relocate, and in the case of private property being so used, payment of adequate rent may be ensured. I am happy to inform the House that over the past year significant progress has been achieved in this regard.

19. With a view to further consolidate the confidence building initiatives already taken it is planned to liberalise the entry permit system of cross LoC travel, by bringing in features like triple entry permits valid for one year and completion of the verification process within six weeks. We are also proposing early operationalisation of Kargil-Skardu and Jammu-Sialkot routes, and increasing the frequency of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakot bus services to weekly from the present fortnightly. We will discuss these issues shortly with Pakistan. For convenience of travellers, applications for entry permit can be made at each District Passport Collection Centre. These measures will expand travel across the LoC and also enable wider cultural, academic, students and other exchanges. Trade and truck services across the LoC will also be operationalised.

12.05 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (On behalf of Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal) With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 28th of April, 2008, will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking approval for the extension of President's Rule beyond 19th May, 2008 in relation to the State of Karnataka.
3. Consideration and passing of the National Waterway (Talcher-Dhamra Stretch of Rivers, Geonkhali-Charbatia Stretch of East Coast Canal, Charbatia-Dhamra Stretch of Matai River and Mahanadi Delta Rivers) Bill, 2006.
4. Consideration and passing of the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2007.
5. Consideration and passing of the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research Puducherry Bill, 2008, as passed by Rajya Sabha.
6. Consideration and passing of the Central Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2008, after it is passed by Rajya Sabha.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request that following items may kindly be included in next week's List of Business:

1. Need to ensure additional gas supply by M/s OIL and GAIL to operate at optimum capacity of both gas turbines of Ramgarh gas thermal project of Rajasthan.
2. Need to ensure share of State Government in profits earned from petroleum exploration in desert of Western Rajasthan.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. The serious situation of scarcity of foodgrains, especially rice, in Kerala which has arisen due to the refusal of the Centre to give adequate quota of rice to the State and the drastic cut of 82 per cent of allotment of APL quota of rice thereof.
2. The threat due to opening up of retail sector of trade to multinationals and large corporates to retail merchants in India and the need to bring a Central Legislation to regulate the trading sector to safeguard small merchants.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly include following two items in next week's List of Business:

1. It has become difficult for people to survive due to price rise of essential commodities including foodgrains. The prices of steel, iron and cement used in construction work have gone up. The prices of all things like foodgrains, clothing, houses have gone up. I would like to demand from Union Government that to make survival of people possible, prices should be brought down. "Roti Kapda Aur Makan Aur Dainindin Upyog Ke Saamaan Sabke Bade Hue Daam, Kendra Sarkar Se Karte Hain Maang Kam Kare Daam Jisse Janjiwan Ho Aasaan."

MR. SPEAKER: This is a poem.

[English]

Next one will be in Sanskrit?

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir at present I am mentioning it.

[Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya]

2. The LPG cooking gas is costly and it is not even available on demand. Consumers are compelled to buy it in black market. Therefore, the Central Government should make LPG available at reasonable price and on demand. Further, supply of LPG gas should be ensured through pipeline for domestic use and industrial supply in Ujjain.

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly include the following subjects in the coming weeks list of Business of Lok Sabha:

1. Providing stoppage of Garib Rath and Bihar Sampark Kranti trains at Deoria Sadar Railway Station in Deoria district.

2. Providing stoppage of Durg Express train and Godan Express at the industrial area Bilthara Road and stoppage of Durg Express and Bapudham Express at Salempur and stoppage of Inter City at Kidiharapur as was available earlie.

SHRIMATI SUMAN MAHATO (Jamshedpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly include the following two subjects in the coming week's list of business of Lok Sabha:

1. In my parliamentary constituency, East Singbhum, the railway sleeper manufacturing units, Daya Concrete, Daya Engineering Works and Concert House Limited at Dhalbhumgarh in Ghatshila is closed since long. More than 500 staff and labourers are working in it. Due to the closure of these Units employees have reached on the brink of starvation. Therefore, these closed units should be restarted in public interest at the earliest.

2. Due to steep increase in the price of cement in the country during the last six months, people are finding it difficult to construct their houses. Therefore, I demand that the Government should take proper steps to reduce the price of cement in public interest.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): The following items may be included in the next week's Agenda:—

1. Need to bring a comprehensive legislation on Unorganized Labour as a fulfillment of commitment in Common Minimum Programme.

2. Need to bring a comprehensive legislation on Solid and Liquid Waste Management in view of the sanitation problems and health hazards arising out of the environmental pollution.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar): The following items may be included in next week's agenda:—

1. Need to discuss issues regarding shortage of LPG.

2. Need to discuss issues regarding setting up of various irrigation projects, especially to raise the water table and water harvesting issue.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): The following items may be included in next week's agenda:—

1. Immediate completion of All-India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) at Bhubneshwar, Orissa.

2. To set up two to three rehabilitation centres in each state for the AIDS affected orphaned children of our country.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. This is a very good subject.

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly include the following subjects in the coming week's List of Business:—

1. Consideration on the Bill regarding inclusion of Rajasthani language in the Eighth Scheduled of the Constitution and recognizing it. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We know about it, I remind it everyday.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not given any direction. I have just reminded it.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: About providing reservation to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in the appointment of the judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Is it very important.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Sir, kindly include the following subjects in the next week's List of Business:

1. In Punjab, Ropar is a historical district which includes historical towns such as Shri Anandpur Saheb, Kiratpur Saheb, Chamkaur Saheb, Nangal etc. Likewise, Mohali too is an industrial district but there is no Kendriya Vidyalaya in these districts so a Kendriya Vidyalaya should be opened here.

2. A large area of land is lying vacant in Nangal, Punjab. Therefore, SEZ should be established there or the closed big workship should be restarted to mobilize means of employment.

12.13 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury. You have to express your regrets.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): I really apologise, Sir. I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 679(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th October, 2007 under sub-section (3) of section 68 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 75(E) dated the 8th February, 2008.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8653/08]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, 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 Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, New Delhi, 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-8654/08]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we take up Special Mentions. Yes, Shri Krishnadas.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir....

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to you. I have committed to you.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you one by one. I will call you.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Your name will be called, please have patience. They are very agitated today.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The hon. Minister has admitted it in Rajya Sabha. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You may speak when I call you.

[English]

Yes, Shri Krishnadas.

12.14 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re: Restoration of Foodgrains Quota allocated to Kerala by the Union Government under P.D.S.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): This is a very important matter, we would like to raise in the House. Kerala is a State known, from the very beginning itself,

[Shri N.N. Krishnadas]

as a food deficit State. During our First Green Revolution itself, the then Prime Minister, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastriji, said....

MR. SPEAKER: Oh, dear! You are coming from that time.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: I should mention this thing. He advised us, "You should produce cash crops and whatever the food grains you require, we will provide them." That is why, Kerala is the only one State, from the beginning itself, which is having a statutory rationing system and a very well developed Public Distribution System. Now, what happened? In our State, we were getting 1 lakh and 30 thousand metric tonnes of food grains and today it is 21 thousand metric tonnes and again, last week, it was reduced to 4000 metric tonnes. Now, it is reduced to 82 per cent. It is such a food deficit State. It is a very serious matter and all the MPs from Kerala are concerned with it; hundred per cent MPs from Kerala are supporting this UPA Government.

So, all the MPs from Kerala are supporting the UPA Government, but this Government is doing total injustice to Kerala. Kerala being a food deficit State, this act of the Government is totally unjustified. Therefore, we urge upon the Government to immediately restore the quota of foodgrains allocation to Kerala at the earliest. This is the demand we would like to the Government. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): You may withdraw support. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.C. Thomas, Shri Francis George, Shri Rupchand Pal, Shri Karunakaran, Shri Suresh Kurup, Shrimati Sujatha, Shrimati Satheedevi, Shri Ram Gopal Yadav, Shri Mohan Singh, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, Shri Chandrappan and the names of all the other hon. Members who wish to associate will be associated with this matter.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in spite of the assurance given by the Food Minister to restore the quota, it has not been done. ... *(Interruptions)* The Leader of the House is sitting here. We demand that he should respond to this issue. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed you. I am thankful to you all that you accepted my request to wait till the Question Hour is completed.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening? No, this is not expected of you. Please don't do this.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I can only say this is very unfortunate. If you follow certain tactics which does not add to your glory and which does not show importance to the subject, will it serve the purpose? The Minister has already responded.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa's statement will go on record.

(Interruptions) ...*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed you. All your names have been associated.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not adjourn the House.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sukhdeo Singh Dhindsa.

SHRI SUKHDEO SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Sir, my ... (*Interruptions*) they shoul allow me to speak. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Sukhdeo Singh Dhindsa's statement will be recorded.

... (*Interruptions*)*

---

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEO SINGH DHINDSA: Sir, you please let him speak. ... (*Interruptions*) nobody is willing to listen. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point. You have placed your demand before the House. What do you want?

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Those who are in the aisle will be in trouble. I will issue notices against you, Mr. Ajaya Kumar. Take down the names of Members who are standing in the aisle.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Basu Deb Acharia, I would request you to ask them to go away from the aisle.

... *(Interruptions)*

12.18 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri P.C. Thomas came and sat near the Table.)

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEO SINGH DHINDSA: You have lodged your protest. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except Mr. Dhindsa's statement.

(Interruptions) ...*

12.19 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri P.C. Thomas went back to his seat.)

... *(Interruptions)*

---

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not even got an ounce of food with me, how can I give it to you. Why are you disturbing the House? You have raised it very forcefully. I have allowed you to raise it. I am grateful to you that you have allowed the Question Hour to continue. I do not know, how are you helping your cause.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Finance Minister has already said. What can be done?

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything.

... *(Interruptions)**

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Members that as the Food and Agriculture Minister is not present here, I will convey the sentiment of the hon. Members. The other day, while replying exhaustively, he explained the position. But still when the hon. Members have brought this matter to the attention of the House, I will convey it to him and I will see that what best, in the given situation, can be done... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, in the other House, the hon. Minister gave an assurance... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Finance Minister has also assured you. The Leader of the House has also said it.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am very hurt and disappointed. You are following tactics which are not to be followed.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Leader of the House has given an assurance that he will faithfully report it to the concerned Minister and they will try to do whatever can be done.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your demand. They have heard it. What more can you do?

... *(Interruptions)*

---

*Not recorded.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, there has been no assurance...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What assurance? Is this the way for the Parliament to run that immediately an assurance can be given?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Of course, Sir... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, that is your perception.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we have been raising this issue from the very first day and in spite of our raising the issue, further four per cent has been reduced... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, we want an assurance that problems of distress of Kerala will be addressed by the Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not record anything that is being said without my permission.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed you. I have given full hearing. I do not approve of the methods that have been adopted by the Left Parties. Yes, Mr. Dhindsa, kindly go ahead.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has assured full consideration and I am sure the seriousness of the matter is being perceived by the Government and certainly, if you want me to join, I am sure I am joining in the request to take all necessary action as the hon. Members are agitating. If you are not satisfied even after this and you think that your voice is more important, then I cannot help it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Thank you, Sir... *(Interruptions)*

---

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Thomas, you are going beyond your limits. You have already violated the rules. Now, I am not giving empty threats, I will start taking action.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, this is a very serious issue... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record one word of Mr. Thomas.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEO SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Finance Minister is present here. Through you, I want to bring an issue to his notice. I was in Punjab yesterday. The office of Cycling Federation of India is at Velodrome there. I am its President. There were some political persons there and the Income Tax Officer was also there who has broken the locks. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Is this in Delhi or elsewhere?

SHRI SUKHDEO SINGH DHINDSA: This is in Delhi.

[Translation]

They broke the locks and entered into office. They were there for four to five hours.

[English]

Sir, I am grateful to the Commissioner of Police.

[Translation]

I told him about the events and then he registered a case against him. Today, I have also written a letter to the Finance Minister.

[English]

that officer should be suspended immediately.

[Translation]

What could be more serious an offence than the act of breaking the locks of the office of MP and genuine

President by an ITO officer. I want that he should be immediately placed under suspension and inquiry should be initiated against him.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I am grateful to you for agreeing to my request.

Now, Shri Lonappan Nambadan.

[Translation]

*SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (Mukundapuram): Sir, I request, that the Government order issued on 3rd April 2008, banning recruitments in eleven Central Government Presses should be immediately withdrawn.

Lakhs of applications were received for various vacancies in Central Government Presses following the advertisements published by the Government. The order banning fresh recruitments came at a time when call letters had already been issued for the written tests and interviews.

If these existing vacancies are not filled up by 17th May, 2008 these posts will get lapsed. This would then mean the closer of eleven Central Government Presses and it will even drive thousands of families to the verge of poverty.

The only Central Government Press in Kerala began to function at Koratty in the year 1966.

As per the Government policy the Koratty Printing Press should have 333 employees, but now it has only 154 employees. Even with half the strength of required employees, this Government Press is giving hundred percent output. It has even won the award for being the best Central Government press in the country.

Lakhs of youngsters who have applied for employment in various Government Presses are now disappointed. For one hundred and forty posts at Koratty Press, there were sixty thousand applications.

I request through you Speaker Sir, that the Government order banning fresh recruitments should be withdrawn so that the existing posts do not get lapsed.

*English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very serious matter in the House. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You speak on Sixth Pay Commission.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise the matter about the Sixth Pay Commission. The other matter does not arise now.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter regarding Shri T.R. Baalu. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: For this you have to give a notice.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You know very well.

[Translation]

You know better than me.

... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He himself had admitted the fact that he had put pressure. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: For this a notice has to be given.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Rajya Sabha, the Minister himself has admitted it. ... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He himself has admitted that he had put pressure. The hon. Prime Minister wrote eight letters. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You know about it.

[English]

You have to follow the rules.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: A CBI inquiry should be conducted into it so that facts in this regard come into light. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you give a notice for a Motion. I have not disallowed it.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a notice is required in the matter of* .....? This *..... Therefore what is need of notice in this regard? It can be raised without giving notice. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You know it very well that. I helped you a lot.

... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thousand of companies are being closed. ... *(Interruptions)* Thousands of companies are not getting gas. It is a very serious matter that Prime Minister's office is involved in it. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, you can raise it in a proper form. I am not disputing it.

[Translation]

You speak on other issue.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when recommendations of Sixth Pay Commission were to be submitted, the Government servants and others related to it had great expectations. But, unfortunately, resentment is prevailing among employees except I.A.S. officials. The employees are staging dharnas and protests against it. The most sufferer is our armed forces. It is the first time in the history that the Chiefs of three forces met the Defence Minister to express their resentment in this regard. They have raised their voice. Ex Servicemen are staging dharana at many places in the country and protesting agianst it. Group 'C' and Group 'D' employees are also raising their voice agianst it. There is resentment among Police personnel, para military personnel and teachers. Thus, not a single group is satisfied.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: No one except I.A.S. officers is satisfied with it.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): And even among them, only senior I.A.S. officers are satisfied with it.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Thus, except senior I.A.S. officers no employee is satisfied with it. The Government said that a Committee has been constituted in this regard. They may submit memoranda to the Committee. How much time this would take? Whether the Government would take action to give interim relief to the employees during this period? Keeping in view the price rise, it is necessary to provdie them interim pay relief. If it is necessary then Government should consider constituting a separate Pay Commission for armed forces to remove resentment among them, they should not be linked with general civil services.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, I associate with Malhotraji's views and I would like to say that the Members of the Committee which is constituted are I.A.S. officers. I.A.S. officers have done ...* and only they have been included in the Committee. How would it serve the purpose.

MR. SPEAKER: This word will not be included in proceedings.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Therefore, a separate Committee should be constituted and if possible, it should be reviewed by a Parliamentary Committee so that justice may be done to all. I would like to submit this only.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Your name will be associated.

[Translation]

But this word will not be included.

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Replace this world with irregularity.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dushyant Singh has associated with Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra's views.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, I rise to raise a matter of urgent public importance. The entire country especially Uttar Pradesh and districts adjoining Bundelkhand are reeling under drought which has caused the problem of irrigation and drinking water. A delegation of six hon'ble Members, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prof. Ramgopal Yadav met the Prime Minister in his Parliament House Office regarding problem of drinking water where the Minister of Rural Development said that funds are available to meet the demand to provdie 500-500 handpumps to the Hon'ble Members of Parliament, subject to approval by the hon. Prime Minister in this regard. The hon. Prime Minister said that each Member of Parliament will be given 500-500 handpumps, if there is no paucity of funds with Ministry of Rural Development. But till date no action has been taken on that and water level is receding day by day in Kaushambi, Pratapgarh, Allahabad and Bundelkhand which is resulting in serious problem of irrigation and drinking water.

Therefore, through you, I would like to demand that a provision in Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme should be made in this regard so that the Members of Parliament may intall India Mark-2 handpumps in their respective constituencies. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has raised objections that due to technical reasons, permission will not be given to instal handpumps from the funds given by Member of Parliament from their Local Area Development Scheme. It is a very serious matter. I would like to draw attention of the Government towards it. It should issue directions to the Government of Uttar Pradesh and ensure making a provision for installation of handpumps from Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme.

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am going to raise a very serious issue. Measles has been a major cause of morbidity and mortality among children below five years of age in India. According to India's Central Bureau of Health Intelligence in 2005, nearly 52,500 children were affected by measles. Serum Institute in Pune has been India's stable supplier of anti-measles vaccines. The Union Health Ministry has been purchasing 350 lakh doses of the vaccines annually for its immunization programme.

However, recently, the Union Health Ministry has allowed one Human Biological Institute, Hyderabad to supply 90 lakh doses. These new anti-measles vaccines were allotted to Tamil Nadu and administered to a number of children. But four children died within a few minutes, soon after the vaccine was given at a Primary Health Centre in Poondi panchayat union of Tiruvallur District in Tamil Nadu.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to withdraw the entire batch of spurious anti-measles vaccines and to protect the children from the recurrence of such incidents in future. I would also urge that suitable necessary action may be initiated against the company, which manufactured these spurious measles vaccines.

MR. SPEAKER: I heard the Health Minister saying that they have been withdrawn.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to a very serious matter regarding the miseries of the flood-affected people of Orissa.

The Government of India has allocated 1.87 lakh metric tonnes of food grains to Orissa for undertaking relief employment work in the flood-affected districts, which suffered in flood in 2006. This allotment was made in lieu of cash assistance for relief employment. The district-wise requirement of food grains has been intimated to the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India since November, 2007. However, no food grain has so far been issued in favour of the State Government. But, you know, Sir, the monsoon is coming very shortly. How is this Government behaving with the miseries of the flood-affected people? Even in the relief assistance, they are playing politics. They are not even providing the foodgrains that is required and that has been allocated.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not bring politics into everything.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, 1.87 lakh metric tonnes of food grains were allocated since long. It has not been issued. If food grain is not available, they can give cash. Nobody is going to say no. But they have allotted 1.87 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains. Everything is ready. Even the Government of Orissa is ready for

matching cash component. The Chief Minister is meeting the Ministers time and again. They are ready to give the matching grant for their share of cash component. So, it is now necessary that either they send the food grains to continue the relief employment work. Otherwise, they can give cash. So, my earnest request, through you, to the Government is that it should come forward immediately to issue the food grains so that relief measures can be continued in the State, which is seriously affected.

Sir, monsoon is coming. Orissa is a State like the Eastern States where the monsoon is coming very shortly.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not good to repeat it. Thank you.

Now, Shrimati Suman Mahato. She has an important matter. Please allow her.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: So, I would request, through you, that the Government should assure about this. Sir, the Finance Minister is here.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMAN MAHTO (Jamshedpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House and say that the situation of supply of power has worsened in the entire Jharkhand especially in Manago Karnadi, Parsudi, Adityapur, Birsa Nagar, industrial area of the Eastern Singhbhum district and other adjoining areas. As a result, industrial units of that area are on the verge of closure. This has also adversely affected the studies of the students. There is severe crisis of drinking water also. Hence, through you, I would like to urge the Government to ensure the adequate supply of power to Jharkhand State in public interest immediately.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are not the only Member in the House.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, as the mercury is rising day by day and drinking water is becoming scarce, an attempt is being made to sell bottled drinking water in plastic bottles and pouches without maintaining the quality of the water. Attempt should be made to provide water to all instead of propagating bottled water for all.

Today, bottled water is being banned in the so-called world class cities. Recent reports have stated that in the United States, San Francisco has banned it; Chicago has started taxing it; and Seattle is taking action against bottled water.

I would like to know from the Government whether the Government is proposing to bottle up all water for assured equitable distribution and access for all. Just to underline the phenomenon of a flourishing bottled water industry, the slogan now seems to be that we are quite developed. Therefore, instead of water for all, should we ask for bottled water for all? When we demand water for all, it is the public water we are calling for. Bottled water is not about conserving water system. Neither all bottled water is clean nor safe.

I would urge the Government to ensure clean and safe drinking water. Attempts should be also to discourage the use of plastic which adds up to the cloaking of landfill and has tremendous impact on our environment. Therefore, only certified and clean drinking water be marketed and strict action be taken against those who are marketing spurious bottled water. At the same time, the Government should restrict massive extraction of water by the bottled water industry that is disturbing the aqua file, which is impossible to restore.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Thank you, Sir. In the National Capital Territory region of Delhi, as you know, thousands of industries are there and workers from different parts of the country are working here. It is the hunting ground for the working people. In most of the factories, there is violation of labour laws, no minimum wage is paid and there are lots of attacks on the workers. Because of the price rise also, they are in great trouble. With the submission of Sixth Pay Commission's Report, the salaried employees are getting hike in their salaries, the workers have no revision of pay.

MR. SPEAKER: Briefly mention it so that I can allow.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, I may tell you that hundreds of workers are on strike in the National Capital Territory Region of Delhi since yesterday. Two days' strike is going on under the leadership of CITU and thousands of workers are on strike. I would request the Government to look into the problems of the working class in the National Capital Territory Region and their just demands are accepted by the Government in the interest of the working class. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already allowed 15 hon. Members.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore): Sir, I associate myself with this.

MR. SPEAKER: Please associate.

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Sir, my parliamentary constituency is a hilly area and the same is called Kandi. There has been no rain for the last four-five years resulting in drought-like situation there. The farmers are sleeping in their farms to protect their crops, still their crops are being destroyed by animals. On the one hand, there is poverty and on the other hand the absence of irrigation facilities and lack of rain are destroying the crops. Third problem is that the electric wire crossing over the farms of the farmers have sparking and consequently the crops catch fire and are burnt to ashes. Hence, I would like to urge the Government to provide a special package to Kandi are to compensate the loss of crops due to drought, fire and animals.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have got 35 notices. I cannot call everybody immediately. Please wait.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi): Thank you, Sir. With your permission, I would like to raise this issue of urgent importance. Last week, in my State of Himachal Pradesh, for four to five days, moderate to heavy snowfall and hailstorm had intensified in the higher reaches. Tribal belt of Kinnaur, Lahul Spiti and Tangi-Bharmour had moderate to heavy snowfall. In my constituency of Mandi in Himachal Pradesh, Kinnaur, Kulu and other areas had very heavy snowfall between 20 and 25 centimetres. This is totally an unseasonal cold spell.

MR. SPEAKER: Climate change.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: This is an unprecedented situation, very rare that such a hostile condition is there for fruit growers and farmers. As you know, Himachal Pradesh is popularly known as the 'Apple State of India' and is poised to emerge as the fruit bowl of India in the near future. But due to this unprecedented situation, the fruit growers and farmers are worried over the situation and seek Central help.

Though the official figures from the State Government are yet to come, but the estimated loss is of Rs. 800 crore which is due to this recent hailstorm. As the reports said, the hailstorm had played havoc with the fruit growers mainly of apple, plum, apricot, peach and pears and even wheat and rabi crops.

Through you, I would like to urge upon the Central Government to send a Central team to the affected areas where the losses had been incurred and immediately some relief should be provided to the affected fruit growers and farmers.

Sir, through you I would appeal to the Central Government that the Centre should provide compensation to the affected fruit growers and farmers of Himachal Pradesh. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhusudan Mistry to speak. I think this is about your constituency.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, I am thankful that the hon. Minister of Finance is here. I just want to draw your attention, and also the attention of the Finance Minister to an important issue. A lot of people from the western region of Gujarat invest money in the Capital Market.

MR. SPEAKER: Too many of them do it!

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: There are a lot of small investors who invest money in the Capital Market. There is a tradition in Gujarat, namely, of people investing money in the Capital Market.

But I am very sorry to state that SEBI, which is a Regulator of the Capital Market, has regional offices only in the South and the East. Sometimes, a lot of problems are caused to the small investors in the Capital Market when the IPO has been issued and money is not paid by the company or there are problems with the banks or such other related issues. Hence, many of them have to go all the way to the Head Office in Mumbai to represent their grievance related to this.

I would request the Government, especially, the Finance Minister to start a regional office of SEBI in Ahmedabad or Gujarat as bulk of the money in the Capital Market is coming from Gujarat.

MR. SPEAKER: You want to monopolize it. Next Member is Shri Ram Kripal Yadav. I will find out who all are troubling me, and I will call them last.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Why are you so annoyed with me?

MR. SPEAKER: If you sit here, only then you will know.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a serious and sensitive matter. A special police force is active round the clock to maintain peace and harmony in our country. Remaining far away from their homes, kiths and kins, the police personnel sort out the problems of the people of the country with total honesty and complete dedication. They put their lives at stake in this work. I will appreciate the Government as it recognizes the services rendered by the police personnel and confers on them Vishist Sewa Medal and Appreciation Sewa Mandal. I feel that the medals given for their dedication and sacrifice serve the purpose of inspiring and encouraging them and simultaneously infuse into them the sense of responsibility and sacrifice towards the country. Further, I feel that other facilities are also required to be enhanced along with medals to create a sense of responsibility and allegiance. I would like to urge the Government to provide the following facilities for the Vishista Sewa Medal & Appreciation Sewa Medal Recipient police personnel:

1. They should be provided facility of free of cost rail journey along with an attendant in second class AC.
2. 75 per cent concession for the journey performed by air in all the airlines whether private or Government.
3. Concession in telephone bills.
4. Cash payments of Rs. 750 and Rs. 460 should also be made respectively to the recipients of Vishit Sewal Medal and Appreciation Sewa Medal.

I would like to urge the Government that my recommendations may be taken care of and immediate action taken thereon. Other services provide many facilities for the medal recipient personnel while the same is not available to police personel. It is, therefore, requested that the Government should take initiative and do the needful.

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised a very good matter. The police personnel will be very happy.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Thank you, Sir. I would like to raise an important matter relating to the law clerks who are working in the courts across the country. I am, particularly, referring to the problems of the law clerks who are working in the Supreme Court. They have no statutory remuneration, bonus benefits, pension benefits and other amenities.

Some of the States have already framed some legislation for it, and notification has also been issued in some States. The hon. Minister is well acquainted with the problems of the law clerks. Therefore, I would request, through you, to the Minister of Law that a fresh legislation should be brought out immediately for the welfare of the law clerks, particularly, of the Supreme Court.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, cooperative movement in our country has more than a century old history. It formed part of our freedom movement also. Later on, in the cooperative sector, cooperative banks came to play an important role in serving the poor and the middle class by mobilizing small savings and by providing credit at affordable rates. Cooperative banks have done an excellent job in providing banking service and credit facility to the vast majority of rural and semi-urban population. This service has been appreciated by most of the Committees appointed by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India. These Committees have in fact opined that the Government must encourage these banks further by providing them additional concessions. However, the Government of India, especially the hon. Finance Minister, has imposed in the Budget 2006 a hefty income tax on the income of cooperative banks by withdrawing the concessions available to them under Section 80P. It is unfortunate that the Government of India, instead of giving them concessions which were available for decades has imposed a hefty tax.

MR. SPEAKER: It cannot be a speech, Dr. Manoj. You have mentioned the matter.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Sir, while giant corporate and software industries get many concessions and pay an effective tax of only 19 per cent, cooperative banks are not allowed any concessions and have to pay 30 per cent of income tax. These banks are made to suffer another discrimination also. Deposits of Scheduled Banks of five-year tenure get income tax rebate under Section 80C. This rebate is not available to the deposits in cooperative banks. This would cause migration of deposits making the cooperative banks further weak. So, I would urge upon the Government and the hon. Finance Minister to provide income tax relief to cooperative banks under Section 80P and to extend Section 80C rebate to cooperative bank deposits also.

MR. SPEAKER: In place of five, I have given 23 hon. Members opportunity today. If one or two hon. Members are left, they can raise their issues at the end of the day.

12.52 hrs.

FINANCE BILL, 2008

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We now come to a very important item of business and that is Item No.14, Finance Bill, 2008.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2008-2009, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2008-2009, be taken into consideration."

The time allotted for this is eight hours. Shri Swain, I will listen to you on the TV.

12.53 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I welcome you to the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Thank you.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, since it is the Finance Bill, I shall deal with two of the taxation proposals first and deal with the contours of broad economic policies later.

The hon. Finance Minister during his Budget Speech this year mentioned that people utilize their ill-gotten earnings through anonymous contributions, that is *gupt daan*, in building educational institutions, medical colleges, which are run commercially and these covert methods are adopted through charitable institutions and that they had rightly been taxed at the rate of 30 per cent. I have no objection to that. The intention of the hon. Finance Minister is pious. But, there are genuine charitable institutions which run *Goshaalaas,* orphanages, old-age homes, etc., and which collect donations from the common public for that. In India there is a tradition to make *gupt daan* by the people. People make donations without making their names known.

In this case also 30 per cent tax is being charged on that *gupt daan* which is actually made for a very pious and good purpose. My question to the hon Finance Minister, through you, Sir, should these people be taxed at the rate of 30 per cent. The intention of the Government should be to separate the chaff from the grain, to separate the right from the wrong and to punish the bad and the guilty while awarding the good. So, my appeal to the hon. Finance Minister is to find out a way and amend the Taxation law suitably so as to exempt a genuine *gupt daan*, anonymous contribution to the charitable organisation, from 30 per cent taxation.

My second point is with regard to Sikkim. In Sikkim there are 400 petty traders who have migrated from other parts of India to that princely State about 100 years back and who now have amalgamated, integrated themselves to the mainstream of the Sikkimese society. In this year's Budget, the Indian income tax provision has been extended to only these 400 migrated families whereas it has not been extended to all other Sikkimese people. These families have been enjoying all the rights and privileges listed in the Sikkim citizenship register and accorded to the Sikkim nationals without any discrimination for the last one century. But the present Budget proposal of 2008 has exempted Sikkimese people from income tax whereas these migrated people would be paying this tax. What would be the consequences of it? It is not only the question of just paying some taxes. They are

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

now being treated as non-Sikkimese, as outsiders. If they only pay the taxes, after some time they will be forced to be driven out of Sikkim and they will have no other way but to come out of the State. So, my appeal to the hon. Finance Minister is to have a uniform law for all the Sikkimese, including those who have migrated to that place about 100 years back. So, if income tax is to be paid, let it be paid by everybody or if it is to be exempted, these 400 families should also be exempted.

I now come to the broad economic policy of this country which was made during the Budget speech of the hon. Finance Minister. Let us come to the loan waiver scheme. At the time of the Budget speech I had asked the hon. Finance Minister from where did he get the figure that four crore farmers have been benefited by the loan waiver scheme and how did he arrive at the figure that Rs. 60,000 crore has been waived to the farmers. The Budget speech was made on the 29th February, 2008. The Finance Ministry, through the Reserve Bank, had asked all the banks throughout the country to give a detailed figure as to how many people owe how much money to the banks, cooperative societies and to the RRBs.

13.00 hrs.

The Reserve Bank was asked to give a detailed figure to the Ministry of Finance by March 20, 2008. On 29th February, the hon. Finance Minister declared that loans of four crore farmers have been waived. He also said that loans amounting to Rs. 60,000 crore have been waived.

Now he says that it will be waived in the course of next three years. That means he is going to pass on the burden to the next Government, whereas, this Government is going to take all the credit for waiving loans. Actually, the burden is being passed on to the next Government. I hope when the hon. Finance Minister will give his reply, he would reply to my points also. I read it from the newspapers and I know it from various sources that only Rs. 10,000 crore have been provided this year and not Rs. 60,000 crore. The rest of the money would be paid by the next Government. We were also told by the officers that during Mr. Devi Lal's time, the loan waiver was phased over the next two years. So, it was staggered for the next two years. This Government is just following the same thing.

When we go to the villages, the farmers come to us and say that they are totally confused. They say that the co-operative society which has given them money, is telling them many things. They do not know what sort of loan waiver they are going to have. They say that since you are an MP, you are sitting in Parliament and you must have understood it better. So, you just give us the details and tell us what sort of loan waiver it is going to be. As a Member of the Standing Committee on Finance, I have not got all the details even from the officers. They told us that they are working out the details and only by 30th June, everything will be known to everybody. But they assured us that the loan would be waived off. Now loan would be waived to all the farmers who have not paid back their dues by 29th February, 2008. But what will happen to the farmers who have already paid back partially or fully? We asked this to everybody. We asked the hon. Finance Minister and the officers also. They said that nothing will happen. The other day when there was a debate on the 'price rise', we asked this to the Minister of Agriculture also. What did he say? He said that those people who have already paid back—the honest farmers—partially or fully, there is a provision for giving two per cent interest subvention to them. So, this is all that we can do and nothing more could be done about that. I would like to give you one example. In the previous Government in Karnataka prior to the President's Rule, when Mr. Yedurappa of my Party was the hon. Finance Minister there. He also introduced a similar type of loan-waiver scheme for the farmers. What he did there? Those farmers who had paid back partially or fully that money was refunded to them. If a State Government could do it, why does the Central Government not do it? I would appeal to the hon. Finance to do this. The farmers are asking us the same thing to us. They asked whether they committed a mistake by paying back. Those people who did not pay back, they are getting the benefit and because other paid back and they are honest, they are not going to get any benefit. They are being penalised. That is why, I would appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to consider this. Is it not the responsibility of the Government of India to benefit those honest farmers who regularly pay back? They say that it is they who have saved the co-operative societies. It is because they paid back the money, the cooperative societies are surviving.

Otherwise it would have been closed like many RRBs. That is why this is my first point and let the hon. Finance Minister respond to this point, when he replies to the debate on this Bill, as to what he is going to do about those farmers who have already paid back.

Sir, my second point is on an experience that I encountered in my area. Suppose a co-operative society has given a loan of Rs. 1,000 to a farmer some five years back. Every year the society people would come and ask the farmer to pay back only the interest amount. They collect the interest and on paper they show this principal amount of Rs. 1,000, taken five years back, as a fresh loan. Now the rule for waiver, according to the hon. Finance Minister, is that any loan taken before 31st March, 2007 is going to be waived. But these loans which are practically old loans but are being shown as fresh loans because every year the interest on the loan is being collected by the societies and the principal amount is being shown as fresh loans are not going to be waived because these have been shown in the register as having been paid after 31st of March, 2007. I would like to appeal to the hon. Finance Minister that these types of practically old loans should also be waived. He should consider this aspect.

Sir, let us take the example of the commercial banks. There is a mandatory stipulation that all the commercial banks in this country are supposed to lend 18 per cent of their total credit to the agricultural sector as rural credit. But it is most unfortunate–I being a Member of the Standing Committee on Finance for nine years—that even though year after year we have been making this point in the Committee, not many banks have come forward to achieve the target of 18 per cent stipulation of rural credit. Only about one-third of the nationalised banks have achieved this target, whereas the other banks have not achieved it. We have been making this point to the hon. Finance Minister year after year. It is true that even when our Party was in power no bank came forward to achieve this target of 18 per cent stipulation of rural credit. But the Finance Minister take the credit for achieving and over-achieving of doubling rural credit during the last four years. If that be the case, why is it that all the banks have not achieved the stipulated target of 18 per cent rural credit? What action is the Finance Minister going to take against those banks which have not fulfilled this target of giving 18 per cent rural credit?

Sir, I would like to raise another very pertinent point here and that is with regard to suicide of farmers. You will be surprised to know that the farmers in a State like Orissa are not committing suicide. The farmers of Bihar and West Bengal are not committing suicide and not even in a State like Punjab that you represent. The grain growing farmers are not committing suicide. The farmers who grow wheat and rice are not committing suicide. It is the farmers who are well off and better off in States like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh or even sometimes in Gujarat are committing suicide. What is the reason for that? The farmers who are poor are not committing suicide. We have been appealing to the Finance Minister for years for introducing crop insurance scheme. For the last so many years there was an allocation of a pittance amount of Rs. 100 crore for crop insurance scheme by the Central Government. Now that amount has been enhanced to something like Rs. 200 or Rs. 400 crore. An entire block has now been taken as a unit for crop insurance. If the entire block loses its crop, which never happens, then only the farmers will be eligible to get crop insurance.

Otherwise, he will not. But do you believe that in the entire block area, the crop will be lost? Does it happen any time? It is not only me but almost all the hon. Members of the House have argued several times that gram panchayat should be taken as a unit. Last time also, we appealed to the hon. Minister and he may remember that in his budget speech, he has said that the proposal has gone to the Planning Commission, the Planning Commission is looking into it and probably, they will give an answer. I am asking the hon. Finance Minister as to what happened to his proposal on crop insurance. If he can give Rs. 60,000 crore as loan waiver, why can he not give Rs. 10,000 crore as crop insurance? It is because if a farmer in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka or in Andhra Pradesh loses his crop, and if he is adequately compensated by crop insurance scheme, then probably, he will not commit suicide. He is committing suicide only because he is not getting the price for his produce. That is why, I am appealing the hon. Finance Minister that he should reply to what has happened to this proposal of ours.

Let me tell him that he and his Party, the Congress Party, took great credit the day he declared that there is going to be a loan waiver scheme amounting to Rs. 60,000 crore. And the way the Congress Party Members thumped the desks, we thought that probably everything will break and that they have already come to power for their next term. That is what we thought. But now I will give him some statistics.

The hon. Prime Minister had gone to Vidarbha and there, he had declared a huge package. What has been the result? After January 2008, there have been 316 suicides by farmers and 40 farmers committed suicide in Marathwada. The same is the case in Maharahstra where Congress Party is in power and the hon. Agriculture Minister's Party, the NCP, is a part of the coalition

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

Government with the Congress Party. In Western Maharashtra, which is comparatively a prosperous area, 31 farmers have committed suicide. The NGOs from that area say that the figures are much more because not all the suicide cases of farmers are reported. But the Government there says that these farmers have committed suicide but these are not agriculture-related suicides. These suicides are due to something else. This is the result of the hon. Prime Minister's declaration of a huge package. Let the Finance Minister say whether he has succeeded or not. Has his Government succeeded in preventing the suicide of farmers which is one of the most serious things in this country?

Why has it happened? About 60 per cent of agricultural areas depend on rain. These are all rain-fed areas. The Government is supposed to make 85 million hectares of non-irrigated land as productive land. How do they make it and for that, what did they do? The Government has set up a National Rainfed Area Authority last year and the scheme was allocated Rs. 100 crore. This has happened last year. How much money has been spent last year for this? Not a single rupee has been spent. An amount of Rs. 100 cores has been allocated for the National Rainfed Area Authority last year and not even a rupee has been spent. The Government have now committed that Rs. 2500 crore will be allocated for the National Rainfed Area Authority in the Eleventh Plan and Rs. 348 crores will be allocated for only this year, 2008-09. That Authority has formed a Rainfed Development Scheme and it will go in for rainfed area development. Even if we say that Rs. 2500 crores will be spent in the next five years for the rainfed area development, in the next five years, what percentage of the 85 million hectares of non-irrigated area will be irrigated?

It will be 2.6 per cent in the next five years. The Standing Committee on Agriculture gave its Report in which it has said that if the Government goes in this way, it will take the Government more than 100 years to cover the whole of 85 million hectares. So, this is what the Government has planned and this is how the country and the farmers are going to be benefited.

The neglect of the rain-fed area is one of the major causes of resentment in lakhs of people of this country and this could be one of the major factors for the spread of naxalism also in this country. The exorbitant money that we are spending for importing oil and other commodities could have been saved if sufficient funds were allocated for the development of rain-fed areas. This is what I say and this is what the Standing Committee on Agriculture said. Most of the time our hon. Finance Minister is talking about delivery mechanism and delivery system. This is what the delivery mechanism has delivered to this Government.

I will come to the last point, which is about fiscal deficit. The basic principle of fiscal deficit is that the Government needs to borrow more than it ought to. In order to contain the fiscal deficit, as has been directed by the FRBM Act, some reforms are needed in sectors where there are enormous financial burden on the Government. What has been the tendency of this Government? The tendency of this Government is to augment the revenue on the back of high GDP growth and tax reforms. I agree that in the last three or four years, there has been a tax buoyancy. The revenue collection has been buoyant at the rate of around 20 to 30 per cent. That is how all the excess expenditures are covered.

In the Union Budget of 2008-09, the hon. Finance Minister has declared, that the fiscal deficit will be to the tune of 2.5 per cent of the GDP. It is better than the stipulation of three per cent provided by the FRBM Act. The FRBM Act has provided that by this year the fiscal deficit should be three per cent. But the hon. Finance Minister says that he is going to further reduce it to 2.5 per cent. I must congratulate him for that because containing fiscal deficit is one of the ways by which the Government will not borrow more; and more money could be spent for planned expenditure for the development of society. That money will be going to social infrastructure. But I am very sorry to say that the figure propounded by the hon. Finance Minister is a gross under-estimation. I will say that it is an accounting jugglery because these surging fertiliser and farm subsidies are hidden expenses, expenses deferred to the next so many years. So, you will find that the fiscal deficit figure declared by the hon. Finance Minister is not correct. Even in 2007-08 the fiscal deficit was 3.66 per cent of the GDP. It is inclusive of "off Budget liabilities". I am repeating they are "off Budget liabilities". These liabilities are not shown on the Budget figures. Subsidary on oil and fertiliser are "off Budget liabilities". But actually the hon. Finance Minister showed that there was a fiscal deficit of 3.1 per cent last year.

But actually, if you take the fertiliser subsidy and the oil subsidy which were given last year, it will go to

3.66 per cent and it is not 3.1 per cent as has been explained by the hon. Minister of Finance. Now, this year's fertiliser subsidy has been pegged at Rs. 30,890 crore by the hon. Minister of Finance. But the Ministry of Fertilisers is now demanding a subsidy of Rs. 1 lakh crore. The hon. Minister of Fertilisers and Chemicals, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, has demanded it and he has been demanding it because there is a relentless surge of petroleum or Naphtha and urea prices in the world market and there is a carry over of the dues from the last year.

Then the hon. Minister of Finance knows it that more than Rs. 13,000 crore of oil bonds have been given to the oil companies to raise the money from the market and to compensate their losses. This bond money will be paid by the next Government. He has also shifted the responsibility to all the future Governments. Farm, fertiliser and oil sectors have become much more susceptible to the global changes. It is true. While the burden of the subsidy is going up, this year the revenue buoyancy may not meet the kind of buoyancy we had last year. Now, nobody expects that this year's GDP growth will be nine per cent. The other day, the international rating crysil agency has said that the GDP growth this year will be 8.1 per cent. When the GDP growth is going to be low—it is going to be reduced—there is also going to be a reduction in revenue collection. So, revenue collection will come down and the subsidy will go up. So how do we expect that the fiscal deficit will be contained? The Budget Estimates of Gross Tax Revenues, as per this year's Budget, is going to increase by 17.5 per cent as the hon. Minister of Finance has said. In the last two years, the buoyancy in the tax revenue was 28 per cent and 25 per cent and this year, the hon. Minister said that it is going to be 17.5 per cent. Due to the slow down in the economy, the revenue buoyancy could be less than anticipated by the hon. Minister of Finance also. Even it may not reach the 17.5 per cent increase as expected by the hon. Minister of Finance.

Now, take further example. The hon. Minister of Finance has several times said that there is inflation in this country and it is because of the supply-side constraint. It is a demand-supply mismatch because food is being imported from outside to feed the hungry-million of this country. So, is it not the Government just going to pay more money for the high cost of the imported food items from the foreign country? This has not figured in the Budget, but the hon. Minister of Finance will have to pay in future. Then, you add to it the Rs. 60,000 crore of the farm waiver scheme. That has not been factored in the Budget also. He included the farm loan waiver on the last day in the Budget. So, even if we agree to him that there is a cushion of 0.5 per cent in the fiscal deficit, all these future payments on the surging food imports, subsidy on PDS scheme and then you will be having this Sixth Pay Commission's Report and on that the Government will also have to pay more money to the Central Government employees.

The State Government employees will also demand that. Sir, if he includes all these things, the farmers' loan waiver, the Sixth Pay Commission's future hike in the salary and allowances, the food imported, the excess cost of the food that is going to be imported, definitely he is not going to contain the fiscal deficit. So, Sir, this UPA Government is going to hand over a weak fiscal to its successor Government.

The hon. Finance Minister, in his first year's *Economic Survey* said that he inherited a very good economy. He has admitted that the inflation was controlled; it was checked and the price rise was benign. Like this, he has praised the previous Government in the Budget Speech also. I read all those things—what he himself said in his *Economic Survey*. While he has inherited a very good economy from the NDA Government, to the next Government he is going to pass on an economy of high inflation and high fiscal deficit. So, this is a failed Government. This Government has not succeeded. It survives this long, it succeeded to an extent this long because of the very strong economic measures taken by the previous Atal Bihari Vajpayee's NDA Government. Because of its failure, because the Left Front is not allowing them just to do anything to resort to any type of economic reforms, this Government has failed miserably.

So, Sir, this Government has failed and it is going to put the next Government in doldrums. Therefore, I appeal that the sooner this Government goes, the better it is for the nation.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Our heartiest congratulations to our colleague, Shri Swainji who will be the Finance Minister of the next Government. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been fortunate for the last few days that I happen to get an opportunity to speak after Swain Saheb has completed his speech. Honourable Mohan Singhji has offered Swain Saheb the portfolio of the Finance Minister in the next Government. It will be our privilege and in the fitness of things if joins either Congress Party or any oi its allies. We would like him to be our Finance Minister. Mr. Swain has ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you want him to replace the current Finance Minister?

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT: No, Sir, he is accompanied by Palanimanickamji and Pawan Kumar Bansal Ji and I think, he will get one more colleague in the next five years.

The Honourable Finance Minister said a line at the outset of his speech and I would like to repeat the same.

[English]

He said, "I am a lucky Finance Minister."

[Translation]

Honourable Finance Minister, Sir, I slightly differ with you.

[English]

I do not think you are a lucky Finance Minister. But I think you are a very efficient Finance Minister.

[Translation]

To be lucky is different from being efficient. I would consider you lucky or fortunate only if the external financial conditions would have continue to help you. When you took the charge of the office of Finance Minister, you had mentioned about the spiraling prices of oil many times. I would like to tell the House in this respect that there is a huge difference between the conditions of yesterday and that of today. In all the important sectors whether it is steel or cement, condition is today, different from what it was earlier at the international level.

Swain Saheb delivered his speech with full vigour and enthusiasm. But the manner in which the condition of agricultural sector worsened during the NDA Government and the quantum of amount spent on agriculture each year during the six years of its tenure is not hidden from anybody. The amount allocated to agriculture sector five years ago and the way different issues have been sorted out by him speak volumes that this is not about a lucky Finance Minister but an efficient and dedicated Finance Minister. I see the reflection of such a Finance Minister in you who understands the problems of the country and can give a direction to the country after assessing the condition of the Government. Hence, I thank you very much and wish you all the best. The revenue collected as tax was 9.2 per cent and the same has gone up to 12 to 12.5 per cent. Two things emerge from these facts.

Last time, when I got an opportunity to speak on the budget, I had emphasized this point and today I reiterate it that this budget indciates two things.

On the one hand, whereas it indicates a steady growth in the economy of the country, it also attracts attention of a person towards two very important aspects. First, the manner in which the administration of Tax Department has been streamlined by the Minister of Finance has increased its efficiency and it also reflects the faith and belief the people of the country have in this Government because our tax revenue has been increasing. Earlier, whenever tax net was widened in India it raised the hackles of people in every nook and corner and voices of protest against increase in tax used to be raised in the Parliament. I remember, when I was young, I would read in the newspapers that the parliamentarians used to raise this issue repeatedly. Much furor used to be created against any increase in income tax, excise or custom. Today we do not hear that kind of furor in the country. Today, our tax revenues has increased during the last five or six years substantially because of such steps have taken for our economy under the able leadership of Minister of Finance and Prime Minister Ji and tax revenue has increased such a way that the Government exchequer has been increasing.

We look at the figures of increase in the Government exchequer, if we look at the year 2003-04, perhaps at that time rupee 252 lakh crore were collected under this head which has increased to rupees 592 lakh crore today. Today it has become more than double, if we have increased our tax revenue collection from 252 lakh crore rupees to 592 lakh crore rupees, it is not a small thing, it is because of increase in this head we are able to provide more funds for edcuation and health. For the

first time thirty thousand crore rupees which our hon. Minister of Finance and Sharad Pawarji has spent for inclusive development, it has become possible because of the tax collection made by the Department of Finance, consequently our Government and the hon. Minister of Finance today is in a position that whenever it is seem in any sector of the economy then our Government will come forward to secure there.

He was talking about irrigation, I never heard the word irrigation even in the speech of the Minister of Finance during the five year term of NDA Government. Since last year, the hon'ble Minister of Finance has been repeatedly talking about accelerated irrigation benefit programme and rainfed programme. There may have been some lacunae; maybe the administration did not take up some works at the desired pace, but the way we pursued the issue of agriculture during the last four years and visualized an unprecedented scheme, like National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme will surely bear fruits and the future will stand a witness to its effects on the economy of the Country. NREGS has produced revolutionary results at places where the State Governments are properly implementing this programme, say, our villages, and other rural areas of the country. There are many small examples to corroborate this fact. It is not the case of NREGA alone. The hon'ble Minister of Finance was accused of not doing enough for the sake of rural economy or agriculture as was desired of him. I would like to answer this allegation by citing example.

There are many villages in the country, where this programme is proving a success. The farmer is facing a problem there, because he does not get labourers at the old rate. It is so because today the labourers are getting a wage on which they readily want to work. It is true that when the economy grows a little imbalance is created, but in the due course of time, it regains balance. Subsequently, situation will emerge, when the normal rates of labour in the area will automatically rise and come closer to the minimum wages. This imbalance shows the extent of effort this scheme has left in the area. I am a Member of the Standing Committee on Rural Development. I visited many States. My Members colleagues are present here. There is no such State or district which has not acknowledged the fact that migration has reduced in some from or the other, at least distress migration has reduced.

Sir, today, there is not a single State in the country, where people do not talk about this programme. There is enthusiasm among the people in regard to this scheme. We get aware of the shortcomings of this scheme through newspapers or TV because people are coming forward to put their demands and openly speak about the problems faced by them in this programme.

This programme has been formulated on the directions of hon'ble Finance Minister, Prime Minister and Sonia ji and its impact on economy to the extent welfare works have been accomplishes through it will be felt by the Government that comes to power after one year. The allocation for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has increased. When their Government was in power, only Rs. 2 thousand crore were given in this regard and today Rs. 13 thousand crore are being given. It is because the hon'ble Minister of Finance has done economic planning in a very efficient manner. Mid-Day Meal scheme is being allocated Rs. 8 thousand crore instead of Rs. 1100 crore. It is because of his efficiency. I will not quote more figures. It is the prime duty of any Finance Minister to generate adequate revenue particularly, through Finance Bill, without putting burden on the pocket of the people without putting the poor and the common man to hardships for the needs of sound economic health of the country so that we can make investments wherever required for the welfare of the people.

I would like to present this fact before the House that the hon. Finance Minister has efficiently discharged his duty. He is probably, the first Finance Minister in last 55 or 60 years, who has achieved this feat. It was a pleasant surprise to read a sentence in the Finance Minister's speech. I would also like to quote it. It is in regard to the gross budgetary support. The Finance Minister has allocated gross budgetary support. The Finance Minister has allocated gross budgetary support of Rs. 2 lakh, 43 thousand crore for the annual plan against the Government's demand of Rs. 2 lakh 13 thousand crore. Probably, it has never happened in history of the country. As per our past experience, the Finance Minsiters used to make less allocation against the demands made for the five year plans. Today, the Finance Minister is in a position to allocate Rs. 38 or 40 thousand crore more than the demand made for annual plan, whether it is being demanded by the Planning Commission or the Government. It is one example of economic planning that has been made in such an efficient manner, which is sensitive in nature, has fulfilled the needs of the country and has not pinched the pockets of the people,

[Shri Sandeep Dixit]

but has demanded money from the people in such a way that the countrymen have wholeheartedly contributed to the Government's exchequer.

I would also like to mention some facts that may look petty. I would like to lay the figures of the budgetary support on the table of the House. The Finance Minister has allocated Rs. 2 lakh 43 thousand crore against the demand of Rs. 2 lakh 28 thousand crore. Not only this, the people repeatedly say that the prices have soared due to the budget presented by the Finance Minister. What are the reasons for price rise? What is the history of price rise? A discussion on this issue was held in the House 5-6 days ago and the Finance Minister and the Minister of Agriculture have given a very good reply. What should be its impact? What steps should the Government take? The State Government should also fulfill its duties. All these things have also been mentioned. The steps taken by some Congress Governments to check price rise in their States are showing results. Therefore, I would not like to speak much about it, but even before the issue of price rise was raised, the Government had taken some steps. It effect would be seen in the coming days. CENVAT duty has probably been reduced from 16 per cent to 14 percent. The Finance Minister has paid attention towards the items of mass consumption. Duty on items which are consumed regularly has been reduced. The excise duty and customs duty has been reduced across the board. It effect on price rise will be felt in the coming days. It was so when political discussion on price rise was going on and the discussion had not reached that level. It shows that notwithstanding whether there is a problem or not, the hon. Finance Minister has continuously run this country and the Department of Finance very efficiently. He has always taken care of the common man and has always made whatever effort he can make for benefiting him. Besides, the Ministry of Finance has never compromised with the financial needs of the country.

I would like to present some rather insignificant facts before the hon'ble Minister of Finance. I have carefully gone through the budget. There are very few sectors which may attract comments by anybody. Shri Swain has made a mention of a loan of Rs. 60 thousand crore and has given his reaction in this regard. The hon. Minister would definitely give reply in this regard. But if the words used by me are unparliamentary, they may be expunged. Many of my friends say that the opposition's reaction in this regard is not appropriate. As it has come in the shape of the loan scheme, the amount may seem in excess. The loan waiver scheme of Rs. 60,000 crore has been brought. It is for those people who are unable to reply the loan. There might be some people who do not intend to repay loan and they have got the relief. Concern has been expressed in the House in this regard and the hon'ble Minister has also assured that he will try to help the persons in some way or other who have honestly repaid the loan. But, to my mind giving so much money to the sector which is in crisis is justified, and finding out petty faults at the time of such crisis is the reaction of a frustrated opposition. Whenever problem arises, and if some steps are taken in emergency to resolve the crisis, small issues are ignored in the larger interest. It is seen in totality. The hon'ble Minister of Finance will receive many suggestions with regard to including or not including such loan and I know, the hon'ble Minister will definitely accept these suggestions.

I urge hon. Minister that to reduce the duty on small cars in proportion to the duty cut on public transport vehicles like buses. As public transport system in the urgent necessary in cities, it should be cheap. He should send signals for giving incentives to the eco-friendly transport in the same vein he gives signals to economy through taxation. If he makes an effort to discourage the sale of small orr big cars then it will certainly be a strong message to the economy on front.

On the service tax front, I would like to say that there are two-three classes of professionals like doctors and lawyers who are not in the ambit of service tax. Hon. Finance Minister is himself a renowned lawyer. Our hon. Speaker is also a renowned lawyer. I am not in a position to say much about their profession but it would certainly be good if their profession are also brought in the ambit of service tax. I have with me some figures from the Ministry of Finance. Today we have 5.4 lakh service taxpayers, even though the number of those registered is 9 lakh. We need to increase the number. It is certainly a grey area because in a country where service sector contributes 55 per cent of the total GDP of the country only five and five and half lakh persons are paying service tax. I do not know the exact amount country collects as service tax. I do not know the exact amount country collects as service tax but it is approximately 18-20 thousand crore annually. I feel that with the effective implementation, of this figure can go up to 40 to 50 thousand crore without much difficulty.

I extend my thanks to the hon. Minister for providing relief in income tax on behalf of all countrymen particularly those living in Delhi. He has provided relief on many counts including raising of exemption limit up to 1.5 lakh. I have watched several budget discussions and witnessed CEO's and industry barons demanding relief to be given for their enterprises, as they have to pay a lot of tax. However, none among them would publicly say that while they need to pay tax at 33 per cent of their income, they were only paying 18 to 19 per cent as tax. There is a need to plug loopholes in this regard. I agreed that small concession needs to be made for industries here and there, if the need arises. However, I am confident that the hon. Minister will get full cooperation of Parliament if the corporate tax laws are implemented more effectively to improve the average realization by 8 to 9 percent.

There are one-two small issues as well. I had also requested the hon. Minister last time also. Now I would again like to reiterate on it. On the issue of small family norms, we as a political class tend not to speak. However, it will definitely send a good signal to the country if hon. Minister comes out with any tax incentives for those opting for one child or two-child family, particularly those opting for having female children only. It will certainly reach out of such families that the Government is also serious and committed towards rewarding those who have small families and those who have female child an their families. This incentive can be given in respect of income tax. I don't think it will result in much loss of revenue.

I have a small request regarding TDS. TDS was introduced four-five years back. Due to certain shortcomings, some institutions could not pay their dues. I am not asking you not to punish those but it would be better if they do not get double punishment. However big problem is being observed due to the present system of TDS. Several persons in Delhi have personally complained to me that they get payment minus the TDS as and when they indulge in my transaction with big organizations or institutions but fail to get TDS certificates despite making effort to get it throughout the year.

Big organisations and institutions easily set their accounts in order with the help of CA's and tax lawyers but small entrepreneurs have to face a lot of difficulty in this regard. It will be better if some flexibility in TDS rule is introduced to benefit such traders. I would like to say something about crop insurance scheme. If village Panchayat instead of block is considered as a unit, as has also been suggested by Shri Swainji, it would be a more welcome step. Some states have also taken initiatives in this regard. In case of any difficulty, entire block was declared drought affected. Such states started to consider village panchayat or even smaller part as a unit. Can such system be adopted in regard to Crop Insurance Scheme as well? If we are able to do so, this can be a welfare measure for them. Our insurance institutions even of those in public sector are equally at fault in their functioning as their private peers whether my leftist colleagues agree to it or not. Their modus operandi in rural areas is very unfortunate be it health insurance, animal insurance or crop insurance. Someone trying to get claim for his dead animal has to spend even a bigger amount in trying to settle the claim.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): There is nothing like crop insurance. Only Government subsidy is disbursed under the scheme but there is nothing like crop insurance.

[English]

The Finance Minister knows it.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): What you said in your speech was a balanced statement. I would reply. But this is not correct. We have made no change. The UPA Government has made no change in the Crop Insurance Policy that we inherited from the NDA Government. We want to make a change. We want to move from block towards smaller unit. But there are considerable difficulties in implementing it. These are being discussed between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Planning Commission. I have repeatedly said that if a revised scheme comes, certainly the Government will fund that scheme. But the point is, the Agricultural Insurance Corporation falls under the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture is engaged in discussion with the experts in the Planning Commission. When I do receive a modified scheme, as I said, we will fund it. But I want you to know that we have made no change in the Crop Insurance Scheme which was implemented during the NDA regime.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Yes, Sir, I agree. I do not say that there is any change.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Then, why are you accusing?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: In our Government also, it was the same thing. I am not accusing.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We are doing the best.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I only informed him that he should not equate.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The only other error you committed was when you said, we are giving only Rs. 300 crore. We are giving Rs. 644 crore this year.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: All right, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT: Swain Saheb, I am trying to draw the attention of hon. Finance Minister towards the efficiency of insurance companies. My field experience of any kind of insurance work is very unfortunate. You should do whatever needful is required in this regard because when one talk of financial inclusion, it is not confined to banking alone, insurance too is a major part of it. Though the insurance companies provide insurance cover in case of any scheme is launched or it is done under the influence of district administration, however, this attitude is really unfortunate in case of any calamity. I congratulate hon. Finance Minister for the way he has managed the economy and mobilized revenues for the government's exchequer. Swainji has raised the apprehension whether the government would be able to each the revenue and keep the deficit under the check as per the target set by it, I would like to assure him that going by the experience I have with regard to the hon. Finance Minister, he would be able to not only achieve his target but even surpass them. Elections are due at the end of this year and the hon. Minister will have an opportunity to present Vote on Account which will be another opportunity to watch the progress of the Government. Besides, I would like to tell the hon. Finance Minister that we are also facing the problem of inflation.

The hon. Minister has intervened during the debate to narrate in an impressive manner what steps he is going to take. I would request him to blow the trumpet of the measures he will take because it will lead to trust and confidence among people that the Government act on what it says.

With this, I conclude by supporting the Finance Bill.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, we are almost at the fag end of the Budget Session and the different phases of the budgetary exercise are going to be concluded by the adoption of the Finance Bill. I had made some critical observations when I participated in the General Discussion, about the inadequacies in the whole approach of the Government. I had commented that the basic constraint is the mindset of the hon. Minister of Finance who is more guided or rather obsessed with the new liberalised economic policy which he wants to pursue in India. The more he is vigorously pursuing those policies, the Congress Party as such is getting alienated. It is being reflected in the political arena in the different election results and otherwise also.

We have been trying to prevail on the Government that they should have taken a lesson from those who are sitting in the Opposition, who had been revelling on the concept of 'India Shining' while the 82 per cent was the 'suffering India' and the result had been what you see today, that is, the UPA Government came and the NDA Government had been thrown into the dustbin of history, what they are now.

We had made some concrete suggestions. We are happy that some of them have been noted. We are disappointed that some of the major recommendations made to the Government are yet to be addressed properly. For example, the burning issue is inflation. I am not speaking about the imperfections in the measurement and whether the Government has set up any Committee to take into account the cess basket for stretching the thing and how the CPI and WPI are unrelated and whether the suggestion is not being taken into account, although it is more than 55 per cent of our GDP. That is a different issue.

What I want to say is that we have been discussing it. We had a very good, structured debate on the price rise, particularly rise in the prices of essential commodities, food articles and the Government has been repeatedly saying two things. One is that it is an international phenomenon, that even in the United States, even in Japan, food ration is there and it has happened because of the diversion of the agricultural land to bio-fuel etc.

The other day I was reading an article in the *New York Times* where they have been saying that the single criminal in the whole development is the speculative

trading. Daily, if we take into account in terms of rupees, more than Rs. 40 lakh crore are being invested and being used in the speculative market. This is eight times more than our annual Budget, if you calculate on an average.

Our economy is not decoupled, after all. We have seen how the sub-prime crisis is affecting, how the food crisis is affecting, etc. So, the Government is saying that the food crisis, inflation, etc. are an international phenomenon. It is an old story. Whenever there was any difficulty it was considered to be an international phenomenon. Terrorism was considered as an international phenomenon; pollution is considered as an international phenomenon. Today, you cannot escape with that, if you say that there has been good rains etc. Only yesterday the advance estimates say that it will be around 227 million or a little more. It is a good profit. Naturally, the expectation is that inflation is going to be curbed, but still we are seeing that the prices are where they were.

We have been repeatedly saying that there has been a unanimous recommendation of the Mini Parliament, that is, the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution. They have stated that these are the 25 articles, which should not be allowed to be traded in the commodities market. They are saying that the Abhijit Sen Committee has been set up, and the Abhijit Sen Committee has not commented specifically on it. They have only said that the ban should continue in respect of *tur*, wheat, rice, etc. But I am told that there has been no concrete reference to the Committee about the problems that we are facing. If I am mistaken, then I would be happy to be corrected. This is the Report available. The Abhijit Sen Committee had submitted the Report three months back, but this Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: No, it is not correct.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You can deny it, and I may be mistaken.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am only saying that it is wrong.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am open to correction, but still it is admitted worldwide that it is speculative trade. I fully agree with the hon. Finance Minister—when he referred to the new situation in Delhi—that the traders have been saying that we would not lift any more and we shall contribute more in the market, and they are supported by some political parties. ...*(Interruptions)* I fully agree with you that speculation, hoarding, black-marketing are State subjects, and the State Government has a role in it. The Central Government has all along been saying this. But what I want to say is that the Central Government must be very clear about the specific unanimous recommendation of the Mini Parliament—cutting across political lines—that these are the 25 agricultural and food articles that should be kept out of the purview of the commodities exchange.

Secondly, we have been repeatedly saying that the complex price situation is being further compounded because of this Government's oil pricing. Here also, it is not that the CPI(M) is only saying this or a section of the Left is only saying this. I have a copy of the unanimous Report of the Standing Committee. I am depending on the Report of the Mini Parliament, which has stated that the Government had collected a lot, that is, more than Rs. 40,000 crore as revenue and the Government need not continue any more. We have written that the customs duty should be nil, and the excise duty should be reduced further instead of increasing it, and it should be specific instead of being *ad valorem*. The oil sector should not be considered as a milching cow. This is our philosophy, and that is the philosophy of this Committee that unanimously recommended it. It is on 'pricing of petroleum products', Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Sixth Report, Lok Sabha Secretariat, Standing Committee, Fourteenth Lok Sabha. This Government says that we are heavily depending, particularly, on the unanimous recommendations of the Standing Committee, but we are repeatedly asking you as to why you are not listening to this as it can have a sobering effect on the market, that is, if you address this particular issue regarding customs.

As regards the excise issue also, some welcome measures are there. For example, we have been demanding that the excise on essential medicines should be reduced, and we are happy to note that it has been done. Further, in one or two cases, our demands on issues involving public interest have also been addressed.

14.00 hrs.

Reduction of CENVAT is a welcome measure but that is not enough. That is not very helpful. The Government needs to have consider the situation afresh. It seems there is a feeling in the Government that the

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

States are sitting over huge amounts of revenue after the introduction of VAT. This is not the situation. The State Governments have their own problems. The Sixth Pay Commission's report is yet to be implemented. We know what has happened following the implementation of the recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission. Some of the States had gone bankrupt rather and they could not pay the salaries of their own employees. So, naturally we have been saying that your Budget lacks transparency.

A lot of important items like subsidies and borrowings have been kept out of the Budget. Reckless borrowing and interest payments is a complex area. I have already commented upon what the Government has done on loan waiver and so I am not going to repeat it. In the Supplementary Budget, a provision of only Rs. 10,000 crore has been made and it is said that the rest of the money would be provided in a staggered manner year after year which will continue beyond the next general elections. People do not have any idea about the Government borrowings. Whenever the Government runs into a problem, it borrows.

If you look at the various components of the Budget, about 75 per cent of it is pre-determined. There is hardly any scope for manoeuvring. In such a situation, there are some basic issues which have to be taken into consideration. We have been talking about the long-term capital gains. But the Government is sitting tight and saying that they cannot go away. That is because in that case some of their friends will be very unhappy. We have been insisting on this and the Government is also agreeable to it. We know the situation with regard to the Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty with Mauritius. I have been a member of the Stock Markets Scam Committee. I remember that recommendation. We had taken evidence on this. We had been told how our own money is coming back to us through the Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty with Mauritius. Our own money is going abroad and our own money is coming back but no tax is being paid on it.

You may have noted that our billionaires are paying less amount of tax than our common people. We have 55 billionaires which means that they have with them Rs. 4,000 crore. They are paying less tax. There are people like Persons of Indian Origin and Non-Resident Indians. We have a huge corpus of foreign exchange. I do not know the exact figure as of date but it may be 311 billion or maybe more. What to do with that? We are serving the American Treasury in their crisis. Our own senior citizens put their money in. Once they are encouraged to go to the share market where they burn their fingers; and then they are asked to put their money here and there and are taxed heavily. I am happy that at least the limit of personal income tax has been raised in respect of senior citizens and women which is a welcome step. In these days of high inflation, these are the people—the pensioners, the senior citizen, the womenfolk, the common people—who are suffering. But, the billionaires are not paying their taxes.

Strange things are happening. I asked a question long back. I repeatedly tried, maybe four times, to know as to how many people in our country mention in their annual returns that they have an annual income of more than Rs. 10 lakh.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have given the answer.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You have given the answer repeatedly and I have been asking that question repeatedly because no one with an iota of common sense will accept the reply.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: That number is small, I agree, but do you agree that after this Government came that number has sharply increased and we are collecting more taxes and more people are disclosing an income of more than Rs. 10 lakh? That number is still small but I have made efforts in the last four years and the number has dramatically increased. I will give you the correct number when I will reply to the discussion.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I know that repetition by people like us has at least yielded some result. I can say that at least it has yielded some result. But if you look at the expenses being made, in single night in some hotel lakhs and lakhs of Rupees are being spent for marriages. The Government says that it has no wherewithal, commercial intelligence, of course.

After the introduction of PAN and the use of PAN.....

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Since it is available now, let me give you the number. Sir, when this Government took over the number of individuals declaring an income of more than Rs. 10 lakh was 97,412 and I had said that it was less than one lakh. Numbers for the year 2007-08 are not available but 2006-07 assessment year, that is 2005-06 financial year the number is now 1,77,051. By 2007-08, assessment year 2008-09, I have no doubt

this number will be even larger. Therefore, I agree it has nothing to do with the efforts we have made but it is because of Shri Rupchand Pal and his team.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I do not say like that. Let it be taken as the success of the hon. Finance Minister and his team but at least discredit may be given... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You are lucky. The income was less.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Income was less because growth was also less in your Government. That was the reason. The growth was averaging 5.3 per cent for five years. For six years growth was 5.8 per cent and income was less. In our Government the average growth is 8.8 per cent, more income and, therefore, more tax.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You yourself have admitted that it is because you have inherited a very good economy. You may see what your successor will do.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: My successor will also be from the Congress Party.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I also compliment the hon. Finance Minister on another issue that is the direct tax today is more than the indirect tax. This is a great achievement and I fully agree with it. Indirect tax actually hurts the poor, the common people. He had been making every endeavour with all his limitations. First limitation is the mindset and obsession. Second limitation is his team. I shall come to that.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Second limitation is mindset and the first limitation is Shri Rupchand Pal.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has rather encouraged you.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I shall come to that later on. This Government has been trying to improve the tax administration. I can refer to one observation made by this year's Standing Committee that this Government has miserably failed to complete the computerization programme. It was estimated at Rs. 251 crore and was to be completed by June 2006, as far as I remember. It is 2008 now and computerization has not been completed. There has been inordinate delay in this regard. Complete computerization could have helped. There are inadequacies in PAN also. I had repeatedly asked about the software because there has been some inadequacy in the software itself.

Huge expenses have been incurred already. There are more than 13 lakh double PAN cards. Many of them are being misused for several purposes. Now the Government says that we should make them biometric. It is a good thing. But even before that, the computerisation programme needs to be completed.

In certain levels, there are continuing vacancies and the Government has not addressed some small and minor problems. Take for example recruitment rules for customs. For the lack of recruitment of Inspectors and Superintendents, they are stagnating. I am not going into all the details but I am giving you some of the details. For example, the Sepoys in customs are trained with guns at par with Constables in CISF and CRPF. But they are not considered as Constables. It is a wastage of human resource. Our trained people in the customs are repeatedly saying that. I had also written some letters but I do not know whether you have received them or not. I have made some positive suggestions about vacancies in the Income Tax Department, for having promotion policy, etc. The situation has improved but it is not adequate. So, there is a grievance. If you reduce the number of people, then only with machine, you cannot earn revenue. The Department of Revenue should be given a more sympathetic consideration because they are contributing to your kitty.

Now I am coming to the anomalies in the taxation system. I have a lot of examples but I would give two glaring examples. In the matter of corporation tax, suppose a private oil company has produced certain quantum of oil and similar quantum has been produced by a public sector company like Indian Oil or ONGC. The glaring disparity is that the public sector company will have to pay more in the form of tax than the private sector company. This is because you had promised to have a tax code. The Kelkar Committee report has recommended some exemptions. You have been advocating that such unwanted and unreasonable exemptions should not be there. In the corporation tax also, we do find that the statutory obligation is of the order of 33 per cent but the effective rate comes to 20 per cent. But the public sector undertakings are put at a disadvantage and there is a report that the public sector oil companies are paying more in the form of corporation tax than the private sector

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

companies. You can enquire and tell me. I can give you the details. I have the details with me. I am not wasting the time of the House.

There is another glaring example and this is a more glaring example. The marketing companies in the oil sector say that they are losing about Rs. 70,000 crore to Rs. 72,000 crore. There is a formula of sharing between the refineries, marketing companies, the Government and the consumer. The ONGC which has been instructed by the Government is suffering because of that share. The Department of Income Tax had imposed a tax of Rs. 1700 crore annually.

It will continue. Why should it be so? The Public Sector Undertakings are acting at the instance of the Government. Another wing of the Government, namely, the Income Tax Department is imposing tax irrespective of the instructions of the Government. I can give all the other details. The Minister knows about it and perhaps he knows better than me. This is a current issue.

Sir, I would like to give another example here. The Government says that it would give duty concessions to certain refineries who would complete their projects around 2008-09. The Public Sector Undertakings those who would be able to complete their projects before time would not get the concessions, but if any private industry is able to complete their refinery projects before time they would enjoy this concession. This is discrimination. Our Public Sector Undertakings are quite capable of competing with the best in the world, not just with the best in this country. But there should be a level-playing field. There should be real autonomy at the Board level. We do find that the independent Directors, I am criticising this Government, as per SEBI rules, clause 43, are approved by the Government. Government asks the Public Sector Undertakings to pay 20 per cent dividend. They do not care about the decision of the Board. Now if a Public Sector Undertakings say that it is a Navaratna company and how could the Government interfere with them, the Government says that your Board has not been constituted so far because you have no independent Directors. The company comes up with the argument that it is the Government who has not provided the independent Director so far. It is a strange scenario. The Government himself creates a situation whereby the Board is not formed, autonomy is not there and then the Government himself accuses the company saying that they have not got a full-fledged board functioning and so the Government can dictate them. So, the situation is that where there is money they are diverting the money and getting it back through the Mauritius route and in the process minting money. That is the money of this country. The patriots who are serving this nation is our Public Sector Undertakings. These are the anomalies and I am drawing the attention of the Government to these anomalies. Moreover, this is not my comment. This is a comment made by one of the Chairmen of one of the most prestigious Public Sector Undertakings. This is what is happening. There is discrimination in the matter of taxation.

Sir, I would like to refer to another point and that is about the electronic sector. I had the occasion to visit some of the Public Sector Undertakings in Jaipur in Rajasthan. They have done an excellent research work. They have been saying that when they were to import raw materials they were subjected to a certain amount of tax, but the finished goods that were being imported were cheaper. In that case, who should buy their products? I am happy that some of these issues have been addressed this year. I fully agree to that. But there are so many other areas where our people engaged in the small scale industries are at a disadvantage and cannot really compete with others. Only providing them with a relief of Rs. 1.5 lakhs is not enough. The Government is not giving them the level-playing field.

Now let me come to charitable trusts. I welcome them and I fully appreciate them. The definition of charitable trusts is there. Many big companies are making commercial activities and training activities, and calling them charitable. I fully endorse the view but still, there are charitable institutes where there may be a mix-up. For example, there are women organisations. They produce something that is basically charitable and at the same time, they are selling some products. They are internationally reputed NGOs which are profit-making and at the same time, the money is not being owned by anyone. It is going for the organisation only, the non-profit organisation. It is true that there is a commercial activity.

Then about educational institutions, I am not saying anything.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, I want to know whether you have got another member who will take part in the discussion. You have taken more than half-an-hour.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I have not given any other name. I am not very sure whether the hon. Minister will be here or not. ... *(Interruptions)*

About the package software and the customized software, I would say the concessions, STPI and others, should be given beyond 2009. One is equating package software with the customized software. I think the Government should have re-look about it. I know the complex situation and the problem existing.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Why should we have a re-look? Give reasons.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It is because in some cases like research institutions and others, they need a dedicated sort of customized software and they are costly. But they are not much in number but it will involve huge amount of money particularly with the research institutes. You can exempt the research institutes. That will be good. Research in relation to industrial growth and all that can be exempted. I am told that the Minister for Information Technology had made a public comment about the concessions for the small IT sector and that they are suffering. Because of the rupee appreciation, the exporters particularly the small ones are suffering. I would urge upon the Government that the concessions can be allowed beyond 2009, as has been reported, but particular attention must be given to the small and medium IT companies.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Such IT exemptions should not be extended. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It is all right. But there are areas where there is no contradiction. A good number of Members have raised it. You look at it in the domestic interest, particularly the small and the medium companies.

I have to say one point about the advance tax and the refund. The Standing Committee has made an observation about bogus refund and how much bogus refund is involved.

I will come to advance tax now. Suppose someone has, in a particular assessment year, Rs. 50 crore as due. He will deposit Rs. 75 crore as advance tax which is more than that because the listed companies, by the amount of advance deposits, want to glorify their status in the disclosure form so that the investors may be duped that such is the status of the company. This is one observation made by a stock exchange expert and he has mentioned something. I can privately tell you the names of people who are paying huge advance tax which is not due to them. They know that they will get the refund. On these two points, the Standing Committee has made some observation. The recent instruction by the SBI to deduct TDS, irrespective of the fact that whether forms 15(a) or 15(g) has been submitted or not and the eagerness with which the SBI is doing it in respect of senior citizens also, should be looked into.

Let me come to Non Banking Financial Companies. Deposit mobilisation is being done. It is being seen that deposit is not very significant. So, there is one view that they should not be allowed any more, particularly the residuary companies. The Finance Minister knows what I mean. But when it is being done, some innovative way must be found out so that employees involved in them are protected. The Finance Minister knows what I mean. The Finance Minister must be remembering I had taken some of them to meet him. So, NBFC is another area which should be looked into.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You mentioned residuary companies.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I mentioned both. They came to you.

Let me come to cooperatives. Cooperatives have approached me and said that their issues should be sympathetically considered. I am appealing to the Finance Minister to do something.

Let me come to my last point, which is on the price rise. I think this Government will take into consideration this most important issue. We have given four suggestions with regard to price situation. The Government must understand how serious we are on the issue of price rise. I strongly believe that this Government will positively respond to our demands so that the people on the other side who want to create confusion may not have any opportunity to confuse any further.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, you have given good suggestions.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the Parliament has approved the annual budget,

[Shri Mohan Singh]

then I think, it is not in the interest of the House and the Government and the country as well to stall the passing of Finance Bill because Finance Bill is related to the management of finance. Government should be allowed to spend money to execute various works in the country. The Parliament is the apex body where Government has to seek approval. Therefore, by following this practice the Government places the Finance Bill before the Parliament. I am not aware of any instance happening in the past when the Finance Bill could not be passed inspite of the opposition. I was also a Member of this House in the 12th Lok Sabha. At that time a No Confidence Motion was moved against the Government. The Government was willing to resign but the Hon. President directed to get the Finance Bill passed first and only after that resignation would be accepted. The Government introduced Finance Bill in the House and the House passed the Finance Bill of that year unanimously. Therefore, there is no question of my opposing it. The Finance Bill has to be passed, this is the practice. I want to give some suggestions to the hon. Finance Minister.

The most prominent point here is that the Government is excited with the fact that it has got unprecedented success in tax recovery. With the expansion of business in the country it is but natural to have increased tax recovery, it is a general rule of the economy of any country. There is no other opinion on the fact that the business of our country has increased but the hon. Finance Minister has just now mentioned previous government's growth rate, at that time it was six and a half or seven and a half percent.

However, presently growth rate has reached eight and a half percent. It is true but the economic growth of any country should not be measured by excluding the rate of inflation. At that time when we were moving with five and a half, six and a half or seven and a half percent of economic growth rate, the rate of inflation was somewhere between two to four percent. So one should appreciate the growth rate of seven and half percent attained at that time it should be commended.

Sir, now they have attended the growth rate of eight and half percent but the rate of inflation has reached seven and half percent. On the basis of it nobody would accept that the growth rate attained so far is satisfactory. The basic thing is that the Government should take all necessary measures to check the inflation rate. I wrote articles Nehruvian quota raj and Mrs. Indira Gandhi's Restricted Financial Policy for 15 years. At the time of conducting raids today it is asked what is relevance of those articles.

Sir, I believe that even in open economy the Government should have some powers to control and restrict things. We have seen it this time that we are to handle both conditions. People protest for few days but with the gradual increase in prices of commodities people become used to it and their hue and cry subsides leaving the Government satisfied. Even this time, the way prices of essential commodities have increased, that will have the same fall out. This would result in pushing majority of our population into acute poverty step by step. The Government needs to think over it seriously. The tax net has increased. There is no doubt in it. Only one fourth of the total number of persons who have got their pan card prepared make payment of tax. They have got pan numbers because it is needed in bank transactions. Four crore people have got pan card and only one crore people are filing returns. The Government should think over ways required to increase this number because black money is available in our country immensely. For the last four years the Government is saying that black money can be checked through reforms only. The Government has certainly arrested the pace of generating black money through tax reform at the same rate at which it was increasing after independence. The pace of it has came down during the last four or five years but the international institutions that examine our economy opine that there is a parallel economy of black money operations in the country. The amount of black money is equal to the amount of business that we transact and the Government gets no tax from it. This is called black money. It is believed that there is a parallel economy of black money in the country. The Government should adopt a two pronged strategy. It is true that we have arrested the generation of blackmoney by bringing tax reforms but the rest of the black money should be unearthed and it should also be part of the strategy to bring it into market and I would say that the Government has not adopted any effective strategy in this regard during the last four years.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today real estate business is growing at a very high pace. The market rate of road side land in small places, towns and villages has gone up to Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 15 lakh per 'Katta' but it is being registered at the rate of Rs. One lakh. Thus, black money is being generated at the rate of Rs. 10 to 12 lakh per 'Katta'. Today, real estates business is the most profitable business and it is the major business generating

black money. The Government should reveal its policy for checking the generation of black money.

Sir, price of gold is going upwards at a high pace but there is no decrease in its consumption because having jewellery and gems is another way of generating and hiding black money. The Government should explain it policy for checking this type of generation of black money through the above mentioned means and take steps in this regard.

Sir, the fourth point which I would like to mention is that the practice of private money lending in our country has gained high momentum. This is because all the commercial banks of our country have failed to fulfill the requirements of the poor. The only reason for nationalization of banks of the country by Shrimati Indira Gandhi was that they were not serving common people. The banks are not fulfilling their social responsibility. They are making profits only. Therefore, their nationalization was necessary to bring them near to people. I think that after nationalization the banks have become more inaccessible to the common people. There is no bank willing to do business in rural areas and, therefore practice of private money lending has gained momentum in villages.

Sir, Radhakrishna Committee, on the basis of whose recommendations loans of farmers have been waived off, has itself admitted that farmers of the country have taken more loans from private money lenders in comparison to loans taken from the banks. Cooperative banks and NABARD etc. What should be done to free them from their clutches. Instead of measures from Govt. of India. We found that a responsible Minister of the Government, hailing from Maharashtra, made a public statement in the newspaper, appealing the farmers not to repay action taken from private moneylenders. It was shocking from me hearing this statement from a responsible minister of the Government. Such a statement can not be issued by any Government.

Sir, it is the duty of the Government and its minister to check this type of practice as there is a law about private money lending in our country for the last 150 years. What action has been taken to repeal it? Why are they not repealing that? Why do you not enact a law to ban private money lending. And instead of doing this a responsible minister is asking the people not to repay private loans. In case of not getting repayment, the commercial banks hired private agents or mafias to collect their loans. The bank makes a contract with the agent and becomes ready to take only the principal amount it of 5 lacs from the agent and gives him the right to collect the remaining amount which may be Rs. 10 lacs or 15 lacs. The mafia goes to the extent of forcibly entering his house, beating him, taking away his belongings and even stopping him on his way when the defaulter is going by car. The Minister of Finance had to issue a statement in this House that action would be taken against any such banks which employ anti social elements to collect their loan.

The statement issued by Hon. Minister of Agriculture instigates the private money lenders to have their own musclemen to get back their loans forcibly. He has encouraged borrowers not to repay. Private money lenders are to recover the loans given by them and the new situation will create dispute in every village. Therefore, I would like to ask the Government to consider the ways of checking private money lending at any cost.

Sir, further I would like to say that we have abolished the old system where there was a system of a lead bank in every district. It was the responsibility of the nationalized banks to do all works related to development of the district. I think that responsibility of lead bank should be introduced in a new way and it should be mandatory for each and every bank to open one branch for population of ten thousand and a table office for population of five thousand people in all villages. This should be implemented by formulating a programme for two to three years. The waiving of loans was applauded in this House and outside and the Prime Minister and Chairperson of U.P.A. directed their party men to organize rallies for taking advantage of this. The rallies were organized but what was their result? I think that such a publicised scheme of any Government has not met such a miserable fate and the Government is going to waive off the loans.

I would like to urge the honourable Finance Minister to state the state-wise details of the amount sought for loan waiver while replying to the queries regarding Finance Bill. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to quote an example that seven North Eastern States of India are indire need of development. It was announced that the Government will waive off the loans of the farmers and asked these states to send the lists for this purpose. The demands made by seven states amounted to Rs. 1100 crore. Uttar Pradesh is a big state rather most populous state of India having a population of around 20 crore and it has demanded only Rs. 4000 crore, whereas Maharashtra whose population is one third of Uttar Pradesh has demanded Rs. 12.5 thousand crore. Thus Rs. 12.5 thousand crore in Maharashtra, Rs. 100 crore

[Shri Mohan Singh]

in seven states and only Rs. 4000 crore in Uttar Pradesh will be waived off. This will lead to nowhere but to creating disputes among states in the country. The Government is required to publish a white paper earmarking the statewise amount of waiver that may clearly define the amount of the farmers of Maharashtra which will be waived off, Rs. 900 crore of Andhra Pradesh farmers, Rs. 11000 crore of Tamil Nadu farmers, Rs. 4500 crore of UP farmers will be waived off. Because of the absence of their branches, the banks have not given loans to the farmers in the big states such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand etc. Hence, when the loan waiver scheme is implemented in the entire country, the farmers of these big states will remain deprived of the benefits of the said scheme and it will ultimately create discontentment among these farmers. Hence, I would like to suggest that the loan waiver scheme should be converted into statewise Farmers Development fund and the funds should be disbursed to the States in proportion to their population. Finance Bill through the discussion on the this is my demand from the Government of India. Otherwise it will promote regionalism and dispute would take place among the States in the country.

Another serious problem is regarding subsidy on fertilizer. In the Annual Economic Survey of India published today, the Government of India has accepted that Rs. 52000 crore will be given as subsidy on fertilizer. Later, in reply to a question in Rajya Sabha the Minister of Food and Public Distribution accepted that only Rs. 30,000 crore was given. Another day I read his statement that the subsidy on fertilizer will increase to Rs. 90,000 crore. It shows that different Ministers have given statement differently regarding subsidy on fertilizer. So on this issue we are in dark and hence I want to say that major fertilizer producing factories of the private sector, whose fertilizers are not purchased by any farmer, are looting the Government exchequer by showing fake balance sheets regarding production. That's why my suggestion is that the subsidy being given on fertilizers should be disbursed direct to the farmers in proportion to their land holdings in terms of acres. I think if Rs. 90,000 crore are disbursed among the farmers across the country, the condition of the farmers will substantially improve.

Another problem of our country relates to petroleum products. The prices of petrol and diesel are sharply rising. The oil prices in the global market have increased to US $117 per barrel. The last Government had resolved this issue that the Indian oil companies will increase and decrease the prices of oil in accordance with the fluctuation in its prices in the global market. Had that system continued in the country, the prices of petroleum would have increased to Rs. 75-80 a litre and the prices of diesel to Rs. 55-60 a litre in India. It is a serious problem. The problem exists because the 60 percent shortage of petrol in our country is met through import. The number of motor vehicles is increasing rapidly in the country. There is so much traffic jam that you would travel the distance of 10 kilometre in Delhi in two and half hour by keeping your patience. An aeroplane takes 30 minutes to reach Delhi from Lucknow and the same has to hover over Delhi airport for one and half hours. Thus, the aeroplane completes the journey from Lucknow to Delhi in two hours. We do not think about so much wastage of petrol in our country. The exchequer of our country cannot afford to meet the demand of petrol by giving subsidy thereon.

Sir, I urge the Government of India that rationing of petrol and diesel should be done as has been done for kerosene. By providing ration cards to the drivers of three-wheeler and two-wheeler small farmers having small tractors and motors for irrigation purpose, diesel and petrol should be given to them at subsidized rate. It is up to the Government of India to decide the rate at which the rich will have to purchase them or it may provide concession to them on its own behalf. But do not try to let the exchequer of the country incur loss on this account.

Another matter is about the private ownership of petrol. The owner has issued licences on his own behalf to twenty nine thousand retailers to sell petrol in the retail market. People have opened retail shops by spending ten, five or two crore of rupees. They say that prices have gone up in global market, hence they cannot give this at this rate. Twenty thousand helpless retailers have become penniles. The Government of India is not ready to take care of them. Government of India should think afresh about the petrol and diesel policy. The seriousness with which Finance Minister takes financial matters into account is rarely found in anybody and which coupled with his financial management shows that he is a serious and sincere Finance Minister. What matters much is the direction which is required to be changed as far as the financial management is concerned in order to protect the interest of the common people. Who constitute the major chunk of the India's population and it is the responsibility of any Government to protect their interests.

With these few suggestions, I assure the honourable Finance Minister that I and my party will certainly support the Finance Bill. There is much furore over the surging prices of essential commodities and steel in our country. Honourable Finance Minister in his reply said that the surging prices of commodities are the consequence of

rising prices in the international market. All the private producers are not ready to reduce the prices of iron rods at any cost. As a result, the construction activities got adversely affected in the country. There are two crore construction workers. We are in favour of expediting construction activities not because the few construction companies will be benefited therefrom but because the closure of construction works will lead two crore construction workers to starvation. All these things will have direct impact on the common people of the country. It was the Government's commitment and that was even the part of its manifesto to provide relief to the common man and hence it should take steps towards the fulfillment of that commitment.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to express my views on the Finance Bill, 2008.

Sir, it was the hope of the common people relying upon the promises given by the UPA in their Common Minimum Programme that the sufferings and the interests of common man would be given top priority and for that their policies and Budget would be for the benefit of the common man. But after 4 Budgets of the UPA Government we all know as to what is the condition of common people who are actually reeling under the unbearable spiraling of prices of essential commodities.

Inflation has risen to the 40 months' high, and it is more than seven per cent as per the Wholesale Price Index. If it is calculated at the rate of retail prices, it would be more than 25 per cent. For controlling price rise and inflation, whatever measures that have been taken by the UPA Government in this Budget or in the Finance Bill, which can be said to be all right or not, the answer comes in a negative.

Even after the Budget of this year, trends in price rise and rise in inflation continues. According to the figures released by the Government's own Department of Consumer Affairs, in the last one year, in the retail market of Delhi, the prices of various edible items have risen to a very great extent. I can give you the details. One year back, the price of ground oil per kilogram was Rs. 98 and it is now Rs. 121; in the case of mustard oil, the price increased from Rs. 55 per kilogram to Rs. 79 per kilogram; in the case of vanaspati, it increased from Rs. 56 per kilogram to Rs. 79 per kilogram; in the case of rice, it increased from Rs. 15 per kilogram to Rs. 18 per kilogram; in the case of wheat, it increased from Rs. 13 per kilogram to Rs. 14 per kilogram; in the case of gram, it increased from Rs. 32 per kilogram to Rs. 38 per kilogram; and in the case of tur dal, it increased from Rs. 35 per kilogram to Rs. 45 per kilogram.

Sir, as per some reports in the newspapers, the Forward Contracts (Regulations) Amendment Ordinance, 2008, is said to be the prime reason for the recent price rise.

The pity is that the prices of essential commodities have risen due to the effect of the Forward Contracts, and the poor farmers for whose benefit this Forward Contracts (Regulations) Ordinance was said to have been passed, has not benefited even to them.

Moreover, the UPA Government is cruelly playing with the fate of farmers by passing the Forward Contracts (Regulations) Amendment Ordinance, 2008, and the Government did not even care to get this Ordinance approved by the Parliament and allowed it to be lapsed.

Sir, this Ordinance was promulgated before two weeks of prior to the Budget Session. This Budget Session had commenced on 25th February, 2008, and adjourned for 25 days' recess on 20th March, 2008. The Government had no courage to lay the Ordinance before the House, and ultimately that Ordinance was lapsed on 7th April, 2008.

When the Government can think that by Forward Contracts (Regulations) it would control the prices and farmers would be benefited but this is not happening. Why can the Government not achieve the expected result? It can only be best known to the Government. We failed to understand it.

14.53 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

I, therefore, would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to explain in his reply to the following questions:

What was the need and why the Forward Contracts (Regulations) Amendment Ordinance 2008 was promulgated just only two weeks before the Budget Session of Parliament, which commenced on 25th February, 2008?

What was the urgency to promulgate this Ordinance?

When this Ordinance was promulgated and whether the same was approved by the Parliament within the mandatory time period or not? If not, what are the reasons for not getting the approval of the Parliament within the mandatory time period?

[Shri P.S. Gadhavi]

Sir, the UPA Government is not serious at all to take any effective measures for controlling the price rise, and to check inflation. It takes only *ad hoc* and 'too little' and 'too late' actions, which are insufficient to control the price rise and rise in inflation.

Sir, I now come to my next point. The hon. Finance Minister has declared reduction of duties in respect of some items in his Budget speech.

My next point that I would like to submit is on Service Tax. We all know the harsh effect of Service Tax which can be termed as back-door entry for levying tax. The hon. Finance Minister, on the contrary, instead of minimising this hardship, has increased the net of the Service Tax. In this Budget, he has proposed more services to be covered in the Service Tax net which will increase the hardship.

I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to one more point, that is, amendment in Section 40 (a) Sub-section (3) by Clause 9 of the Finance Bill. This will increase the hardships of the common people because we all know that now-a-days the prices of every moveable and immoveable item have sky-rocketed in the rural area also. Any transaction, if exceeds Rs. 20,000, should be by Account Payee cheque, and if not, then such transactions will likely to attract tax. So, my humble request to the hon. Finance Minister is that this limit may at least be increased from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 50,000.

Sir, myself, other MPs, some private individuals and associations have brought to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister about the agony that is being faced due to the implementation of Section 40 (a), Sub-Section (ia) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961. The effect of this Section will affect a large number of people. The victims of this provision have to pay a very heavy amount of tax and penalties, which are much more than their real income.

I can say of only one instance. In Ahmedabad range Income-Tax Office, the amount was disallowed by invoking this provision of this Section, and more than Rs. 100 crore was recovered, and that too from only 15 people. Suppose any small transport operator or contractor or anybody fails to deposit the TDS in time, it will attract 35 per cent tax; penalty 35 per cent; and then notice will be served. So, it has created havoc. Yesterday, so many persons had come to me and they told me that only because of some lax or forgetfulness or something like that or because of whatever may be the genuine reason, this provision is invoked. In my State, there is a Land Losers Association. They are dealing in some small business. Now, they have not paid TDS in time. Their income is Rs. 26,000. But the penalty and tax is more than Rs. 3 crore. How can he pay Rs. 3 crore? There are so many instances. They have approached the hon. Member, Shri Madhusudan Mistry and other Members also. Shri Madhusudan Mistry might have represented it, and I myself represented it. That is why, I am making this request. The implementation of this Section has created so much inconvenience, hardship and agony to the people. It is unbearable. Public Notice was published for this thing in only February. Prior to that, such notice was never published. My only request is that hon. F.M. should look into this. Otherwise, this is one instance of Ahmedabad but it can be applied throughout the country. So, I think lakhs and lakhs of people might be suffering because of this.

Many times we hear from the hon. Finance Minister at the time of Budget that they are going to make simplification in the tax procedure. But I want to know whether the simplification has been really effected or not. Or, is it creating more and more complications Budget after Budgets and amendment after amendments? So, instead of simplification, all these things are creating problems.

On the contrary, some duties are reduced in respect of melting scrap and other parts.

15.00 hrs.

In spite of your reducing the import duty from 5 per cent to nil, on the contrary the prices are going up. So is the case with steel whose prices have gone up. On the contrary you are talking of the common man but, hon. Minister of Finance has reduced excise duty on two wheelers, small cars, hybrid cars from 16 per cent to 12 per cent and also there is a reduction in customs duty on polished cubic zirconia and rough coral diamond from 10 per cent to five per cent and there is full customs duty exemption on rough cubic zirconia. I want to ask one thing. For whose benefit are all these reductions are? The same are not for common man.

Who is the common man? According to the findings of a survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation, ten per cent of the people of this country, who are living in villages cannot afford to spend more than nine rupees a day. These are the common men. If a person who earns nine rupees a day, how can he go for the two wheelers and cars and all these things? The survey further says that 30 per cent of the people of this country cannot afford to spend Rs. 12 a day and 30 per

cent of the people, who are living in the urban areas, cannot afford to spend more than Rs. 19 a day.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Finance as to how much amount of surcharge, which were levied at the rate of two per cent on education cess on the income-tax, for providing universalised quality basic education and additional surcharge at the rate of one per cent for secondary and higher education has been collected, and actually utilised for the purposes for which the same was collected. I would like to know whether it was actually utilised for the purpose for which it was collected or not. I want to know whether our educational standards have improved or not. Our citizens are paying this much surcharge. What is the result? We would like to know as to what is the result of this.

I would like to request the hon. Minister of Finance to kindly consider the request made by the Federation of Kutch Industries Association. Sir, there is this Federation of Kutch Industries Association who have submitted one representation to the hon. Minister of Finance and they have requested for necessary amendment in the Rule 18 of the Central Excise Rules, 2004 in Sixth Schedule of Finance Bill, 2008.

Sir, the effective period given in this proposed amendment is from 1.3.2002 to 7.12.2006. But, the departmental instructions issued by the Board was made public only by way of its Notification No. 37/2007-CE(NT) dated 17.9.2007. This notification was given on 17.9.2007; but the effective period is from 1st March, 2002 to 07.12.2006. This notification has clarified that 'the rebate shall not be admissible under this notification to the units availing benefits of notification no. 39/2001-CE dated 31.7.2007'. This notification was for Kutch region.

Sir, I may submit that the notification No. 37/2007-CE(NT) dated 17.9.2007 can only have prospective effect. But it cannot have retrospective effect. Therefore, the rebate on the goods cleared for export on before 17.9.2007 should not be denied.

My only request is that they cannot be denied this when the notification was not there. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Please send me a note. I will do it.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: I will send it. Thank you, Sir.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Finance to kindly consider all my requests. I thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me this opportunity. I may be permitted to lay on the Table of the House the remaining part of my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

*SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, it was the hope of the common people, relying upon the promises, which were given to them by UPA in their COMMON MINIMUM PROGRAMME (CMP), that the safeguarding of the interests of common man would be given top priority, and for that all their policies and budget etc. would be for common man.

But after the four budgets of UPA, we all know what is the condition of common man, who are reeling under unbearable spiraling prices of essential commodities, and inflation which has risen to 40-month high more than 7% at wholesale price, but if it is calculated at the rate of retail prices, it would be more than 25%.

For controlling the price rise and inflation, whether measures taken by UPA Government in its budget or this Finance Bill, are alright or not? Sir, the answer comes in negative.

Sir, even after the budget of this year, trends in price rise and rising of the inflation continue.

According to figures released by Government's own Department of Consumer Affairs, in the last one year in the retail market of Delhi, the prices of various edible items have risen to very great extent. Details of which are given below:-

Item		From Rs. /kg.	To Rs. /kg
1.	Groundnut oil	98	121
2.	Mustard oil	55	79
3.	Vanaspati	56	79
4.	Rice	15	18
5.	Wheat	13	14
6.	Gram	32	38
7.	Tur dal	35	45

Sir, as per some reports in newspapers, the Forward Contracts (Regulations) Amendment Ordinance 2008, is said to be the prime reason for the recent price rise.

Pity of thing is that the prices of essential commodities have risen due to effect of the Forward

*Laid on the Table.

[Shri P.S. Gadhavi]

Contracts, and poor farmers for whose benefit this Forward Contracts (Regulations) Ordinance was said to have been passed, were not benefited to them.

Moreover, UPA Government is cruelly playing with the fate of farmers by passing the Forward Contracts (Regulations) Amendment Ordinance 2008, and did not even care to get this Ordinance approved by the Parliament, and allowed it to be lapsed.

Sir, this Ordinance was promulgated before two weeks of the budget session, which was commenced on 25.2.2008, and adjourned for 25 days' recess on March 20, 2008, the Government had no courage to lay the Ordinance before the House, and ultimately the Ordinance was lapsed on April 7, 2008.

When Government thinks that by Forward Contracts (Regulations) would control the prices and farmers would be benefited, but this is not happening; why Government cannot achieve expected result, it can only be best known to Government.

I, therefore, request Hon'ble Finance Minister to explain in his reply:

(a) What was the need and why the Forward Contracts (Regulations) Amendment Ordinance 2008, was promulgated just only two weeks before the budget session of Parliament, which commenced on 25.2.2008;

(b) What was the urgency to promulgate this Ordinance;

(c) When this Ordinance was promulgated and whether the same was approved by the Parliament within mandatory time period or not; and

(d) If not, what are the reasons for not getting approval of the Parliament within mandatory period?

Sir, UPA Government is not serious at all to take any effective measures for controlling the price rise, rise of inflation. It takes only ad-hoc and 'too little' and 'too late' actions, which are insufficient to control the price rise.

Though, Hon'ble Finance Minister has declared reduction of duties in his budget speech, in short, the details of which are as under:-

S.No.	FM's Budget Speech Para	Details of items on which duties were reduced	Details of reduction of duty	
			From	To
1	131	Reduction of duty on steel melting scrap and aluminum scrap	5%	Nil
2	134	The duty on bactofuges which will increase the shelf life of milk and benefit the Dairy Industry	7.5%	Nil
3	140	In order to support domestic fertilizer production, duty is reduced on crude and unrefined sulphur	5%	2%
4	150	Hon'ble FM has proposed for bringing parity in excise duty rates on bulk cement and packaged cement	Proposed Rs. 400 per metric tonne 14% *ad-valorem*	

So, even after proposals of reduction in duties in budget, prices of cement, steel, milk and other items of essential commodities, have gone up.

Sir, Hon'ble Finance Minister proposed to levy duty on naphtha imported for the use in manufacturing polymers at the rate of 5%, but the naphtha imported for production of fertilizer will remain to be exempted from duty. What is the effect of this proposal? Whether the prices of fertilizers have come down or not? Answer is in negative.

At the same time, it is very much apprehended that the naphtha imported for the purpose of production of fertilizers will be utilized illegally for the manufacturing polymers.

Sir, we all know the harsh effect of Service Tax, which can be termed as back-door entry for levying the tax. Hon'ble Finance Minister has proposed more services to be covered in this Service Tax Net, which will increase the hardship more.

Sir, amendment in Section 40(a), Sub Section (3) by Clause 9 of Finance Bill will increase the hardships of people, because we all know that now-a-days prices of every moveables and immoveables have sky-rocketed in rural area also. Any transaction, if exceeds Rs. 20,000/-, then such transactions should be by Account Payee Cheque and if not, then such transactions will likely to attract tax. So, my request to Hon'ble Finance Minister to increase this limit from Rs. 20,000 to at least Rs. 50,000 to avoid genuine hardship in the business transaction.

Sir, myself and many other M.Ps., private individuals, and associations have brought to the notice of Hon'ble Finance Minister about the unbearable hardships are being faced due to implementation of Section 40(a)(ia) of Income Tax Act, 1961. The effect of this Section that very large number of victims of this provision have to pay very heavy amount of tax, and penalties much more than their real income.

Sir, I can say that only in one range of Ahmedabad Income Tax Office, the amount was disallowed by invoking provisions of this Section is around Rs. 100 crore only in case of approx. 50 number of assesses.

I, therefore, request Hon'ble Finance Minister to kindly consider the representations made on this issue very positively and please see that this very harsh provision be amended immediately.

Sir, I would like to mention here that all efforts made by Hon'ble Finance Minister for simplification of taxation laws are very nominal and superficial, in the name of simplification of taxation laws, the same have become much more complicated. So, I request Hon'ble Finance Minister to make taxation laws simplified, in terms of its letter and spirit.

Sir, instead of common man, Hon'ble Finance Minister has reduced excise duty on two wheelers, small cars, hybrid cars from 16% to 12% and also reduction in customs duty on polished cubic zirconia and rough coral diamond from 10% to 5% and full customs duty exemption on rough cubic zirconia; for whose benefit all these reductions? The same are not for common man.

Sir, who is common man?

Sir, according to findings of survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation—

(i) 10% people of this country, who are living in villages cannot afford to spend more than Rs. 9/- a day;

(ii) 30% of people of this country, who cannot afford to spend Rs. 12/- a day; and

(iii) 30% people, who are living in urban areas cannot afford to spend more than Rs. 19/- a day.

Sir, I would like to know from Hon'ble Finance Minister that how much amount of surcharge, which were levied at the rate of 2% of Education Cess on Income Tax, for providing universalized quality basic Education and additional Surcharge at the rate of 1% for Secondary and Higher Education Cess, has been collected, and actually utilized for its purposes for which the same was collected?

And very serious concern about this is that whether common man gets quality basic Education and Secondary & Higher Education or not? The answer does not come in positive.

Sir, I would like to request Hon'ble Finance Minister to kindly consider the request made by Federation of Kutch Industries Association (FOKIA) for necessary amendment in the Rule 18 of the Central Excise Rules, 2004 in Sixth Schedule of Finance Bill, 2008.

Sir, effective period given in this proposed amendment is from 1.3.2002 to 7.12.2006. But Sir, the departmental instruction issued by the Board was made public only by way of its Notification No.37/2007-CE(NT), dated 17.9.2007. This Notification has clarified that "the rebate shall not be admissible under this Notification to the units availing benefits of Notification No.39/2001-CE, dated 31.7.2007.

Sir, the Notification No.37/2007-CE(NT), dated 17.9.2007 can only have prospective effect, but it cannot have retrospective effect, and therefore, the rebate on the goods cleared for export, on or before 17.9.2007, should not be denied.

I, therefore, request Hon'ble Finance Minister to kindly consider the request made by FOKIA positively.

[Translation]

*SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Finance Bill, 2008. I am very sorry to say Sir, the long over due need for appointment of an interpreter for Bodo language in Lok Sabha, has not been made as yet, although Bodo language has already been included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution in 2003. It is very unfortunate. Had I been given opportunity to speak in Bodo today it would have made one crore Bodo people living across the whole country very happy. They would have felt that Government of India has indeed a great respect for Bodo people. I have been compelled to express my views on the Finance Bill in Assamese aimed at making my Bodo land country side people understand what I intend to speak out for them.

I feel, in order to strengthen the economy of a country we must maintain fiscal discipline and financial good governance. Even after sixty years of independence, crores of people belonging to the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes people of the country still remain deprived. They are yet to enjoy the fruits of freedom and benefits of development. The primary reason for this is the lack of proactive policy decision and initiative on the part of the Government to enhance the State exchequer by collecting taxes and revenue from the rich capitalists plugging the loope holes of tax evasion. The affluent sections of people are thriving with black money and the poor people are suffering. Black money has resulted in the escalation of prices of essential commodities making the poor people the victims.

I do not wish to make a lengthy speech but since I could not participate in the Budget discussion due to my busy schedule within my constituency. I wish to highlight some of the burning problems faced by the people of Bodoland although they may not seem to be related to the finance Bill.

The Government of India has decided to set up thirty numbers of new Central Universities in our country. During the Eleventh Five Year Plan period out of 30, sixteen universities are going to be set up during 2008-09 financial year itself. I would like to ask the Government where does the Government want to set up these universities? Why no Central University has been set up in Bodoland till today? I would like to demand that Government of India should set up at least one Central University in Bodoland. Besides the Central University Government of India should also set up one IIT, one IIM, one Medical College, one Institute for Information Technology and a few more number of premier educational institutions within Bodoland. The UPA Government has imposed Cess on petrol and diesel for supporting elementary and secondary education. Crores of rupees have been collected. But what is happening in Assam. The Government of Assam has not been able as yet to take over more than two thousand numbers of Bodo medium primary, middle English and high schools due to paucity of funds over the recent past few decades.

Even though the Bodo language was included in the Eighth Schedule of Constitution in 2003 the Bodo medium school educations it is now on the verge of extinction. I, therefore, demand that the Government of India should provide at least two thousand crores of rupees to the Government of Assam and the Bodoland administration so that they can take over all the venture Bodo medium schools. Central Government has made elementary education compulsory for the children up to the age of 14 years. If necessary fund is not provided, how will the children of Bodoland will get proper education? It is a very serious issue. That is why I demand that the Central Government must provide Rs. 2000 crore for the sustenance and development of Bodo medium education in primary, upper primary and high school stages in Bodoland. In our Bodoland area, we don't have a single medical college and our children are deprived of medical education. The Bodoland Territorial Areas Districts comprises of four districts. It was set up under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution in 2003. A large number of posts for doctors are still lying vacant in this area. Doctors from outside Bodoland area do not want to come and serve the people of Bodoland.

Several thousands of people died of Malaria and other deadly diseases over the recent past few decades. I, therefore, demand that an AIIMS like Institute should be set up in Bodoland. Besides, necessary funds should also be made available for rural electrification, irrigation, agriculture, road communication and telecommunication projects in Bodoland. Our Bodoland area is yet to see the growth of industrilalisation and the youths have no job opportunity. Lack of employment opportunity has compelled the youth to join militancy. I, therefore, request the Government to take up concrete measures for setting up of some viable industries in our Bodoland. There was a time when our Bodoland area was very rich in betel nut cultivation. But recently betel nut crop has been

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Assamese.

affected by diseases making the nut growers incur heavy losses. Government should, therefore, take necessary steps for the protection and development of betel nut cultivation, the way it extends help to tea, rubber and coffee cultivation. It is really a matter of great regret that prices of all essential commodities are rising day-by-day. I demand that the appropriate steps should be taken to control the spiraling price rise. Moreover, due to floods and erosion our entire region including Bodoland face a lot of problems every year. Therefore, Government of India should provide at least rupees two thousand crores to the Assam Government and also to Bodoland administration to tackle the problem of flood and erosion. I would like to mention, Sir, the Government of India has announced that by the year 2010 we will be economically very prosperous. But unfortunately, in my area we don't have a single airport. I, therefore, demand that an airport should be constructed in Bodoland as soon as possible. In our country we are facing the problem of corruption. And at the same time we are also having the problems of adulteration in food items and spurious medicines. We should check these activities. Even if India emerges as a strong economy by the year 2010, how will it be beneficial for the people? What is happening in Delhi today? Poisonous substance has been added to the vegetables. Why these have not been stopped? Milk is also being adulterated. The adulterated food stuff has affected the health of our people very badly. Through you sir, I would like to know from our Hon'ble Prime Minister and also from the Hon'ble President from which farm they get milk and from which shops they get vegetable? I would like to add, Sir, the Government should not impose any tax on the yarn which are used by the tribal girls and women for weaving clothes. Several thousand Bodo (mech) people are also living in our neighbouring country Nepal. They also want to wear their traditional Bodo dress and clothes in that country. But the Nepal Government levies heavy custom duty on the yarn from which these traditional dresses are woven. I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to make a request to the Nepal Government not to levy any custom duty on the yarn and traditional Bodo clothes and attires as well that are to be imported to from India. I would also request the Central Government not to levy any duty on the yarn used in the production of these traditional dresses in our North Eastern region. Government should not levy any duty on the items imported by our tribal traders in our North Eastern States. Besides, if we want tourism to flourish in NE region, then Government should stop imposing service taxes. Sir, I don't wish to speak much. To conclude, I would like to say Sir, Let the SCs and the STs and other backward people be given a chance to enjoy the fruits of our 'independence' in the next 60 years the way it has been enjoyed by the upper class people. I demand that more funds should be allocated for the development of the people of Bodoland.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have been given undue preference because you come from Bodo Land of North-East.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. When we are discussing the Finance Bill, I would like to speak about the loan waiver for farmers which is restricted to the farmers owning 2.5 hectares of land. No doubt, it is a welcome measure but I think the farmers whose only occupation is agriculture and their livelihood is farming are not going to benefit from this waiver scheme because it is restricted to 2.5 hectares of land. As agriculture is a State subject, every State is guided by different land reform patterns. Now it is enshrined in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to look into it. This is like a one-time settlement involving entrepreneurs and the bank.

It is like a one-time settlement. It will neither help the agriculturists to improve their economic conditions, nor will it help the Government to achieve a growth rate of four per cent. The NDA Government tried its best and achieved a growth rate of one per cent and today this Government has achieved a growth rate of 1.2 per cent. But that is not sufficient. Agriculture is the mainstay of our economy and therefore, if the Government wishes to bring about vibrancy in the economy we have to strengthen the agriculture sector. Our agriculture is dependent upon rainfall. Most of our areas are rainfed and is largely linked to credit. The farmers have to depend on the rural banks and the co-operatives because these institutions are the backbone of credit in the rural areas. Then there are issues like production and procurement. All these things are inter-linked. I am sorry to state that under the UPA Government nearly 3,000 to 3,500 Rural Gramin Banks have stopped functioning. I would like to request the Government to kindly open more Regional Rural Banks in the rural areas so that the agriculturists get the benefit of credit. Otherwise what will happen is that they would have to necessarily approach the moneylenders for credit because they do not have any other profession besides farming to pursue.

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

I am happy to note that this Government proposes to build up a cold chain and is giving an infrastructural status to cold chain and cold storages. But the Government should give concessions for the machinery that is being imported for the cold chain. The Government should reduce the Excise Duty, Custom Duty and Import Duty so that the right machinery could be imported for the food items and the processed items so that they compete with foreign players. By this the farmers could get 20 per cent more income. The Government has to provide them with a security shield.

Sir, there was a deliberation going on between the hon. Finance Minister and Shri Swain regarding insurance policy. It was for the first time in the history of independent India that during the regime of the NDA Government crop insurance cover was provided to a non-loanee farmer. But that was insufficient because the Farmers' Forum had demanded that to determine the insurance cover for failure of a crop a village should be treated as a unit and not even a Panchayat. Block is a very big unit keeping in view the vagaries of weather. Sometimes within a periphery of 50 kilometres one may find a hail storm in one place and may not experience the same some 10 to 15 kilometers away from there. So, such sporadic behaviour of the climate has a definite impact on the farmers and their livelihood. So, a village should be treated as a unit to determine insurance cover. Again, I would like to mention here that only three crops, namely, rice, wheat and cotton has been chosen for providing insurance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Deo, you may continue your speech next time.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, all right. I will continue the next day.

15.29 hrs.

MOTION RE: THIRTY-SIXTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-sixth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 23rd April, 2008."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-sixth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 23rd April, 2008."

The motion was adopted.

15.30 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item No. 16, Shri Subhash Sureshchandra Deshmukh—not present.

Item No. 17, Shri Subhash Sureshchandra Deshmukh—not present.

Item No. 18, Shri L. Rajagopal.

(i) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2007*
(Insertion of new article 21B)

[English]

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijayawada): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: I introduce the Bill.

---

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 25.04.2008.

15.31 hrs.

(ii) Disruption of Proceedings of Parliament (Disentitlement of Daily Allowance to Members and Termination of Membership) Bill, 2008*

[English]

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijayawada): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for disentitlement of daily allowance to members for the day on which the proceedings of a House of Parliament of which they are members are adjourned due to disruption caused by a member or a group of members and termination of membership of a member or a group of members who disrupt the proceedings of the House and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for disentitlement of daily allowance to members for the day on which the proceedings of a House of Parliament of which they are members are adjourned due to disruption caused by a member or a group of members and termination of membership of a member or a group of members who disrupt the proceedings of the House and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: I introduce the Bill.

15.32 hrs.

(iii) Insurance Agents Welfare Bill, 2007*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to make provisions for the welfare of insurance agents and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to make provisions for the welfare of insurance agents and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I introduce the Bill.**

15.33 hrs.

(iv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2007* *(Amendment of article 73)*

[English]

ADV. SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

ADV. SURESH KURUP: I introduce the Bill.

15.33$^{1}/_{2}$ hrs.

(v) Sculptors, Artists and Artisans of Rural Areas Welfare Bill, 2008*

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the welfare of sculptors, artists and artisans in rural areas and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the welfare of sculptors, artists and artisans in rural areas and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 25.04.08.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.34 hrs.

(vi) Commission for the Formation of State of Vidarbha Bill, 2008*

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Commission for the formation of a separate State of Vidarbha by reorganization of the existing State of Maharashtra and for matters connected with.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Commission for the formation of a separate State of Vidarbha by reorganization of the existing State of Maharashtra and for matters connected with "

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.34$^{1}/_{2}$ hrs.

(vii) Anganwadi Workers (Regularisation of Service and Other Benefits) Bill, 2008*

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for regularization of the services and conferring the status of permanent employees of Government on Anganwadi Workers and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for regularization of the services and conferring the status of permanent employees of Government on Anganwadi Workers and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.35 hrs.

(viii) Cotton Growers (Remunerative Price and Welfare) Bill, 2008*

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, I beg to mvoe for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the remunerative price for the produce of the cotton growers, insurance of cotton crop free of cost and for their overall welfare and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the remunerative price for the produce of the cotton growers, insurance of cotton crop free of cost and for their overall welfare and for matters connected therewith. "

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

---

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 25.04.08.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 25.04.08.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.35$^{1}/_{2}$ hrs.

(ix) National Minimum Pension (Guarantee) Bill, 2008*

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of guaranteed minimum pension to all pensioners in the country and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of guaranteed minimum pension to all pensioners in the country and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I introduce the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

(x) Working Elephants (Protection and Welfare) Bill, 2008*

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for measures for the protection and welfare of working elephants and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for measures for the protection and welfare of working elephants and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I introduce the Bill.

---

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 25.04.08.

15.36$^{1}/_{2}$ hrs.

(xi) Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
(Amendment of the Schedule)

[Translation]

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Faridabad): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.37 hrs.

(xii) Minimum Wages (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
(Amendment of Section 3)

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: I introduce the Bill.

---

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 25.04.08.

15.37½ hrs.

(xiii) Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2008*

[English]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Uttar Pradesh) Order, 1967.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Uttar Pradesh) Order, 1967. "

The motion was adopted.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: I introduce the Bill.

15.38 hrs.

(xiv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2008* ***(Amendment of article 15, etc.)***

[English]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: I introduce the Bill.

---

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 25.04.08.

15.39 hrs.

(xv) High Court of Kerala (Establishment of a Permanent Bench at Thiruvananthapuram) Bill, 2008*

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court of Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court of Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I introduce the Bill.

DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL (Ernakulam): I have given a notice for raising my objection to this. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have not given any notice.

... *(Interruptions)*

DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL: No, I gave the notice. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Proper notice has to be given in advance. All of a sudden you cannot stand up and object. That is not proper.

... *(Interruptions)*

15.39 hrs.

(xvi) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2008* ***(Amendment of the Eleventh Schedule)***

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

---

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 25.04.08.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): I introduce the Bill.

15.40 hrs.

(xvii) Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
(Amendment of Section 2, etc.)

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.41 hrs.

(xviii) Domestic Workers (Conditions of Service) Bill, 2008*

[English]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the fixation of wages of domestic workers and for the improvement of their working conditions and for matters connected therewith.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 25.04.08.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the fixation of wages of domestic workers and for the improvement of their working conditions and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.42 hrs.

(xix) Flood Control Bill, 2008*

[English]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of a National Flood Control Board to control floods and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of a National Flood Control Board to control floods and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item No. 37, Dr. R. Senthil–not present.

Item No. 38, Dr. R. Senthil–not present.

15.43 hrs.

(xx) Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Amendment Bill, 2008*
(Amendment of Section 2)

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijayawada): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 25.04.08.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.43½ hrs.

(xxi) Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment Bill) 2008*

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) (Union Territories) Order, 1951, the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order, 1956, the Constitution (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) Scheduled Castes Order, 1962, the Constitution (Puducherry) Scheduled Castes Order, 1964 and the Constitution (Sikkim) Scheduled Castes Order, 1978.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) (Union Territories) Order, 1951, the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order, 1956, the Constitution (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) Scheduled Castes Order, 1962, the Constitution (Puducherry) Scheduled Castes Order, 1964 and the Constitution (Sikkim) Scheduled Castes Order, 1978."

The motion was adopted

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.44 hrs.

(xxii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
(Amendment of the Seventh Schedule)

[English]

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE (Canara): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 25.04.08.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.44½ hrs.

(xxiii) Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Amendment Bill, 2008*
(Amendment of Sections 2 and 6)

[English]

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE (Canara): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006."

The motion was adopted

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will pass on to the next item. We have received a late notice from Dr. Sebastian Paul. Now, on the basis of this notice, you can mention a word about it. You have given a late notice, but I will allow you.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 25.04.08.

DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL (Ernakulam): Sir, in Item No. 32 Shri C.K. Chandrappan has introduced a Bill, to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court of Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram). ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can mention only one word.

DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL: Sir, I am challenging the legislative competence of that Bill on the ground of Article 247 and other relevant provisions of the Constitution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Bill has already been introduced. Nothing will happen. Your opposition is there. The Bill is in order. Since the Bill has already been introduced, no further objection is entertained.

15.45 hrs.

ELECTORAL REFORMS COMMISSION BILL, 2006—*Contd.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up further consideration of the Electoral Reforms Commission Bill.

Shri K.S. Rao–not present.

Shri Kharabela Swain.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, at the very outset, I would like to thank Shri C.K. Chandrappan for moving this Private Member's Bill with regard to the Electoral Reforms Commission.

Well, Sir, in this House, on several occasions, the very topic has been debated. I believe that even if it has been debated several times earlier, still new and new points are being raised and a Forum like the Lok Sabha, the Parliament of this country should continue its discussion. But, Sir, my first point is that Shri Chandrappan has brought it forward in the form of a Bill. He wants that it should be made a law and the Government of India should, within three months from the date of commencement of this Act, set up an Electoral Reforms Commission. I do not agree with this proposal made by Shri Chandrappan. If he wants to bring in some changes in the electoral process, then, why should it be done through an Electoral Reforms Commission?

During the time of the NDA Government, when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister, it was thought that the Constitution of India should undergo a thorough change.

15.47 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

So, a Constitution Review Committee was formed under the Chairmanship of the ex-Chief Justice of India Justice Venkatachalaiah. But it was not made through a law. I think this proposal could have been brought forward by way of a Private Member's Resolution instead of a Bill.... *(Interruptions)* So, the Government could have been requested in this matter. Instead of just bringing forward a Bill and getting it passed in this Parliament, the hon. Law Minister, who is present here, could have persuaded and impressed upon the hon. Prime Minister of this country in this regard. Now also it could be done. An Electoral Reforms Committee could be formed and it can submit its Report.

He has made several points of recommendations like what the Electoral Reforms Commission should do.

First on this, he has made a recommendation for proportional representation system. Now, the latest election in Nepal, we are having 240 Members at the 'first-past-the-post' system, whosoever gets a the highest number of votes which may not be more than 50 per cent, whosoever gets the highest number of votes wins there. Two hundred and forty seats are left for them. The rest are left for proportional representation. It is one of the good things in the western countries that not only the individual wins but also some people nominated by the party also win as per the percentage of votes that they get from the people. It is not possible in such a vast country like India. How many political parties we are having? They are innumerable. You cannot simply count them. Every day, new parties are coming up. If you say there will be a proptional representation system, people will be elected on the basis of the percentage of votes that get, then some party getting 0.2 or 0.1 per cent votes, how many seats you can win. I do not think that in such a huge and vast country like India, the proportional representation system could be adopted. We

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

can say that only the recognised parties by the Election Commission should participate in the election process. We can say so. But, somebody may move the court. Some person may move the court and they can say that Fundamental Right of contesting an election and voting are being affected by such a Bill and the Judiciary of this country may go in their favour. Proportional representation system cannot function effectively in a country like India.

He has raised another very important point with regard to reservation. Reservation is a very interesting issue in this country. Now, he has wanted reservation for 15 per cent women. I do know there is a demand for 33 percentage reservation for the women because sometimes, during our time, the Bill was introduced which was opposed by some of our own Members here. Now, the leftist of this country are the only parties who directly demand from this UPA Government that they should move this Bill in this House. Then, it will be know which party will be in favour of whom. A 33 per cent reseration bring the Bill in the original form. I am very surprised, he has aksed only for 15 per cent reservation.

Do we not give this message? That means, nothing has happened and if reservation is given, then only the backward people, the semi-backward people can lift their lot in this country. Is it true? Then, what is the point of talking about 9 per cent or 10 per cent growth and making India a Super Power by 2020? On the one side we say that we have made this kind of growth and on the other side we say that we have not achieved enough growth.

Sir, in the days of globalisation, who can survive? The point is that only the best will survive but we demand only by making reservation, some people can get some jobs and can occupy certain positions. But in the days of globalisation, when you have to enter into competition with the entire world, only quality will survive and nothing else. So, I am very strongly against this perception of bringing in more and more people under reservation for jobs and other things. I do not agree that in the days of globalisation and competition we should go in for any further reservation in this country and only quality should be the determining factor for selecting people to occupy certain posts.

Then, about reservation of seats I would like to make another point. Do you not gain anything without reservation? Let us take the example in politics. How is that we are having a person like Kumari Mayawati as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, the biggest State in this country? Do you mean to say that she has won the election only with the votes of the Scheduled Castes whom she represents? She has succeeded in doing what no other party has been able to do in the recent past in Uttar Pradesh. She has got absolute majority in Uttar Pradesh which no other party has been able to obtain in the last 10 to 15 years. She has achieved that and that too without any reservation for the post of Chief Minister. She could do that because of her quality and because of her courage. Even the Upper Caste people, who were opposed to her earlier, have voted for her. Take the example of Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, Shri Lalu Prasad, his wife Shrimati Rabri Devi and Shri Karunanidhi. They do not come from Upper Castes. They come from the Backward Castes. But they are very powerful and they are very capable also. So, without any reservation they have succeeded in achieving something in this country and they have proved their virtue. Therefore, what is the need for any reservation? I do not understand this.

Sir, let us take the example of reservation for women. There are six parties in this country who are led by very capable women. I need not name them. Do they require reservation? I do not think Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, who is sitting here, needed any reservation to come to Parliament. She has come here because of her capability.

I will make another bitter comment also. When it comes to corruption and high-handedness, in what way the women leaders are better than men?

16.00 hrs.

You just tell me. There are examples after examples. In what way the lot of this country will be better if we provide reservation to women? In what way have they succeeded? Even if they have succeeded, they have succeeded on their own quality.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): Mr. Chairman, Sir, he has taken my name. So, I should be allowed now to respond. I thank you for the compliment but you will appreciate that the reservation at the Panchayati Raj, which the then Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi had envisaged and has empowered women across the country. We are talking of

those women who are not empowered. I was fortunate. I had my father, who believed that he does not have to kill me as a female feticide. I have my husband, who does not practice domestic violence, and there are people who have facilitated my growth and environment but there are many women in this country who do not have this. So, reservation for women is not just necessary but it should be mandatory also so that we can have an equitable society. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are not discussing the whole aspects of the reservation now.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, there are many points. I thought that we are not getting any opportunity to debate this topic. In a very superfluous way, everybody is saying that they want reservation. Sir, you know very well that nobody wants it. That is why, whenever I get an opportunity, I would like to raise it. So, let me raise this issue.

ADV. SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Do not say 'everybody'. There are many individuals and many political parties who demand that there should be reservation for women. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): They believe but they do not provide. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, Shri Suresh Kurup belongs to CPM. In the last Assembly election in West Bengal, they had provided only 10 per cent seats to women. I was also telling Shri C.K. Chandrappan about this and he knows it very well. This is what they say and this is what they practice. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please address the Chair.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, you take the example of reservation of women in the Panchayati Raj system. Previously there was no reservation. There was only one Sarpanch. Now, a lady member is a Sarpanch; her husband is a Sarpanch; her son is a Sarpanch; her father-in-law is a Sarpanch; her father is a Sarpanch. So, there are four or five Sarpanches now. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: That is why we need to protect women. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kharabela Swain, please address the Chair.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I am addressing the Chair. This is what we have done. Previously, even in the meetings, the male members, his wife or sister or mother, go and try to represent as the representatives of the people. That is what has happened to the Panchayati Raj reservation system. Sir, I do not want to go any further on this issue.

My point is that my Party has also very rightly said that instead of making reservation for women in the Assemblies and in the Parliament, let the Political Parties give tickets to a certain percentage of women in the elections. I think, that will be a much better solution, and our Party has also done so.

Now, I will come to the point of State funding. Shri C.K. Chandrappan has also raised this point. Why do we require State funding? We require posters, banners, oil for vehicles and other things. We require a lot of money for these. I was very pleasantly surprised that when I had just went for campaigning in certain States like Goa or West Bengal, I found that the Election Commission had done an excellent thing by banning the use of posters, banners, and even the use of flags in some of the States. I had also contested elections and I also felt that there should be no use of these things.

In a country like India, there is no necessity of posters, banners and other things. Rather, the pasting of all these posters and banners create a lot of disturbances and violence during the time of election, and without the use of these things, the election system would be more peaceful. So, I do not think that money should be given for that.

In the Western countries, most of the State funding is done because they try to campaign through the electronic media and they will have to pay a lot of money for that, which they can not arrange. That is the money that is being given by the Government. So, I would appeal to the Government that in Doordarshan it can give some free time to the candidates who contest the election. Instead of giving money to them, why do they not give some free time? I think this will serve the purpose. State funding will not be required because I think State funding will be mis-utilised in most of the ways. Many candidates will contest and they will be non-serious candidates. They would take the money and they will not utilise it.

Lastly, I have two points. They are new points which he has not mentioned. I think in this country, let there be

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

a debate with regard to the Presidential form of Government. Should we revert to a Presidential form of Government? Should this country elect one President who will run this country and the Parliament also remains just like that? There should be a debate on this point because now in a country like the United States of America, the Ministers are not appointed from Parliament. They are appointed neither from the Senate nor from the House of Representatives. They are all outsiders. When the President thinks that whosoever is capable, whosoever can run the Government, he appoints them as the Ministers. Can we revert back to that system? There should be a debate on that. If we cannot revert back to the Presidential form of Government, can we provide in our Constitution that a certain percentage of Ministers could be appointed from outside the Parliament? Could this be done? I think we can debate on this point.

It is because now you see the result. During 1991, the person, who was ex-Governor of Reserve Bank, was appointed as the Finance Minister of this country. Now he has become the Prime Minister. So, can we do that? We can appoint a certain percentage of capable persons as Ministers from outside.

Now, I would come to my last point. Can we fix the tenure of State Assemblies and Parliament? Sir, you know that even if it is for five years, you are not very sure how long will it continue. It may be for 13 months. It may go for four years. It may be for five years. Nobody knows. So, I think, like the House of Representatives in America or in certain other Western democracies, the tenure of the House should be fixed. How should it be fixed? It could be fixed provided the Government does not fall. How will the Government not fall before five years?

My suggestion is, instead of the Chief Ministers or the Prime Minister being nominated or appointed by the President or the Governors of this country, let this House and the State Assemblies elect the Chief Ministers and the Prime Minister just as we elect the Speaker. We can do that. When the Speaker is elected by the Members of the House, why not the Prime Minister of this country? Why can the MLAs not elect the Chief Ministers of the States? If that is done before five years, the House will not be dissolved because all the time there will be somebody as Chief Minister. So, if at all, the Government goes for Electoral Reforms Commission, I think all our suggestions may be put up before them, and let them take a decision. They can review it. Let there be a national debate on this. If required, I think we can bring in these points by way of some reforms or some amendments in our Constitution so that we could have a better electoral system. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as sun stroke has afflicted me, I will conclude my speech early. However, it was necessary for me to speak as it was an important topic. In our election system problems continuously. Reforms are carried out but scope of reforms also remain there. Election is such a process through which we come to know about the aspirations of the people in an accurate way.

I still remember the time before the year 1962 when the first general elections were held. At that time, boxes were used to drop the slips into it. Most of the people used to be the dedicated workers of the party in Government. They used to takeout others slips and keep it in Bhardwajis party's box and in this way Bhardwaji's party would win all seats in the elections during that time. Later, it was said that there should be ballot paper with symbols of all parties printed on it and for putting stamps on the ballot papers voters should turn out. I have seen the election held in the year 1971. At that time, I was campaigning for Madhuji in Munger. It seemed that we would win in the village in which I was stationed. But on the day of voting, hundreds of people armed with lathis came and drove us away by beating us. After that four people sat in the booth and cast 90 percent of votes. In this way, the election result got changed.

Sir Y.B. Chavan was Minister of Home Affairs of India. In the Parliament a lot of discussions took place and some suggestions were given for making changes in the election process in consultation with Shri Jai Prakashji. Identification of agents and all voters was made mandatory but the problem did not end. Now, a new system has become prevalent that we shall keep electronic machines in our country and the voters will have some card along with identification. The result is that a very low voting percentage is being recorded. According to us, we have implemented the most fool-proof system in our country. It has resulted in 20 per cent, 25 per cent and 30 per cent voting. Elite people who show as if they are most worried about the democratic system of the country after taking one or half peg of whisky in their drawing room say that goondas, miscreants, illiterate and loss educated people

have entered into politics. They always think like that but on the day of election do not go to cast their vote. The most literate constituency of India is North Allahabad where Allahabad High Courts is situated. Judges of High Court, ex judges Allahabad University known as the Oxford, its retired professors and serving professors of this University are here. There is medical college, the most reputed engineering college, IIIT situated in that area. All famous poets, writers, prose writers and poets in the field of Hindi literature of this country from Sumitra Nandan Pant and Mahadevi Verma to Ram Kumar Verma belonged to this place. In the present time Doodhnath Singh belongs to this constituency. But, when voting took place, the voting percentage was only 18 per cent in the Assembly elections.

You can imagine how much interest the educated people and the people concerned for democracy in the country have in the democratic process. We can understand this very well. So, what is needed most for making an impact on the voting process is to create awareness among the masses. It should be made mandatory for everyone to cast vote at any cost. If someone doesn't cast one's vote, then penal provisions should be made. Such an arrangement should be there in the electoral reforms. When BJP Government was in power, they had always differences with these of our friends and they always had problems with them. But in the Committee which they formed for electoral reforms, they appointed comrade Indrajit Gupta as its Chairman. That Committee gave many suggestions out of which several suggestions were accepted and initiatives were taken to accept many other suggestions but the problem was not solved. He suggested that Government facilities or government assistance should be made available to all political parties for their campaigning. There is genuine reason for it. The honest parties which do not get money from rich people suffer during the election campaign. In this country, a long debate was held about whether to accept donations for elections from big companies or not. When it was banned, then in the year 1967, in this House itself, a question was asked as to which big companies of the country gave how much donations to which political party in that year. In that time one lakh rupees had much value. The then Minsiter of Home Affairs, Yashvantrao Balwant Rao Chavanji had replied in this House that a maximum of Rs. 68 lac were given to the Government party of that time i.e. the Congress Party. Today, in Lok Sabha many sitting such candidates who failed to get elected as member had to spend two to two and a half crore rupees on their election. If today's this much expense is made a parameter for that time, then the whole party got 68 rupees lakh as donation for contesting election in the whole country. The other party which got next maximum donation was the opposition party Swantra Party which got rupees 38 lakh. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the party with which you are related to was much powerful at that time, you had your Government in Delhi, and in many other States you had formed coalition Governments. Your party had got rupees 30 lac as donations. I am sorry to say that today in Assembly elections itself 25-30 lakh rupees are spent. The Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice gives a limit that in elections more than rupees 15 lac should not be spent but when he provides financial assistance to his own candidates on behalf of his own party, then it becomes rupees 15-30 lakhs. At that time, Bharatiya Jan Sangh had got 30 lakh rupees as donations for fighting the elections. In the same way, our forefathers had also got 11-12 thousand rupees by mistake. I think that becuase of that comrade Indrajit Gupta Committee had suggested that the responsibility of campaigning should be on the Election Commission instead of the political parties. The severe impact of money being seen on the democracy of India is needed to be discussed seriously. I can say on the basis of my personal experience that if a few persons come here after wining elections who are so called mafias, miscreants, than it reflects the wishes of the people, we cannot do anything about that. But on the basis of my experience, I can say that such people create problems in proceedings of our Parliament and the Government to a certain extent.

Another mentality is that everyone is abusing politics but also desires to be the Member of the Assembly or Parliament after winning elections anyhow. In this country the high rank officers never retire, the law is made for the low grade employees only that they will retire at the age of 60 years. But the high rank officers are appointed Chairman or a Member of a regulatory authority before one month of their retirement. They enjoy again for the next five years and their foreign visits continue with the same pace. If the Minister of Law and Justice issues a white paper on it, then it will be known to the country that at least there are around more than 1500 such retired IAS officers who are either Chairman, or Members of an authority and they are enjoying the same way as they used to do during their tenure of service.

So, a rule should be made in this country that the people who have completed service upto 60 years would not be appointed to such posts. It should be completely

[Shri Mohan Singh]

banned. Now a new practice has been established that Election Commissioner will be equivalent to the Minister of State. This is new tradition. The Chief Justice of India, will be nominated as member of Rajya Sabha by the ruling party. It is posing danger to the autonomy and independence of various constitutional institutions of the country. We should give thought to it that if the persons in these institutions become greedy and members of Election Commission become loyal to a party, free and fair elections cannot be held in any way, irrespective of the laws enacted by the Government. They will show favour for that party to which they are loyal, therefore, before the appointment to the Election Commission, track records and background of such officers should be checked and a method of transparency should be adopted.

A new system has been started for contesting elections. Since 1962, we have witnessed the Congress Party luring the Members of other parties to defect to the Congress Party. Then, it was not a problem, as from 1962 to 1966 people from Opposition used to join the Congress continuously. So it was not a problem at that time. In 1967, a reverse process started. Members from the Congress started defecting to opposition parties and in lieu of that we began to appoint them as Chief Minister and Minister. So, they got worried that defection may become a problem for the country and so some solution should be found out to curb it. A Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Jaiprakash Narayan. The Committee gave some suggestions. Thereafter, the Parliament passed an Anti-Defection Law to ban defection. At that time, our leader, Shri Madhu Dandawate had reminded this House that being the 30th January, it was the martyrdom day of Mahatma Gandhi, however, he opined that in real terms it was the first day of India's Independence and he wanted to congratulate the Government of India for that. He complimented Rajiv Gandhi also on this achievement. But what happened after that, no other law have been violated as much as it was. Now a new dimension has been added to it that if Mohan Singhji is from Socialist Party and we have friendship with Bhardwaji, then he will whisper in our ear that your berth is reserved in my side, come and join us. I say that if I will defect that way, then the Hon. Speaker will debar me and I will lose my membership. Then, he tells me that you should resign and when by election will be held, you would win. In this way dozens of by elections are being held in the country. Therefore, I want to say that there should be an amendment in the election process that once a person wins in elections he should not be permitted again to contest in by-elections after resigning within five years. If such a provision is not made, then I think that a new dimension of defection will be opened and it will affect people since elections to a legislative assembly cost crores of rupees. Our self interest is responsible for that and we do not want to give up it. Today, a person contests elections from three places just to show that he has got the faith and blessings of people from East-West, North-South, all the corners of the country. Then, he retains his Membership from one place and resigns from other three places. As such, by-elections are held at those three places. So, no individual should be allowed to contest elections from more than one place at a time.

I would like to say one more thing. A long debate is going on in the country as to who is criminal and whether he should be permitted to contest elections or not. Much hue and cry is made on this issue. I want to give a suggestion. If a lower court has awarded punishment to a person in a criminal case then he should not be allowed to file the nomination form at any cost till he is declared innocent by the Supreme Court.

So far as election process is concerned, sometimes the Government introduce Bill to make amendment in the election process on the advice of the Election Commission. Sometimes, the Law Commission gives suggestion in this regard and the Government itself take action thereon. Sometimes, the Government constitute Committee to make major amendments. I would like to say that the spirit of the suggestion made by Shri Chandrappan is right that there is unlimited scope for amending the election process and it should be discussed in its whole perspective. A debate is going on in this regard for the last ten years. The Hon. Prime Minister introduced a Bill and such a picture is being presented in the country that he is so liberal that he wants all the women to be parliamentarians. A lady Member of Parliament suggested that there should be reservation in it and the Bill was kept pending on that excuse. I would like to say that those, who talk about reservation for women, are actually against this concept. They do not want reservation for women. Had they wanted it, then the women reservation Bill would have been passed. What is the need for constitutional amendment when the Election Commission itself has said that amendments should be made in the people's Representation Act and it may be done by a simple majority and it should be declared mandatory for every party to give 15% tickets

to women only. Now, it is argued that after 15% reservation is given, parties will give tickets to women for those seats which are non-important and they expect to lose those seats. Can any party take such action to lose seats. This is only irrational and an argument given by people who are against reservation of women. Every political party would like its women candidates contest fromt hat constituency where victory is certain. If 15 per cent women are elected from each party then the percentage of women will increase automatically instead of being limited only to 33%. It is the conspiracy of big parties against women which is going on for the last 15 years to put the blame on Mohan Singhji and Mulayam Singhji, because they are not ready for the required constitutional amendment and to absolute oneself from one's own responsibility. This conspiracy should not be allowed to work and it should be made mandatory to give tickets to women by making amendments in the people's Representation Act. With these words I thank you very much.

16.28 hrs.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): In all countries of the world, without any singular exception, it is found that the laws that are enacted in the normal process through the parliamentary procedure are violated. If violation is an issue then there is universal violation of law throughout the world. Therefore, violation of law or non-implementation of law cannot be the reason for changing a system or going in for a new system.

The fundamentals of Indian Constitution remain the most forceful and effective system to reflect the democratic aspirations of the common people of India. Therefore, I do not agree with the suggestions made by my young friend in BJP for a Presidential form of Government. Actually, he looks for a bureaucratic Government, a Government of bureaucracy. Ministers should not be elected. Only the bureaucrats or technocrats chosen by the all powerful President should be made the members of the Government. It is an imitation of the American system. It is dispensing with the democratic system. It is, in fact a negation of democracy or reflection of the popular opinion. Therefore, I do not find any reason to agree with him. But, Sir, the point is while saying that the fundamentals of Indian democracy and Indian Constitution should be maintained, there is a reason to debate on further amendment to make democracy more effective, electoral system more fruitful.

There is a fallacy in the whole electoral procedure that is in vogue in the country. What is the fallacy? The hon. Members are talking among themselves to perform the ministerial duty within Parliament. Therefore, you can see how the system is violated. The hon. Law Minister may kindly listen to me. I think the Minister of State for Finance is giving him some suggestions how to change the Company Law. What I am saying is that there is a fallacy in the whole system. The fallacy is that a political party obtaining 20 per cent votes or 30 per cent votes, that is minority votes can secure or secures more than 50 per cent of the seats. There has been so many instances. The Congress Party that led the country from the very beginning of Indian democracy never got more than 50 per cent of votes. Generally, the party in power got minority vote. Therefore, it is a minority rule, the minority representing the majority. It is not democracy because it does not reflect the majority public opinion of the country. This is the fallacy. This is a fallacy of simple majority concept.

There is another fallacy. That fallacy is that 15 per cent of people have voted in a particular Constituency. Even that election is not negated. Out of 15 per cent, a person polled more than 8 per cent votes becomes elected representing 100 per cent electorate of that area. That is another fallacy. There is a need for remedy. It is an aberration of democracy. There is a need for remedy, need for change and need for rectification.

What is the system that we are looking for? The Parliament or the Members of Parliament must represent the majority of their own constituencies or Parliament as a whole must be constituted in a way that they represent really the public opinion and not the minority rule in the name of majority victory. We want majority victory on the basis of majority votes. How that can be done? There was a suggestion in the earlier days that there should be proportional representation. That is not possible in a country like India because India is a having a population of more than 100 crores and to have an election on the basis of proportional representation, it is not feasible practically. Therefore, I am not pleading for proportional representation but I am pleading for a change. What can it be? There is a model. To me, Nepal model is a model which we should consider. Fifty per cent of the seats of Parliament can be directly elected by the people, may be, on the basis of simple majority and may be, they will represent not the majority but a significant part of the public opinion. Let it be like that. Another 50 per cent may be elected on the basis of proportional representation.

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

The Parties may, on the basis of a declared list of candidates, ask the people to vote for a Party and the Party will be obliged to select its candidate on the basis of its proportional representation from among the list that it has suggested. If it is combined like this, a combination of proportional representation with simple majority system, it is not quite very difficult. If it is combined, then I think the democratic system in India may be more fruitful. Otherwise, Mr. Bhardwaj may be representing a minority Government but he has majority in the Parliament. The members elected or supporting the Government might have been elected on the basis of simple majority but representing minority people.

There is a fallacy. I want Shri Bhardwaj to answer and address this question. This has two aspects. An election is not declared invalid because of low polling. It is not. Even if there is 10 per cent polling it is considered a lawfully effective election. Secondly, because of multiplicity of parties, multiplicity of candidates, a person who has won might have secured only 10 per cent of the votes, but because of division of votes the person get elected. Can I from the hon. Minister for Justice and Law–he is not only representing the portfolio of law, but justice as well–elicit his opinion about a person getting 15 per cent of the votes and getting elected of a constituency where ten lakh people live? Is it wise? Is it justified? Whether the hon. Minister accepts my friend's draft Bill or not is not the issue. Will he concede that there are serious infirmities in the present system? If there are serious infirmities, how to remedy that? He always remains silent. He is only busy giving correct advice to the Government so that nothing fruitful to the people is done. He is there to suggest to the Government how to avoid public interest. It is his job. Let him do it. I really do not mind that. The hon. Prime Minister has asked him to preside over that institution. Let the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs do his job in having a regressive tax system. I do not mind that. But will they kindly look into this point very seriously as to how to bring about the remedy? How to remedy the infirmities that exist? How really to make the Indian democratic system more effective? It is an issue before India. We have become an Independent nation in 1947. In 1950 we adopted the Constitution. It is nearly 60 years that the present Constitution is in practice. Therefore, there is a need to evaluate the weakness or the weaknesses that have been revealed in course of the implementation of the Constitution. What is that? The Government does not think about it. Government does not think about price rise. The Government does not think about organised labour. The Government does not think about weaknesses in the Constitution. The Government only thinks about how to remain in power. How to remain a Minister? How to remain continuously in power? This is true both for this side as well as for that side.

Sir, my friend from the other party said that let there be a Parliament which will continue to exist even after the defeat of the Government. He does not want mid-term elections. He is afraid of facing the people. Whether we get defeated, or whether we get lost, or whether we are able to pass through, we are not afraid to face elections. There can be no permanent Parliament for five years. There can be no Presidential form of Government, but there has to be some action by the Government. Look at the fallacy. You are speaking of violence. Violence is a reality. Booth capturing is a reality. *Goondabaji, Dangabaji* is a reality. But what is the source of *goondabaji?* The source of *goondabaji* is black money, huge surplus money. Government will not care to speak on that. The Government is totally blind to that. It is not only this Government, but the successive Governments that have ruled India does not talk about the black money. Black money is the money which is the source of corruption; black money is the money which is the source of violence; black money is the money which is the source of social aberrations; black money is the money that pollutes the political and social atmosphere. If Shri Bhardwaj can have in his pocket a sum of Rs. 1 crore, he can easily get elected to Rajya Sabha.

Mr. Bhardwaj, please do not mind if I say one thing. ... *(Interruptions)* Prices have gone up, Mr. Bhardwaj. I do not know whether you have got that money. Let me give you an example. Kindly permit me to speak a few more minutes.

Three Members got elected recently in the other House and they are independent candidates. The independent candidates had scored victory. How could they do it? They had the money. They purchased the MLAs. The political leaders are the most easily purchasable commodities in India. With enough money in the pocket, they had purchased the votes and had become Members of Parliament representing corporate houses. Will Mr. Bhardwaj agree on the complaint that I am making and that this is what is happening in India? It may be in Jharkhand and it may be in many other places. Money plays a distinct role in Lok Sabha elections. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU (Arunachal West): Money is overplaying. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Money is over playing and money is outplaying democracy also. It is overplaying political leaders. Therefore, if any amendment is needed, it is the legal amendment which is needed. Law needs to be amended. The social structure needs to be amended. The sources of evil need to be uprooted. But Mr. Bhardwaj cannot do it. He cannot antagonise his patrons. Patrons are the people. People with big money are patrons. He believes in people. Whether people are having huge money in their pocket is not the question. He cannot antagonise his patrons.

Sir, the basic question that I raise is this. In a political and economic system as it exists today, in a system like this, there is rule of money, rule of profit, rule of black money, rule of power, rule of those who are evading all forms of legalities in the country. That is the basic source of aberration. Therefore, it needs to be rectified.

Democracy is meaningless without uprooting black money. Democracy is meaningless without having a relook at the existing electoral system. It is meaningless if we do not look at the root cause of the evils that are out to destroy democracy. My friend's Bill is a partial step in the direction of remedying electoral anachronism. It is not only electoral anachronism. There is political anachronism. There is economic anachronism and there is social anachronism. Mr. Bhardwaj, are you ready to look at these anachronisms? Do you have the mandate of the Prime Minister to look at it? If so, what is your response to the points and issues that we have raised?

[Translation]

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi): Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Bill introduced by Shri Chandrappan. Shri Swain, in his speech said that it should be taken as a resolution and not a Bill. The Members who spoke subsequently dwelt at length on different subjects pertaining to the electoral process but one thing that everyone agrees to is that some change is certainly necessary in our present set up. I would like to take up the first point raised by Shri Chandrpapan. He has spoke about proportional representation. I am really impressed that this point has been raised and the Government should consider it seriously. I want to present my views in this regard in the House. Elections are being held for the last 15-20 years. Members belonging to parties from different regions come to Parliament and they express the feelings of the people of their respective areas. I think that the rest of the country has also been able to know more about these people and thus the issue of equal development has received an impetus. People of different cultures states and affiliations have come to fore and left their mark. I am in favour of people of different areas, regions and parties coming togethered at one place. I dont have any problem in it. But one more problem has cropped up that we have started differentiating amongst our own regions, societies and localities. Nobody speaks in terms of bringing together all classes or castes. Our friends from Uttar Pradesh are sitting here and their views don't at all reflect their seriousness the discussion on electoral process. Rather it seems as if negotiation on a business deal is going on. If I am wrong and if anyone else hasn't heard such views then I stand corrected. What speak is that there are 1.5 lac Thakurs in their constituencies so nearly 35-40 thousand Yadavs will support them. One says that he has got ticket from a particular party, so 1.25 lac Brahmins will support him. Moreover, there are 1.5 lac Harijan votes and he will get 50% out of them, 15 thousand Passis and 16 thousands Kurmis will also support him. Such manipulations are being worked out there. No Member of Parliament seems to be confident enough to say that he has worked honestly in the last 5 years and his Government has also worked with integrity and sinceritu of purpose. That he has been among the people all along and, so, the people will support him. People will respect and recognise developmental works, his character and his experience of five years and hopefully people will elect him again. Such confidence is not prevalent among the Members of Parliament. When a Member of Parliament feels that his popularity has reached upto 40-50% level among people, then his confidence level also increases. Today, this is true for all of us. We cannot break this jinx unless we make a couple of changes. Shri Chandrappan ji has himself proposed one change that when we talk about proportional representation, it becomes all the more important that with the 73rd and 74th amendment to the Constitution, things related to day-to-day life like contract drain brick road, installing hand pumps, and issues related to local development have become more important. It has created one more rung of elected representatives who work hard for the day to day development work.

When we have created such a manmoth force by electing people to municipal corporations or to Panchayati Raj Institutions I do not think that we can gain anything by making three-rung increase in their number. One

[Shri Sandeep Dikshit]

particular work is being done by me, the MLA, the Corporator and also the Sarpanch. If there is no division of work, different issues would lose their importance, because sometimes it is said that national issues have lost their importance today. The national issues have lost their importance because there is no importance thereof in our political life. I do not get elected to the Parliament on the basis of my views on national issues. I would not be elected to Parliament again on the basis of my views on economic policy or how I impressed upon the Government or how I contributed to the growth rate. I would be eleted on the basis of cleanliness and hygiene of my area like, say, if the drainage is choked or not which was supposed to be ensured by the Corporator and checked by the MLA. Thee is no problem in it we should associate ourselves with it. But if, you do not pressurize the persons elected at different levels for performing their responsibilities, then the needs of the country get affected somehow or the other. Therefore, it has become more important to bring proportional representaiton. This would enable people believing in the nationalist thought or the state-oriented thought to come forward gradually and prominently through their parties and they would participate in the elections. I would like to request the hon. Minister that while preparing the list of the parties for proportional representation, there should be at least one criteria common for such persons that they should have won one or two elections directly and no inexperienced person should be included in that list. If Sandeep Dikshit is to be included in the proportional representation list of the Congress Party, he should be eligible for proportional representative only when he has won not once but twice indirect election. As Shri Dasguptaji has said that people get elected to Rajya Sabha through different methods. This would gradually curb such trends as a person can won a direct election once anyone can win in a direct election once but it calls for rigorous struggle for getting elected for the second term. One has to modify one's conduct in order to imbibe the expectations and aspirations of the masses and associate oneself with the people, understand their issues problems, pain and pangs. If someone spends 8 to 10 years of such public life among the people, he would keep himself in touch with the suffering of the people and when such persons come in the Government proportional representation then these 50 percent Members of Parliament would, as Shri Chandrappan Saheb was mentioning, always remain associated with the people and then we would truly get such members and Government that would be more sensitive towards the people.

Dwelling upon the experience of proportional representation he has referred to Nepal. But Germany has been experimenting with this idea since long especially after East and West Germany merged. There was an immediate need of reconcliation and social integration in that country. Proportional representation of the society and reconciliation became a very effective tool for integration there. Today, the way Germany is united and the intense reaction that was reflected in West Germany about the backward regions has cooked down because the leaders got elected are representing the entire Germany. Therefore, we will have to think over two to four issues. Shri Swain mentioned one more thing that somebody getting 2 percent and even half percent of votes can get elected and we can't help it.

The true democratic system is one in which every quarter of population finds the representation of its voice in the Parliament. There is one more thing that would like to say is very imperative and I would like to cite the example of Green Party in Germany to corroborate my suggestion. The Green Party is an emerging party there which primarily focus on the environmental issues as its agenda. It has some degree of support across all the constituencies in Germany, however it is not adequate enough to make it a winner under the first past the pole system that it could send its representative to Parliament by winning election. They have a vote share of 7-10 percent in every election and as there is system of proportional representation in Germany, the party is able to send its representatives in German Parliament. We can be proud of the fact that there are two-three members of party in German Parliament who are the persons of Indian origin settled in Germany. The Members of the party raise the issues related to environment before the Parliament which in turn help shaping the policy and programmes accordingly. Therefore the system of proportional representation has become absolutely imperative.

Another thing which I have said is that the remaining 50 percent should be directly elected based on territorial seats and Chandrappan Saheb has also suggested that it should be 50 percent, 40 percent or 60 percent; otherwise any of the expert team together with the parliamentary committee may decide in this regard. Some seats are won with the margin of 25-30 per cent or 20 per cent and someone wins seats with the margin of

18 per cent or 35 per cent and hence changes are to be introduced in this regard also. There is a very good system called single transferable vote system which is in vogue at several places having majority of educated people. Everybody gives two three or four preferences. If there are 3 or 4 candidates are distributed among the rest. If the third candidate goes out of the race then the remaining is distributed and thus the votes of every voter re counted. But perhaps the same system may not be introduced by us although there is no problem in introducing it. Arun Shouriji has written a lot of things in his book not all of which I subscribe to but one thing he has suggested in that book which deserves to be accepted and brooded over. That suggestion should also be taken into account. Why don't we introduce such a system in which if any of the candidates could not get 50 per cent of the votes in the first round, then two or three days after the elections, reelection be conducted in which the first two candidates getting highest votes get elected. In the present system the people of main ideology get divided and most oftenly I have seen the people of same ideology belong to different parties. If this system is introduced the people of the same ideology will get opportunity and maximum candidates of the same ideology will be elected and they will be in majority. Otherwise the more in the number of parties, the more will be the division of ideology. One thing will happen under this system that every party will have to appeal comprehensively cutting across the party line. If I want to get 50 per cent votes then there will hardly be any section of the soceity which I would not try to attract towards me. Today, we see a trend that the candidate tries to retain 20 to 25 per cent of his traditional votes and expects 7 to 8 per cent votes from his caste or due to the caste equations, this tendency of getting votes will automaically come down. We will have to accept that getting 50 per cent votes is not an easy task. For this, even party will have to decide how the people of every section of the society whether they are rich or poor, the Hindu or the Muslim, the Sikhs or the Christians, the Dalits or the forward castes or OBC and each and every community, can be drawn towards his party. All the parties will have to do something for those people and give some message. Only then they will be able to touch the magical figure of 50 per cent votes. So, not only the proportional representation should be seriously brooded over but it should also be taken into account whether we should elect such a person who gets maximum votes or the person who gets 50 per cent through the second or third round of elections in the aforesaid system. Many a time it has been seen that reelection is held at most of the booths if irregularities are found in the election on first day and during the relection huge number of votes are cast. This will also remove the feeling of indifference which has crepted into the physche of number of sections of the society as has been mentioned by Mohan Singh Ji. Everybody will feel that his vote courts. I like you but you get only 10 per cent votes and if there is another candidate sharing your ideology then my vote, will not be infructuous even if you don't get elected. After two days, I can cast my vote in favour of the person whom I trust the most or in favour of that person who has got more votes in general election. Then, I will come forward to exercise my vote.

State funding has been discussed. This is a very difficult subject. I would like to share the experience of Chandrpapan Ji in Kerala and Bengal where the Leftists have been in power and perhaps the system of election has also been different. But in the rest of India, election expenditure is an issue and perhaps the bigger issue is spending by political parties. Carrying out political activities all the year which includes various programmes, workers, party management incurs expenditure. That, too, is responsible for vitiating political milieu and have promoted the circulation of black money. In respect of the state funding of election, I request you all and Bhardwaj Saheb to see whether and how the necessary changes can be brought in the political set up in which political parties operate in that how the dependence of parties on money can be reduced by diluting the factors that increase their dependence on money.

I do not have enough idea as to how it can be done but I would like that we should certainly think over it.

You have mentioned about providing 15 percent reservation in constituency seats. You have also mentioned that 30 to 35 percent reservation in all should be provdied to women against 20 percent preferential seats. Shri Mohan Singh ji has suggested and Swain Saheb too has said that they can also bring this change whether parties should provide reservation of 15, 20 or 30 percent seats on their own, it should also be considered. I do not know whether consensus emerges on whether or not you would be able to resove the seats, but if you cannot do it altogether, then at least this much should be done that parties provide some reservation on its own. It can be done in many ways. You look at it on regional basis. Shri Mohan Singh ji has said that if reservation is provided against losing seats then it would

[Shri Sandeep Dikshit]

bring problems for the national parties. But sometimes it also becomes easier for the regional parties. In Uttar Pradesh the Congress party today is not as strong as it is in other states. It may also happen that if we have to provide reservation against sixty seats, all of them can happen to be in Uttar Pradesh. However any such likely shortcoming could be removed if the provisions like providing reservation against 30 percent of the seats in every state, are implemented. If the entire House is unanimous to provide 33 percent reservation, then there can be no better option. I welcome it. Similarly there can be no better option than the one of holding all party meet to arrive at a decision in this regard as suggested by hon. Prime Minister.

A mention was also made about the fixed tenure of Parliament and Assemblies, the view expressed by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta may be true in this regard that perhaps we are not prepared to have a fixed tenure presently but efforts should be made to minimize the practice of conducting frequent elections. It is not so in all the states. There are some states where assemblies are dissolved. I feel that the instances of conducting frequent elections have come down during the last five or six years.

17.00 hrs.

We should try to hold the national level and state level elections at the same time, it would cut short the expenditure and each state would get four or five years to work. I think that ultimately it would benefit the public. I do not remember whether or not Shri Chandrpapan ji had mentioned about another type of voting in his speech, but I remember that in Russia whenever elections were held for one party, a column was always clearly mentioned—one of the above. If someone does not like any of the candidates contesting the election, then what he should do. Either he should not cast his vote having become indifferent or he should be given a chance to express his dissent. It may be necessary for records or for data purpose. But there should be provision in our ballot boxes or ballot papers for exercising the option of one of the above. If that is done, we would be able to know the numbers of people who have developed a sense of political apathy. It may so happen that some new solution may be devised from such information.

Sir, in Russia if the majority were in favour of one of the above option then the election was countermanded. We cannot do this here but some other options can emerge from this. Shri Chandrappan ji I wholeheartedly support both of your suggestions. Shri Bhardwaj ji is present here. I know that it is a private Member's Bill but the Government should assure us that they would consider it. Shri Bhardwaj ji is a prominent Minister of the Government. Therefore, I think he would certainly pass over the views of the Parliament as well as our spirit to all leaders including the leaders of the opposition of the Centre. We should sit together alongwith the regional parties, national parties, coalition partners of the UPA and NDA, our supporters and the people belonging to left parties and think over these two or three issues seriously. Time has come that we should ponder over these issues. We should think over the proportional representation and make ways for ensuring the victory of only those having 50 per cent of votes. We may ensure it in such a way that only elected representatives should run the country be it in the Lok Sabha and the newly formed Rajya Sabha through proportional representation. We should ensure it and certainly consider it.

Sir, I wholeheartedly welcome Shri Chandrappan ji for bringing this important subject for disucssion in the House and I also thank for providing me an opportunity to express my views on this subject.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): I rise to participate in the Private Members' Bill, the Electoral Reforms Commission Bill, 2006, moved by Comrade Chandrappan. Ours is a democracy which has sustained all the experiments except during the period of Emergency. Our democracy has sustained all the experiments and faced all the turbulences in our country. Even though, there will be discussion on the Bill moved by Comrade Chandrappan, whether the Government would accept or negate it, it does not matter, but, this has paved the way for a discussion on electoral reforms in our country. The Constitution of no country is complete. The Constitutions of other countries are also not complete. That is why, so many amendments to the Constitutions have been moved and passed in this Parliament. Here also, certain suggestions have been put forward by the Mover and deliberations will be taking place on these suggestions.

The Government may take some steps also. In democracy, it is important that discussions and deliberations should take place. When various treaties are signed by the Government and also when various policies are implemented, there should be discussions and Parliament is the ideal place for such discussions.

But the sad thing, these days, is that our Parliament pays little attention for this. Even the Government itself is trying to curtail the sittings of Parliament. This had happened even in the last Session of Parliament. There should be more number of sittings of Parliament and more deliberations should take place. Then only various policies that are very pertinent to the lives of citizens in this country can be discussed and adopted.

Here, in this Bill, Comrade Chandrappan suggested formation of an Electoral Reforms Commission and he has also given suggestions as to how the Commission should be constituted. I would not like to go into those details, but my suggestion here is regarding the proportional representation system or the 'list system', where in at least 50 per cent of the constituencies elections would be held in the proportional representation system. In Nepal, elections have been successfully completed recently by following this proportional representation system. I would suggest that in 50 per cent of the constituencies elections should be held by following the proportional representation system and the rest of the seats should be allotted according to the percentage of votes secured by the parties.

Sir, we are now thinking of giving mandatory representation for women in Parliament and State Assemblies, but we are unnecessarily delaying it under the guise of obtaining consensus among political parties. The Government had assured that before the tenure of the UPA Government gets completed, they would bring the Women's Reservation Bill before Parliament. I hope the UPA Government would bring the Women's Reservation Bill at least before the next election and they would make it as an election agenda too.

When the Constitution Amendment was passed for creating panchayati raj institutions in this country, at that time also, objections were raised by different quarters. Now, two days ago, we have completed 15 years of that landmark development and elected members of those local self-government bodies from various parts of the country had assembled here. I think there was a large majority of women representatives in that assembly too.

In the newspapers, various articles about their experiences have been published. At that time, there were objections, but they have proved that they also have administrative capacity just like their male companions. Comrade Sujatha is here. She is from Kerala and she was there twice. She was the District Panchayat President and she got the best District Panchayat President Award too. She is an example for them. So, in the Legislative Assemblies and in the Parliament, there should be adequate representation for women.

Though the women population is now-a-days declining in some State because of female foeticide, more than 50 per cent of population is women. So, we should ensure adequate representation for women in all the law-making bodies. So, I do agree with that recommendation also.

Another recommendation is with regard to reservation to various groups and individuals. In this country, with hundred crore population, still now various groups or various sets of people have not been adequately represented. There are even communities who never had a single representative in this Parliament. After 60 years of Independence, there are communities or societies that never had a single representative in this law making body. So, that suggestion may also be accepted.

Another very important suggestion is with regard to State funding of elections. The spending on elections is increasing day-by-day. Even in Panchayat elections, the spending is increasing. The reasons for this increase, to a great extent, are advertisements and all sorts of paraphernalia made at the time of elections. Now, some ceiling limit is there on the spending and everybody has to abide by that ceiling limit. So, this suggestion of State funding of elections is also agreeable and that should also be considered.

The Mover of this motion has also brought to the notice of this House some facts like hiring of private people, supplying of liquor, giving money and bribing the electorates, etc. which are now taking place during elections. So, strict action or strict prohibitary measures should be taken to ensure the electoral process transparent so that nobody is influenced by such sorts of things. That suggestion, too, is also acceptable. So, the State funding of elections should also be considered.

Our Constitution highlights the importance of equality and the Constitution provides for all sorts of equalities.

But for a poor man, that is not in place always. It would be very difficult for a poor man who has a very weak economic background to contest the Assembly election or the Lok Sabha election. Even though the Party may take care of all the expenses of election, it would be difficult for him to contest. Every person has a right

[Dr. K.S. Manoj]

to contest in the election. So, his economic weakness or his financial background should not be a hindrance for contesting the election. So, the suggestion of State funding should be taken into consideration.

Sir, I would like to highlight two or three things more. We have taken some of the steps to avoid criminals coming into the legislative bodies. Now-a-days, both politicisation of criminal is there and also criminalisation of politics is there. The Election Commission has taken some steps to avoid persons with criminal antecedent coming into the legislative bodies. The Election Commission has said that those who have been convicted for two years cannot contest the elections. So, every step should be taken to prevent persons with criminal antecedent coming into politics.

I would like to mention that while constituting the Cabinet and all, now there is a tendency that the Members of the Upper House, who are not directly elected by the people, are appointed as the Ministers. There should be some precautionary measure or there should be a clause saying that the Cabinet Ministers, including the Prime Minister, should be from the Lower House. Those Members who are directly elected by the people should assume the Office. There should be some stipulation that up to a certain percentage only, the Members from the Upper House should be in the Cabinet. This point should also be taken into consideration.

Finally, Sir,—I do not know whether everybody would agree with me or not on this point—now 45 to 47 per cent of our population is youth. For entering politics, there is no age limit. I do agree that the leaders of the political parties at any age can work in their political parties. But for holding the Office, that too the highest Office in the country, there should be some upper age-limit, and this point may be considered. The upper age-limit may be fixed after considering the life expectancy and all that. ... *(Interruptions)* I know what you are going to say. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Manoj, please conclude now.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Sir, there should be a thorough deliberation both inside and outside the House regarding the reforms or rejuvenation or transformation which can take place in the electoral system in our country.

With these few words, I conclude my speech.

17.19 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Forty-Ninth Report

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I would request Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to present the Report.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, I beg to present the Forty-Ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

17.19½ hrs.

ELECTORAL REFORMS COMMISSION BILL, 2006—*contd.*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the proposal placed by Shri C.K. Chandrappan is very important and has been a subject for discussion for long. Ours is a democratic country and by virtue of being a democracy electoral system has been adopted to establish a Government of the people, by the people and for the people. By explaining the causes and objectives, it has been said that India is one of those countries who have rich experience of the working of democracy and of the successful implementation of democratic institutions. It means the recognition of democracy in our country is not only historical but mythical also. We have to carry this experience further with the proven experience. Election is essential for democracy but our electoral system has certain loopholes. The Bill seeks the constitution of a Commission in order to plug the loopholes. The same is required to be done at the earliest in order to strengthen democracy and democratic institutions. Further, it has been said that money power, muscle power, caste and political equations and religious beliefs play an important role in determining the destiny of the candidate. There are a number of other things like providing more and more representation to women in the legislature, introduction of novel methods of election to eliminate the dominance of money and muscle power and to ensure majority support for the victorious candidates and many other matters which require threadbare examination by expert bodies.

After all, he wants to saythat measures should be taken to plug the loopholes of the electoral system should be plugged, but why is it not done? It is not so that nobody wants the loopholes to be plugged. But someone or the other has to blaze the trail. Inspiration is there in order, to make a beginning in this regard. If Government accepts it, then it is good and if the Government does not accept it, what will happen? Nothing has happened and nothing will happen in future also. But it will be difficult for us to protect the country from degeneration. All of us know as to what measures should be taken, what are our objectives and the same have to be incorporated in our Constitution. We have our preamble to the Constitution. The Preamble envisages India as a sovereign country but who will make it a sovereign country. That is to be done by none other than us. The preamble also envisages India as a socialist country. Who will come forward to make it one? Certainly it is we who will have to come forward. What does socialism mean? How will socialism emerge? What will be the methods of bringing about socialism? We will have to find out ways to make it so. But now-a-days politics has superceded the very society. Everything is being done to gain power. It is not so that only one party is doing so, but everybody does it as and when one gets an opportunity to do so. In view of this, how will it be controlled? The Parliament exists for 'Dharm Chakra Parvartanay' and it is we who are there from the viewpoint of determining the responsibility. Then secularism has been envisaged. It is very difficult to be secular. Now, various types of discussions are going on. Some or the other Commission will be constituted. Someone or the other will be benefited therefrom. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time of two hours prescribed for this Bill is about to be over. Eight honourable Members are still to speak. If the House allows, the same may be extended.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Yes, Sir, time should be extended.

MR. CHAIRMAN: OK.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: How will this be secular? It should be secular as all sects. lead to absolute truth. We are concerned with the progress of the nation, welfare of the society and betterment of the last person of the society and we are here to think about it. But what is required to be done in this regard is not being done. So, while claiming to be secular the status is very clear before us as to how much near or far we are from secularism in reality as per our Constitution. We will establish such a democracy in which people will be supreme. Individual liberty and his welfare will lay the foundation of greater good leading us to be a republic. However, mere rhetoric will not yield any result, the welfare of people has to be the prime consideration. However, in democracy, people have become non important and became totally subservient to the system. On one hard there are people, on the other is political system for the just governance of the people. However if the governance is to be lead by inorganic system alone. Could we expect the people? No. "Yada-yada Atishreshth Awatjana Sa Yatpramanam Kuruk Lokstandanuvartate." But who would reach that sublime position. How we can get again Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar who drafted the Constitution of India? He is no more. He drafted the Constitution and made laws, now we are here to implement that but we do not do that. If we do not implement, how it would be possible. If it is not done, there would be no result. We have to face the consequences of that. Therefore, keeping in view all those things, there is a need to have a detailed discussion on these things. There is a provision of ensuring justice in the Constitution. There is a provision for ensuring social, economic and political justice. Are we able to do justice? Do we do justice? Has any law been enacted to ensure it, have provisions been made to ensure it, it being implemented or being followed? This is not being done. When justice is required to be meted out to any one, injustice is done to him, because he is not so powerful that he could raise his voice. Therefore, talking about society devoid of all kind of exploitation, talking about socialism is meaningless. That is why measures to ensure social justice, social equality, social dignity are not taken. Today, there is no respect for the labourers working on the roads, there is no respect for agricultural labour and labour toiling under the heat of the sun. He does not get respect, food and employment. And the promises made are not fulfilled. Therefore, discussion on social justice becomes meaningless. We talk about the economic justice. There is major economic inequality. A labour is not able to get even Rs. 50 or Rs. 25. For earning livelihood, someone is making beedis, someone is making slates or doing something else. There is no employment in the villages. Due to this problem, people are not getting economic justice. There is so big economic divide that someone is getting thousands of crores of rupees. Recently I read in a newspaper that some person is getting thousands of rupees as a minute's remuneration while there are others who do not get even Rs. One thousand as one monthly salary. Who will solve this

[Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya]

problem of economic inequality. In the name of political justice only provision for right to vote has been made. What is the use of that right to vote? Vote have become a marketable commodity and those indulged in the trade of votes decide about their worth on their own. Waht was our destination and where have we come? During the last 60 years where our democracy has come? Why has it lost its may? Is not there anyone to ensure that, democracy does not lose its way? If you and we cannot do this then what type of country we are going to leave for our future generations? This is a matter of concern. From this point of view our whole concern is about the system that we have developed. We are going away from that system, from our purpose. Through this system we wanted to get something else, wanted to go somewhere else and we have reached somewhere else. Therefore, personal enmity has increased. In the Seventh Lok Sabha I. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Jatiya ji, please be brief.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: I am speaking in brief, but if anyone understand it, then it will be okay. If anyone tries to know, he will understand because it is very difficult to understand the truth and it is very difficult to make the people understand the truth. It is very difficult to explain the truth. But the persons following the path of truth go alone. That is why the truth must prevail. Now cruelty, vacuum, conspiracy have entered politics. Earlier a victory was the target of war and conspiracy. Even today is there anything different? Even today we are doing the same. Only one thing is different. Today it is not happening directly but it is happening indirectly but the time would come when it will happend directly. Keeping in view all these things, the person to whom we have empowered to do political justice, he should do political justice with a view to keep the system clean.

The justice done to democratic republic deserved to be seen because election system has been introduced to elect an institution. We enact legislations after passing bills in the elected institution, whether it be panchayat or a district institution or a legislative assembly or Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha. Such legislations direct our society. We should strive for ensuring an ideal situation. 'Na Rajyam Na Rajasit, Na Dando na Cha dandika, Dharmenyev Prajya Sarve Rakshti Swa Parasparam. Law is required to protect each other but we have to see as to what extent the law protects anyone. If we cannot protect each other, then to what extent law would protect us.

An element of ethical values should be developed and the electoral system should be such which should be free from money and muscle power, enmity and keeping in view all these things such means should be devised that our personal differences of opinion should end. I do feel whether the valuable time of life is being wasted and whether we are able to achieve our objective for which we had marched forward or we are entangled in politics in such a way and to such an extent that we have forgotten all our humanly qualities. For that purpose I would like to say that "Sira doondhta hoon main Jindagi Ka, Pataa ho tumhein to bataa dijiye, ye pardaa hain jo darmiyan jheena saa, hataa sako to hataa dijye". So measures should be taken for clearing the whole system for which a resolution is needed to be adopted, if the intention of the resolution is to unite the whole nation, then definitely we will be able to give valuable contribution in the building of the society and the nation. This Bill is an excuse, it is not going to be passed here but it is merely a means to express the resolution of the Government. I believe that if the Government want to adopt a resolution for making reforms and if same rules are framed then definitely it will benefit all in the beginning it may harm some people, but in the long run, it will benefit all. So, I think that the Government should constitute a commisison for implanting these things and bringing fairness and probity in the election process and the commission should look into all the aspects related to electoral system, votes list, voting booths, kind of means to be provided for carrying voters to the voting booths, the distance of voting booths and this commission should suggest measures for plugging small loopholes in our electoral system. When all these things are there then definitely we will be able to contribute in the work of nation building. Then again we will be able to acheive the target which is identity of this nation. This is a question mark before us which we have to fulfill.

"Hum kaun the, kya ho gaya aur kya honga abhi
Aao vichare milkar hum ye samasyaen sabhi,
Yadphi itihaas gyat pura hai nahi
Hum kaun the, iska gyan phir bhi adhura hain nahi,
Bhulok ka gaurav, pakriti ka priya lila sthal kahan,
Phaila manohar giri himallaya aur gangajal hai jhana,
Sampoorna deson se adhik is desh ke utkarsh hai,
Uska ki jo rishimboomi, hai, wah kaun bharatwarsh hai"

For answering this, you have got an opportunity to select a system and I believe that you will take advantage of it and will definitely try to establish a democratic system for the people.

I got an opportunity to express my views on this issue because of the honourable member and because of your kindness and therefore I conclude expressing many many thanks to you as well as to the honourable member.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I stand here to deliberate on the Private Member Bill. The Mover of this Bill, Comrade C. K. Chandrappan, has very categorically stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that democratic elections is one of the essential ingredients of democracy. This wisdom coming from a Comrade is really very enlightening.

He has gone ahead to explain certain weaknesses in our electoral system, which needs rectification. He does not subscribe to the system of first-past-the-post in which a candidate is winning with a very small percentage of votes. He is of the view that a Commission be formed under the Chairmanship of a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India in consultation with the Chief Justice of India in which a retired Chief Election Commissioner and one serving Election Commissioner also are appointed. This means that it will be a three-member Commission.

17.36 hrs

[DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA *in the Chair*]

In other words, this three-member Commission would examine, firstly, proportional representation election system or the list system in which 50 per cent of the total constituencies of Lok Sabha, Legislative Assemblies of the States and Union Territories including 50 per cent reservation of women; secondly, 15 per cent reservation of women in other constituencies; and thirdly, 1/3rd reservation of seats for women in the Council of States. These are the three major points that he is highlighting on. But the best part of this Bill — that has touched my heart — is that there would be State funding of elections. I would try to deal with these points, and I shall try to put forth my considered view.

It is a Private Member's Bill and every individual Member will put forth his individual point of view. Firstly, I would say that there are people in our country who feel that something is wrong with the elections in our country, and there is scope for improving and rectifying the shortcomings. They also say that elected Members do not get sufficient number of votes to represent the people in the true sense in the Parliament and the State Legislatures. They get elected even with 20 per cent or less than 20 per cent of votes. In some countries, if a candidate does not get 50 per cent of votes cast, then elections are held again within seven days or within the specified time, and he or she is declared elected only when he or she gets more than 50 per cent votes.

I am sure that the Mover of this Bill is aware about the suggestions the Chief Election Commissioner had given some months back. He had suggested that the winning candidate must have the support of a minimum of 50 per cent plus one out of the total votes polled. Currently, with less than 50 per cent of the electorate actually voting in many constituencies, no one truly gets a majority. We have a multi-Party system, and independents also come to the election fore. So, with a large number of candidates contesting every seat, the delivered votes is necessarily fragmented and it is not uncommon to see winning candidates romp home with even less than a third or a quarter of the votes polled.

The CEC has suggested a run up in all cases where the majority 50 per cent plus one vote principle is not met, the ensuing contest being between the first two candidates. Such a run off should be held within a week or two of the count so that there is no undue gap in time which would create its own problems. You eliminate a large number of candidates and ultimately another election can be held with the last two candidates who have secured the maximum votes. So, there will be one primary election and another run off election. Election will be held in two stages where the votes cast do not go beyond fifty per cent plus one vote. That is the suggestion, I think the Government is aware of it, which the Chief Election Commissioner has given.

Such a system could be combined with the creation of l ger legislatures to accommodate growing population and special interests, about which the Mover of this Bill has mentioned. The additional numbers can be filled in on the basis of the List System which the CEC has suggested. We must discuss this basic aspect to bring in more number of voters to the booth casting votes in large numbers so that we cross fifty per cent and actually the majority of the people's voice is reflected in the

[Shri B. Mahtab]

election. There are various methods for this. Some months back, another hon. Member had moved a Private Member Bill, which we had debated, seeking to make voting compulsory. I need not repeat what I had said earlier and what other hon. Members had said on that day.

Today I confine myself to this point. One is first-past-the-post and the other aspect is how to have a List System. These are two separate issues. But hon. Members deliberated on these two aspects jointly. It is better if we deliberate first-past-the-post or fifty per cent plus one vote, and the List System or proportional representation separately. These are two separate aspects. I would say political analysts have for long believed that first-past-the-post ensures secure majorities in Parliament and State Assemblies which in turn result in decisive Governments. On the other hand, proportional representation promotes divisiveness.

I have read the book *The Parliamentary System* written by Shri Arun Shourie. That book is available in the library. He is an eminent columnist and a journalist. He has given these details in that book. I think hon. Member Shri Kharventhan will go through that book. Sixty per cent of the Members of Parliament have got elected in 2004 to this House on the basis of a minority of votes. If one were to examine the support of some of our hon. representatives and the total electorate in their constituencies, the conclusion would be even more disappointing. In other words, 99 per cent of the Members got into this Lok Sabha by getting less than half the electors to vote for them. This is the situation. This is the reality.

While examining further, it is interesting to find that almost 60 per cent got in with endorsement of less than 30 per cent of the electors in their constituencies. While analysing the latest election to Uttar Pradesh Assembly, Mr. Shailendra Kumar is also here, it is found that out of 403 Assembly seats, winning candidates in just 14 constituencies secured more than 50 per cent of the votes polled.

It means that 389 candidates made it to the Uttar Pradesh Assembly on the support of a minority of the voters in their constituencies. I would give one or two examples. Doaba constituency, I do not know in whose parliamentary seat it falls, has 3.05 lakh voters but only 85,238 voters that is 27.92 or 28 per cent exercised their franchise. I need not name the Member who has won, he does not belong to your Party, won this seat with just 22,549 votes, which means that he had the support of 26.45 per cent. In actual term it is 7.5 per cent of the total electorate. This is the problem of first-past-the-post. There may be many such instances.

The fragmentation of the polity has led to unstable and un-principled coalitions and first-past-the-post no longer guarantees a credible system of governance or of democracy about which you have just now narrated. But are we prepared to face the truth which you have just mentioned now? Are we not conscious about the flaws in the existing system? There may be many suggestions for adoption of a partial list system as in Germany. But we have adopted the Party system on the British model.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you limit your speech, then one more remember would be able to speak.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: We have a Cabinet system and this Cabinet system cannot function where many parties claim proportional voting power to run the administration. That is the problem. Therefore, proportional representation may have a certain fascination but a Government with manifesto based collective responsibility necessarily requires the dual Party or Front or a minority Government with a firm and convinced ideological backing of parties from outside the Cabinet when there is a challenge in Parliament, which we are witnessing now, which we have witnessed for the last 15 years.

The majority in Parliament is the essence of democratic rule. That is why proportional representation is incongruous with a strong Government with defined policies.

True, when Parliament functions with lunatic or fanatic fury the rule of law withers but the Cabinet system with a ceremonial President enjoying supervisory jurisdiction and special Constitutional authority, as in our case, is un-debatably preferable. We have a Cabinet system with the President who is the Head of the Nation with ceremonial powers and advisory authority. He has the right to get information from Government and authority to advise the Cabinet. Therefore, in the Presidential system the President is powerful. In such contexts, proportional representation has more relevance but our Constitution is based on the Cabinet system and this basic structure cannot be changed. I think the hon. Law Minister can elaborate on this basic point.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): May I say one thing on this? India is a Parliamentary democracy. When we talk of presidential system, it cannot be introduced in India for the simple reason that we have not accepted the presidential system in our Constitution. So, if you turn to presidential system, it will be a violation of the basic structure of the Constitution and will be struck down. Any law which will change the parliamentary system will be against the Constitution. We should strengthen the parliamentary democracy and within this framework, we should do something so that the MPs get maximum votes and we have clean elections. These are the things which our leaders discuss. So, when we talk of other systems in the world, they are suited to them. India has opted for parliamentary democracy and this is the only form of Government which will be acceptable to the people of India. If you read extensive speeches of Pandit Nehru, Dr. Ambedkar and Sardar Patel, you will find that they had rejected outrightly the other systems while speaking in the Constituent Assembly. India is a vast country and so many crore people participate in the elections here. The population of other countries is not that much. So, we should purify this system.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much more time will you take?

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I will take another ten minutes.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: then, no other member would be able to speak. You limit your time a little.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Now I come to the next point regarding State funding. Though, I had a lot more to say on State funding, I will try to confine myself. The State funding of elections is the next idea which is back on the agenda today. This will work only if expenditure by 'parties and friends' is pooled. Else, a ceiling on candidates alone will result in added expenditure by parties and friends. I see no reason to bar corporate funding, provided funds are declared in the balance sheet and some guidelines are laid down whereby a certain part of funding goes to the Opposition Parties or candidates on the basis of vote share so that there is a great level playing field. It was on 7th June, 2004, the hon. President, while addressing the Joint Session of Parliament had expressed this Government's commitment to electoral reforms and had said it will consider steps to introduce State funding of elections. It is one of the items of National Common Minimum Programme of UPA. I hope the Minister will throw some light on what progress has been made.

As per Indrajit Gupta Committee's recommendation, the Government has been considering to provide for the State funding to political parties in kind only, in the nature of facilities like free accommodation, rent-free telephone, etc. We are informed that the Election Commission convened a meeting of all recognized political parties on 15th February, 2006 to elicit their views on the proposal relating to State funding of elections. Representatives of six national political parties and 28 out of 44 State parties had participated in the meeting. There was complete unanimity among the representatives of political parties on the need for curbing the role of money power in elections but there was no consensus of opinion among them on the proposals relating to State funding of elections. But the present proposal of partial State funding will not address the issue of money power in elections and for addressing the real issues, there have to be radical changes in the provisions regarding receipt of funds by the political parties and the manner in which such funds are spent by them so as to provide a complete transparency.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You leave two minutes time for the last speaker so that he could start speaking before six o' clock and could express rest of the views next time.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, regarding reservation for women I would like to mention that I have already mentioned about the List System. I do not want to go into the details about how this idea was floated here in the House and outside; and whether it is necessary or not is a different issue. All political parties irrespective of their colour and affiliations are in support of reservation for women. But how it has to be implemented, there is a difference of opinion on that. I hold this view that the main objection to the concept of reservation for women in Lok Sabha appear to arise from the rotational

[Shri B. Mahtab]

phenomenon. The rotational phenomenon would break the link between the Members of Parliament, either male or female Member with the Constituency. Once this rotation starts it de-links the Member from the constituency and I think that is the major problem. Unless you decide and arrive at a decision on this aspect, it would be a futile exercise.

Sir, before concluding, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House a very peculiar thing. We have discussed about criminalization of politics and politics being influenced by criminals. A very peculiar thing had happened in this House which the whole House had witnessed and we have our own perception about that. Perceptions differ from individual to individual. Similarly, concept of politicians as criminals is not the same in the eyes of all and in the society. Educated men will look at the candidate in one fashion while the man who is living far off will be looking at him in another fashion. Have we not seen Phoolan Devi who was here sitting in this House, who got elected to this House twice and she did not know that she was a murderer. She had committed murder, not one, but many murders. She was in jail for 11 years without having either been acquitted or been convicted. Yet people elected her. Her behaviour in the House was exceptional. We have never seen her running to the well of the House; or use foul language or do something which ordinarily so called gentlemen and educated people do in this House. She had suffered and she retaliated. According to law she was a criminal and she was in jail. It was the people who elected her.

Sir, I do not subscribe to the view of proportional representation. I do not support the manner in which the reservation for women has been sought. But I do support State funding of elections. We do not need to have any Commission because we already have the Indrajit Gupta Commission Report and let the Government tell us as to what they are going to do about this.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to discuss the Electoral Reforms Commission Bill moved by Comrade C.K. Chandrappan. The hon. Members have highlighted various issues because of the simple reason that the Government of India has not taken the desired action on the electoral reforms which are long over-due. The Government itself had constituted a number of Committees including the Indrajit Gupta Committee. The Election Commission has made a number of recommendations prior to electoral reforms. Political analysts and other active groups in the country have pleaded for electoral reforms.

16.00 hrs.

But on the ground that consensus has been evolved, we are unable to bring electoral reforms and perhaps, that must have agitated our comrade, Shri Chandrappan to bring this Bill to this august House.

While I appreciate the gesture and the spirit of the Member that we should have an Electoral Reforms Commission, I would feel that there are enough mechanisms in this country which could bring electoral reforms that are required for the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Ramadass, the time is now 6 p.m. You may continue next time.

We will now take up 'Zero Hour'. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman Sir, now I would like to raise a very importnat issue in the House. In Delhi, the capital of India some communal elements have filed a petition to ban printing, publication and distribution of 'Satyarth Prakash' the famous reformative book based on the teachings of vedas authored by prominent leader of Swarajya Movement which was launched about 125 years ago and Champion National Movement and Reniassance and social revolution and the founder of Arya Samaj, Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati by disturb social harmony and national integrity. It has led to strong resentment by lacs and crores of followers of Arya Samaj hence thousands of Arya Sadhus and Saints staged Dharna at Jantar Mantar recently and demanded the freedom of expression emphasizing social and religious harmony.

'Satyarth Prakash' is a torch of ideological revolution in this book there is comperative study of various ideologies of Swarajya, patriotism, self-respect, establishment of national values, humanity, social unity giving respect to women, compulsory education, removal of untouchability, uprooting of social evils, prohibition againsl superstition, freedom of expression, etc. and factual interpretation of religious conventions and eradication of gurudom adopting scientific and reasons

based views. This legendery book removed many superstitions prevailed in the society in the name of religion by enlightening crores of people. This book has made valuable contribution towards cultural, social, educational, political, economic and spiritual upliftment of India. After reading this book thousands of people went to jails to fetter the shackles of slavery of Mother India and suffered the tortures of Britishers. This book has produced many a great leaders and revolutionaries like Swami Sharadhanand, Sher-e-Punjab Lala Lajpat Rai, Sardar Bhagat Singh, Ramprasad Bismal in the country. Lacs of copies of this holy book printed in various languages are quenching the thirst of knowledge of devotees in the country and abroad as well. As such the thought of banning 'Satyarth Prakash is tantamount to the ruining of integrity of the country and a crime against humanity and Indian Constitution. Therefore, it is requested to the Government of India to expose this conspiracy by conducting through investigation in this regard and such elements of society who conspire to vitiate communal harmony should be arrested and such petition that hurts the sentiments of crores of people should be rejected to protect the freedom of expression and gratitude should be expressed towards the great son of Mother India, Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Lok Sabha now stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, April 28, 2008 at 11.00 a.m.

18.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, April 28, 2008/Vaisakha 8, 1930 (Saka)

ANNEXURE I

Member-wise Index to Starred Questions

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1.	Shri Bhailal	474
2.	Dr. Agarwal, Dhirendra	471
3.	Shri Appadurai, M.	465
4.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	477
5.	Shri Bhakta, Manoranjan	480
6.	Shri Bose, Subrata	464
7.	Dr. Chinta Mohan	462
8.	Shri Chitthan, N.S.V.	476
9.	Shri Fanthome, Francis	479
10.	Shri Gaikwad, Eknath M.	478
11.	Shri Gehlot, Thawar Chand	463
12.	Shri George, K. Francis	472
13.	Smt. Jayaprada	466
14.	Shri Jindal, Naveen	478
15.	Shri Krishnadas, N.N.	466
16.	Shri Mahato, Narahari	468
17.	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	475
18.	Shri Oram, Jual	473
19.	Shri Patel, Jivabhai A.	470
20.	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	469
21.	Shri Rajagopal, L.	461
22.	Shri Rana, Kashiram	471
23.	Shri Rao, K.S.	461
24.	Shri Rathod, Haribhau	462
25.	Shri Reddy, M. Raja Mohan	463
26.	Shri Renge Patil, Tukaram Ganpat Rao	469
27.	Shri Shakya, Raghuraj Singh	475
28.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	476
29.	Shri Shivanna, M.	467
30.	Shri Singh, Chandrabhan	465
31.	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	473
32.	Shri Thummar, V.K.	470
33.	Shri Vallabhaneni, Balashowry	464
34.	Shri Yadav, Giridhari	468
35.	Shri Yaskhi, Madhu Goud	467

Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shri "Bachda", Bachi Singh Rawat	4589
2.	Shri Aaron Rashid, J.M.	4600, 4731
3.	Shri Acharia, Basu Deb	4606, 4682, 4697
4.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao Vithoba	4699, 4701, 4707, 4764, 4765
5.	Dr. Agarwal, Dhirendra	4638, 4683, 4763
6.	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	4571, 4608, 4682, 4723, 4764
7.	Shri Ajay Kumar, S.	4645, 4736
8.	Shri Angadi, Suresh	4701
9.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	4677, 4754
10.	Shri Barad, Jasubhai Dhanabhai	4554, 4630, 4673, 4774
11.	Shri Barman, Hiten	4618, 4714, 4773
12.	Shri Barman, Ranen	4601, 4636, 4768, 4772
13.	Shri Basu, Anil	4651
14.	Shri Bellarmin, A.V.	4634
15.	Shri Bhadana, Avtar Singh	4588, 4624
16.	Shri Bhagora, Mahavir	4575, 44670, 4710, 4734, 4751
17.	Shri Bhakta, Manoranjan	4709, 4767
18.	Shri Bhargava, Girdhari Lal	4593, 4628, 4764
19.	Shri Bose, Subrata	4618, 4734
20.	Shri Budholia, Rajnarayan	4764
21.	Shri Chakraborty, Ajoy	4656, 4743
22.	Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	4638

1	2	3
23.	Shri Chaure, Bapu Hari	4621, 4762
24.	Shri Chavda, Harisinh	4617, 4638, 4690, 4713, 4762
25.	Shri Chowdhary, Pankaj	4595, 4634
26.	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	4759
27.	Shri Dasgupta, Gurudas	4593
28.	Smt. Deo, Sangeeta Kumari Singh	4573, 4696, 4705, 4762
29.	Snri Deora, Milind	4590, 4730, 4775
30.	Dr. Dhanaraju, K.	4720, 4733
31.	Shri Dhotre, Sanjay	4601, 4639, 4762, 4764
32.	Smt. Dutt, Priya	4764
33.	Shri Fanthome, Francis	4708, 4766
34.	Shri Gaddigoudar, P.C.	4609, 4721, 4776
35.	Shri Gadhavi, P.S.	4624, 4654
36.	Shri Gaikwad, Eknath Mahadeo	4593, 4692, 4759
37.	Shri Gamang, Giridhar	4555
38.	Smt. Gandhi, Maneka	4627, 4764
39.	Shri Gangwar, Santosh	4622, 4644, 4735, 4764, 4774
40.	Smt. Gawali, Bhavana Pundalikrao	4601, 4711
41.	Shri Gehlot, Thawarchand	4616, 4638, 4693
42.	Shri George, K. Francis	4701
43.	Ch. Hassan, Munawar	4619
44.	Dr. Jagannath, M.	4652, 4741, 4771
45.	Shri Jain, Pusp	4611, 4628
46.	Dr. Jatiya, Satyanarayan	4553, 4558, 4638, 4764
47.	Smt. Jayaprada	4663, 4699, 4755
48.	Shri Jindal, Naveen	4652, 4671, 4689, 4752
49.	Shri Jogi, Ajit	4712
50.	Shri Karunakaran, P.	4574, 4593, 4680
51.	Shri Kaswan, Ram Singh	4633
52.	Dr. Kathiria, Vallabhbhai	4649
53.	Shri Khaire, Chandrakant	4653, 4655, 4742
54.	Shri Khan, Sunil	4577, 4737, 4768
55.	Shri Khanna, Avinash Rai	4564, 4666, 4749
56.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	4584, 4688, 4710, 4759
57.	Shri Koshal, Raghuveer Singh	4550, 4558 4616, 4764
58.	Shri Kriplani, Srichand	4620
59.	Shri Krishna, Vijoy	4595, 4710
60.	Shri Krishnadas, N.N.	4593, 4701, 4772
61.	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	4608, 4699, 4726
62.	Adv. Kurup, Suresh	4631, 4727, 4755, 4778
63.	Smt. Lakshmi, Botcha Jhansi	4599, 4744
64.	Shri Madam, Vikrambhai Arjanbhai	4598, 4722, 4777
65.	Smt. Madhavraj, Manorama	4593, 4760
66.	Smt. Mahajan, Sumitra	4597, 4685
67.	Shri Mahato, Narahari	4710, 4768
68.	Smt. Maheshwari, Kiran	4593, 4628, 4724, 4764
69.	Shri Mahtab, B.	4604, 4729

1	2	3
70.	Shri Majhi, Parsuram	4572, 4603
71.	Prof. Malhotra, Vijay Kumar	4622, 4686
72.	Smt. Mane, Nivedita	4593, 4596
73.	Dr. Manoj, K.S.	4593, 4646
74.	Shri Masood, Rasheed	4556
75.	Dr. Mediyam, Babu Rao	4576, 4689, 4755
76.	Shri Mehta, Alok Kumar	4611, 4710
77.	Shri Mehta, Bhuvaneshwar Prasad	4653
78.	Dr. Meinya, Thokchom	4615
79.	Dr. Mishra, Rajesh	4624
80.	Shri Mohale, Punnu Lal	4559, 4776
81.	Shri Mollah, Hannan	4643, 4769
82.	Shri Mondal, Abu Ayes Mondal	4632, 4728
83.	Shri More, Vasantrao	4563, 4621, 4665
84.	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	4679, 4756
85.	Shri Murmu, Rupchand	4640
86.	Smt. Narhire, Kalpna Ramesh	4585, 4604, 4620
87.	Shri Nayak, Ananta	4593, 4701
88.	Shri Nizamuddin, G.	4661
89.	Shri Oram, Jual	4700, 4746
90.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	4578, 4628, 4699, 4738
91.	Shri Pallani Shamy, K.C.	4566, 4710, 4734
92.	Shri Panda, Prabodh	4613, 4640, 4770
93.	Dr. Pandey, Laxminarayan	4549, 4565, 4686
94.	Shri Pannian Ravindran	4638
95.	Shri Patel, Harilal Madhavji Bhai	4648
96.	Shri Patel, Jivabhai A.	44690, 4713, 4762, 4763
97.	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	4594, 4612, 4623, 4719, 4775
98.	Smt. Pateriya, Neeta	4647
99.	Shri Patil, Pratik P.	4580, 4621, 4675
100.	Smt. Patil, Rupatai D.	4511, 4682
101	Shri Patle, Shishupal N.	4602, 4699, 4718
102.	Shri Pingle, Devidas	4699, 4718
103.	Shri Prabhu, Suresh Prabhakar	4613, 4629, 4725
104.	Shri Pradhan, Prasanta	4650, 4740
105.	Shri Prasad, Anirudh *Alias* Sadhu Yadav	4593, 4596, 4692, 4759
106.	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	4558, 4638, 4659, 4716
107.	Shri Prasad, Laimani	4603
108.	Shri Rai, Nakul Das	4587, 4747
109.	Shri Rajagopal, L.	4695, 4708
110.	Shri Rajbhar, Chandra Dev Prasad	4583
111.	Shri Rajendran, P.	4581
112.	Prof. Ramadass, M.	4755
113.	Shri Ramakrishna, Badiga	4634, 4681
114.	Shri Ramesh Dube	4592, 4678, 4682
115.	Shri Rana, Kashiram	4705, 4762
116.	Shri Rao, K.S.	4646, 4698, 4757
117.	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	4611, 4715, 4759, 4774
118.	Shri Rathod, Haribhau	4687

1	2	3
119.	Prof. Rawat, Rasa Singh	4593
120.	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	4568, 4667, 4750
121.	Shri Reddy, K.J.S.P.	4593, 4642
122.	Shri Reddy, M. Raja Mohan	4674, 4724, 4758
123.	Shri Reddy, M. Sreenivasulu	4637, 4732
124.	Shri Reddy, Suravaram Sudhakar	4755
125.	Shri Renge Patil, Tukaram Ganpat Rao	4638, 4703, 4761, 4764
126.	Shri Rijiju, Kiren	4552, 4565
127.	Shri Sai Prathap, A.	4570, 4669
128.	Shri Sai, Nand Kumar	4594, 4612, 4623, 4641, 4681
129.	Shri Sai, Vishnu Deo	4586
130.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	4567, 4615, 4626, 4694, 4701
131.	Dr. Sarma, Arun Kumar	4614, 4706
132.	Shri Satyanarayana, Sarvey	4607
133.	Shri Satpathy, Tathagata	4604
134.	Smt. Scindia, Yashodhara Raje	4635, 4755
135.	Dr. Senthil, R.	4755
136.	Shri Shakya, Raghuraj Singh	4679
137.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	4699, 4701, 4707, 4765
138.	Shri Shivanna, M.	4593, 4702, 4760
139.	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	4569, 4668, 4724
140.	Shri Singh, Chandrabhan	4700
141.	Shri Singh, Ganesh	4764
142.	Shri Singh, Mohan	4638
143.	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	4638, 4691, 4764
144.	Shri Singh, Rakesh	4562, 4723
145.	Dr. Singh, Ram Lakhan	4658
146.	Shri Singh, Rampal	4558
147.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	4594, 4612, 4623, 4681, 4719
148.	Shri Singh, Suraj	4605, 4612
149.	Shri Singh, Uday	4557, 4739, 4759
150.	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan"	4612, 4625
151.	Shri Solanki, Bhupendrasinh	4630
152.	Shri Subba, M.K.	4560, 4672, 4753, 4764
153.	Shri Subbarayan, K.	4610
154.	Shri Sugavanam, E.G.	4561, 4664
155.	Smt. Sujatha, C.S.	4579, 4768
156.	Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	4605, 4625
157.	Smt. Thakkar, Jayaben B.	4630
158.	Shri Thomas, P.C.	4591
159.	Shri Thummar, V.K.	4558, 4704, 4762
160.	Shri Tripathi, Chandra Mani	4549, 4565
161.	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	4652, 4657, 4745, 4768
162.	Shri Vallabhaneni, Balashowry	4593, 4699, 4759
163.	Shri Vasava, Mansukhbhai D.	4617, 4659, 4683, 4696, 4703
164.	Shri Veerendra Kumar, M.P.	4593, 4662
165.	Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash	4616, 4699, 4701, 4707, 4764
166.	Shri Warsi, Anil Shukla	4660, 4748
167.	Shri Yadav, Mitrasen	4582, 4717
168.	Shri Yadav, Ram Kripal	4611
169.	Shri Yashi, Madhu Goud	4593, 4684, 4692, 4759
170.	Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	4593, 4595, 4634, 4638, 4730

ANNEXURE II

Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions

Corporate Affairs	461, 469
Finance	462, 466, 467, 470, 471, 472, 475, 477
Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation	468
Law and Justice	474
New and Renewable Energy	
Power	463, 465, 473
Rural Development	476, 479
Tribal Affairs	
Urban Development	464
Women and Child Development	478, 480

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Corporate Affairs	4584, 4619, 4627, 4653, 4655, 4667, 4692, 4742, 4757
Finance	4549, 4556, 4557, 4559, 4560, 4563, 4570, 4571, 4572, 4573. 4574, 4578, 4582, 4583, 4590, 4592, 4593, 4598, 4600, 4602, 4603, 4605, 4606, 4608, 4609, 4610, 4612, 4613, 4615, 4617, 4625, 4628, 4631, 4632, 4633, 4634, 4635, 4637, 4640, 4643, 4645, 4647, 4648, 4649, 4650, 4652, 4656, 4657, 4660, 4663, 4664, 4665, 4666, 4671, 4674, 4677, 4679, 4680, 4684, 4687, 4689, 4703, 4704, 4705, 4707, 4708, 4712, 4716, 4717, 4719, 4720, 4721, 4727, 4728, 4729, 4730, 4732, 4736, 4747, 4740, 4743, 4748, 4750, 4753, 4758, 4761, 4763, 4769, 4770, 4772, 4775, 4777, 4778
Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation	4565, 4569, 4585, 4618, 4642, 4668, 4718, 4734, 4749, 4766
Law and Justice	4550, 4577, 4581, 4595, 4616, 4641, 4669, 4685, 4690, 4691, 4739, 4744, 4754
New and Renewable Energy	4638, 4715, 4751, 4767, 4774
Power	4579, 4594, 4620, 4623, 4626, 4651, 4662, 4672, 4673, 4678, 4682, 4698, 4699, 4702, 4713, 4723, 4724, 4745, 4759, 4762, 4764
Rural Development	4562, 4591, 4604, 4630, 4659, 4676, 4686, 4693, 4701, 4765, 4773
Tribal Affairs	4551, 4553, 4555, 4586, 4661, 4670, 4683, 4694, 4696, 4697, 4700, 4711, 4725, 4741, 4746, 4755
Urban Development	4558, 4561, 4567, 4575, 4580, 4587, 4588, 4589, 4596, 4611, 4614, 4621, 4622, 4624, 4639, 4644, 4654, 4675, 4688, 4695, 4706, 4709, 4722, 4726, 4731, 4733, 4735, 4747, 4752, 4756
Women and Child Development	4552, 4554, 4564, 4566, 4568, 4576, 4597, 4599, 4601, 4607, 4629, 4636, 4646, 4658, 4681, 4710, 4714, 4738, 4760, 4768, 4771, 4776

INTERNET

The Original version of Lok Sabha proceedings is available on Parliament of India Website at the following address :

http://www.parliamentofindia.nic.in

LIVE TELECAST OF PROCEEDINGS OF LOK SABHA

Lok Sabha proceedings are being telecast live on Lok Sabha T.V. Channel. Live telecast begins at 11 A.M. everyday the Lok Sabha sits, till the adjournment of the House.

LOK SABHA DEBATES ON SALE

Printed copies of Lok Sabha Debates of Original version, English version, Hindi version and indices thereto, DRSCs reports and other Parliamentary Publications and Souvenir items with logo of Parliament are available for sale at the Sales Counter, Reception, Parliament House, (Tel. Nos. 23034726, 23034495, 23034496) New Delhi-110001. The information about all these publications and items is also available on the website mentioned above.

P.L.S. 40/XXXIV.24/2008
430

© 2008 By Lok Sabha Secretariat

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Twelfth Edition) and printed by M/s Jainco Art India, New Delhi.