

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Thirteenth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, March 18, 2008/Phalgun 28, 1929 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for suspension of Question Hour to discuss the price rise issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura) : I have given a notice for suspension of Question Hour on the price rise issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. I will try my best to accommodate you after the Question Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the issue of Sarabjit Singh is very important. He is an Indian and is a victim of mistaken identity. I would like that the House make a request to the Government of Pakistan to release him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Today the concerned Minister will make a statement in this regard.

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

**Technical Institutions Run without
AICTE Approval**

*261. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the educational institutions in each State which do not have the approval of AICTE;

(b) whether information about such institutions is publicised by the AICTE for the benefit of the student community;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that the students receive quality education and are not misled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) State-wise number of institutions running technical education programmes without approval of AICTE is given in the Annexure. List of these institutions has been placed on the website of AICTE (www.aicte.ernet.in) for information of students and the general public.

AICTE has also placed a list of technical institutions approved by it on its website. It also publishes notices, from time to time, in leading newspapers, cautioning all concerned to check the approval status of technical institutions before joining them.

Annexure

*State-wise number of institutions running Technical
Education Programmes without AICTE approval*

State/Union Territory	Number of institutions
1	2
Madhya Pradesh	2
Gujarat	4
West Bengal	16
Uttar Pradesh	15
Uttarakhand	1

1	2
Chandigarh	10
Haryana	8
NCT of Delhi	19
Punjab	2
Rajasthan	3
Andhra Pradesh	7
Tamil Nadu	17
Karnataka	20
Kerala	2
Maharashtra	82
Goa	1
Total	209

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is true that the Ministry has issued notices to some of the institutions which are dealing in management courses like the hospitality management, catering technology, B. Pharmacy and M. Pharmacy for submitting their application for recognition. Especially, in the case of B. Pharmacy and M. Pharmacy, they are subjected to take approval of both the Pharmacy Council of India and the AICTE. How come the institutions like the hospitality management, catering technology and Pharmacy come under the AICTE, since they do not deal with any technical education whereas the AICTE deals with only technical education as per the AICTE Act 52 of 1957?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI : As per the AICTE Act, management is also termed under the technical education. That is the reason why we expect the hospitality management and catering technology institutions also to

come under its purview. It is very essential that they take prior recognition and permission from the AICTE.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Of course, the hon. Minister forgot to answer about B. Pharmacy. Now, I will put my second supplementary.

Nowadays, many Indian students are favourably inclined and eager to get technical education from foreign institutions from the foreign Universities. In view of this, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the details of the foreign institutions running in India without the approval of the AICTE or the foreign institutes that are collaborating with the Indian institutes and are awarding degrees and diplomas. In such cases, how will the Ministry deal with such foreign institutions as they have only extension study centres or tied up with some private institutes in India and have headquarters somewhere in some other country?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI : The AICTE's unapproved institutions which are running with foreign collaboration in management-related field would be 74 and engineering-related are 5. Running without foreign collaboration, management-related institutions are 94 and engineering-related are 17.

With regard to Foreign Education Providers Bill, we are yet to arrive at a consensus. We are trying to arrive at a consensus on the Bill. But, as it exists today, the AICTE has come forward. There are existing regulations which regulate the entry of foreign education providers into our country wherein there are certain regulations which I can read out now and let you know. Otherwise, I can always inform the hon. Member also. It is essential that the programme that is being offered in India to our children will have to be recognized in the host country. Even the institute that offers the programme in our country has to be recognized in the host country. No such unaccredited institute or programme can be actually given to our children here. There are foreign institutes that are running programmes in our country through the twinning programmes and the student exchange programmes. These are the

areas in which they are collaborating with our institutes. However, it is essential that the Indian partner that they collaborate with in our country needs to be registered as a Society or a non-profit organization because as we are all very well aware, there have been various Supreme Court rulings in this regard as well as it is against the policy of our country that we commercialise education.

So, there have been regulations put in place by the AICTE to regulate the entry of foreign education providers.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that the Member who had put the main question wanted to know in his supplementary from the Minister about the step taken by the Government to inform the students about the institutions which are non-affiliated and unapproved by the AICTE so that they are not misled. What action has been taken to caution the students about such institutions. It has been asked in part 'd' of the question. The Government did not give any reply to this question and has misled the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the same question. The Government have mentioned about as many as 209 such institutions but they should also give the sector-wise details of those institutions and tell about. The action taken against them. Only placing the names of such institutions on the website will not solve the problem. I would like to know as to what action has been taken against such institutions.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What action has been taken against them?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI : Sir, from time to time Show Cause Notices have been issued to the unapproved institutions and also public notices have been served. The

names of such unapproved institutions are put up on the website and even through the print media we have been regularly informing students and parents about such institutions. We must accept that there is a lacuna in the Act which prevents the AICTE from actually taking penal measures. But we have constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Yashpal, who has been the former Chairman of the University Grants Commission also. There are about 22 Members in the Committee who are looking into the Acts of both the UGC and the AICTE. They are looking at various angles and also deliberating on how these Acts can be strengthened further so that some teeth can be given to the AICTE to take action against such unapproved institutions.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether, following some reviews made by some important agencies regarding the functioning of the AICTE, it has been recommended that this body need not continue any further and a new set up needs to be put in place by the Government in view of the urgent need of expanding technical education in the country.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI : Sir, it is a well known fact that the National Knowledge Commission had said that the AICTE is almost dysfunctional. So, we need to have a relook into whether we need to have the AICTE or not. But otherwise also, the NHRD had mooted the idea of coming with the Higher Education Council to look into the functioning of the body, but there has been no consensus on that. Even at the Vice Chancellors' Meeting, when this idea was mooted, there was resistance from the Vice Chancellors also and various Inter-Ministerial consultations are still continuing to arrive at a consensus and once a consensus is arrived at, probably a decision will be taken in this regard.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the AICTE has any mechanism to monitor the quality of education provided by the AICTE approved institutions and if so, the

details thereof?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI : Sir, it actually does not arise out of the main question. But very briefly I would like to say that there is the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) which actually looks into the programmes offered by the various institutions and then it accredits the programme. This is one way in which we are assuring quality. Even before granting recognition to the institution, there is a Committee which goes and inspects the infrastructure and after ensuring that the infrastructure is in place, the recognition is given.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I would like to request all the Hon. Members that they should give speeches bare minimum so that more supplementary questions may be taken up. I feel that it will be better if more number of questions are asked. It will be better if you ask direct questions.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am directly coming to the main question. Through you, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that there are many such colleges in my area which are not functioning as per the norms fixed by AICTE. I would like know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have any information about such colleges which are not following AICTE norms and if so, whether the Government propose to take any concrete action against them.

[English]

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI : Sir, there have been complaints referred to AICTE through students, through parents and even through the websites and wherever there have been complaints AICTE has been looking into them. AICTE can also re-inspect the infrastructure and the facilities provided to the students and availing quality education there. Sir, there are provisions already and they are taken cognizance of.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are 209 such institutions which have not been recognized by AICTE. This, it is the age of globalization, the importance of technical education is increasing day by day and now technical education has become an essential precondition of employment. Through you, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this fact that the students are the future of our country, but their future is being spoiled. Students join colleges and technical institutions with the hope that after getting education they will secure jobs but those who come out from such institutions fail to get employment. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to take action against the institutions which are playing with the future of the students treating such act a criminal offence.

[English]

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI : Sir, the number of notices that have been issued by AICTE is 273, out of which the number of applicants who have responded is 54 and the number of applications which have been approved, after they have responded, is 13. The number of applications which do not fall within the AICTE regulations is about 51. In all, there are 209 which have been put up on the web site.

We have been constantly apprising the students and parents that if they get into unrecognized institutions, definitely their further education and even their employment chances would be crippled because they are graduating out of the unrecognized institutes.

As I have already mentioned, there is a lacuna in the Act which we all accept. We have constituted a Committee not only to look into the functioning of the AICTE and UGC, but also to come up with recommendations to see how we can strengthen the Act further. I am sure, the Committee will take into consideration all the concerns of the hon. Members.

[Translation]

**Misuse of Legal Provisions on
Rape Cases**

+

*262. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the provisions in the laws relating to rape cases in the country are being misused;

(b) if so, the total number of persons found guilty in this regard during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to amend the legal provisions in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) At per the information compiled by NCRB the number of rape cases investigated and cases declared false on account of mistake of fact or law during 2004-2006 is indicated below:—

Year	2004	2005	2006
Case Investigated	17008	17946	18376
Cases declared false on account of mistake of fact or law	1194	1138	1173
Percentage of cases declared false vis a vis the cases investigated	7.0%	6.3%	6.4%

(b) "Police" and "Public Order" are State subjects, and this information is not centrally maintained.

(c) and (d) The Law Commission in its 172nd Report on Review of Rape Laws has recommended a number of changes in the rape laws. A draft amendment Bill was prepared by the Ministry of Home Affairs. In the meantime the National Commission for Women have also recommended changes in the rape laws. Since the Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure are on the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, and the same are being administered by the State Governments, the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been requested to offer their views on the recommendations of the National Commission for Women.

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has given figures for the years 2004, 2005 and 2006. It is evident from the figures that incidents of rape are continuously increasing. There are several laws in the country to check the incidents of rape but incidents of rape take place everyday. Now, even foreign female tourists are becoming victims of rape. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what action has been taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs to ensure that the persons found guilty of committing rape do not go scot-free and the innocent persons who are wrongly implicated in rape case are not challenged by the police, and to see that only guilty persons are punished and innocent persons are not implicated falsely during the investigation.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a suggestion has been given in this regard that the laws dealing with rape case should be amended. The Government are pondering over this option. The second suggestion in this regard is that our police should do thorough investigation into the rape cases. When such cases are brought before the police it has been made mandatory that a lady police officer should be present there. Third suggestion was that after the incident of rape, the rape victim should immediately be referred to the doctor

and the case should be registered after the certificate from the doctor. If in-camera proceeding is required, it should be done. Several such suggestions and information have been given to us and efforts are being made by us to follow those suggestions and reduce such incidents. One thing that has come out from the study is that in most of the rape cases persons known to the victims were found involved in the crime. 75 per cent rapes have been committed by close relatives, parents and by those who were close to the victims or were living in their neighborhood, 25 per cent rapes were committed by the persons who were not known to the victims. So, it has been suggested that family members should keep watch and take precautions to check such incidents.

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has himself admitted that 6.4 per cent of the total rape cases registered for investigation are false. The Law Commission has recommended for a number of changes in rape laws in its 172nd report. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the time by which the recommendations given in its 172nd report are likely to be implemented.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, many suggestions have been made in 172nd report of the Law Commission. It is not that only they have made such suggestions. The Malimath Committee was constituted which had also made suggestions. Apart from that the National commission for Women has also made suggestions. Non-Government Organisations have also made suggestions. But all these suggestions are for broadening its definition. These suggestions are for making punishment more stringent. It has been said, that imprisonment for seven and ten years is essential. In some cases, life imprisonment has been suggested. In some cases capital punishment has been suggested. These suggestions cover every aspect. Consideration has been given to all these suggestions, but the State Governments are responsible for law enforcement in this regard, therefore their opinion has been sought. Some states have given their consent to these suggestions some of them have been disapproved

and some states have not yet submitted their report. We are considering them.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao Renge Patil – not present.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I was a practising Lawyer for a long time. Now I have stopped it for decades. I have come across rape cases wherein the accused were acquitted for the simple reasons that consent is presumed to be there if the victim is above the age of 16 years. If she is above the age of 16 years, the courts can presume consent. I have come across so many cases. In the Indian Penal Code it is stated that consent can be presumed for girls above the age of 16 years. That is a very difficult situation because if female majority age for the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act is 18 years; for voting right it is 18 years; for documentary it is 18 years; and for everything female majority age is 18 years; for a sexual Act it is only 16 years. So, it has to be changed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is your Supplementary?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : It is high time that the Government should come out with an amendment for amending the Penal Code and raising the age from 16 years to 18 years. Otherwise, all these rape cases accused will be acquitted. This is a very serious situation. I have come across so many cases. For a sexual Act, the age of giving consent is 16 years....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, what is your question?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Below the age of 18, there can be no presumption that she has given the consent.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Repetition is there. What is your question?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : So, I would request the hon. Minister to bring in an amendment in the Indian Penal Code for raising the age to 18 years.

You are even issuing Ordinances. Recently the Government promulgated the Prasar Bharati Ordinance for reducing the age. Even an Ordinance can be issued for raising the age. Supreme Court has also pointed out this thing.

So, it is high time for the Central Government to amend the Indian Penal Code for raising the age from 16 to 18 for rape victim girls. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have repeated it thrice.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Home Minister take this initiative?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : This is another suggestion which has been given. This suggestion is being considered. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, if you want to give reply, you can give it. Otherwise, you need not give your reply. He has given only a suggestion and he has not put a question.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, his suggestion is noted. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I have asked the Government to take measures for amending the Penal Code to increase the age from 16 to 18 for rape victim girls. This was my question....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have given a suggestion. Your suggestion has come on record.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, I have already replied to his question. I have said that this suggestion has been given and it is before the Government. It is sent to the State Governments. We are in consultation with the State Governments and after receiving their replies and their views, appropriate action can be taken.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Shri Avinash Rai Khanna.

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Sir, this question has two parts. First part is about number of cases registered and other is about number of cases proved false during the investigations. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that this is a very sensitive matter, because it is a question of honour for both parties. If a girl is raped or if some one is falsely implicated, it is a matter of dishonour for both. I would like to know the number of cases in which conviction was made, number of false cases registered and action taken against the culprits...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, it is very essential to understand that the State Police try these cases, it is in the jurisdiction of the state. State Police investigates the cases, refers cases to the court and get punishment awarded to the culprits.

If I have rightly understood the question asked over here, it means that the practice of filing false cases should be checked. But we have deviated from the topic and it is being asked as to what steps have been taken to check the increase in number of rape cases. Both these things are correct. But I would like to say that the number of false cases is very less. Nobody put his/her honour at stake to hurt others. If somebody is alleging that she is raped, it does mean that something has happened. The number of false cases is very low. The purpose of asking the question is to know the measures being taken to prevent filing of false cases. Then later it was assured, that probably asking this kind of questions digression from the issue, therefore discussion turned to another aspect, I replied both the questions...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : How my question is related to this reply?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is a statement.

[*Translation*]

Shailendra Ji, please put question.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as the hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that most of the girls fall prey to their nearest relatives or acquaintances. Through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that the television programmes, particularly TV Ads being telecast are so vulgar, that one cannot watch it with his family, one cannot watch even TV news with his/her family. This vulgarity is also the cause of the occurrences of sexual harassment or rape cases. What steps the hon'ble Minister is taking to check this?

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your question is not related to the main question.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : My question must be replied...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, there is no need to reply.

[*Translation*]

Shailendra Ji, please sit down.

[*English*]

Now, Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that with reference to NCRB report he has replied that only about 8.4 per cent false cases had been

registered in the year 2006. It means there have been a few cases. It is true that their number is very low, but we should also pay attention to the fact that since so many rape cases are being registered, the Law Commission has proposed a number of amendments in the rape laws from time to time. I would like to draw your attention towards the fact that the Law Commission has suggested to the Government to extend the period of imprisonment to seven and ten years, and life imprisonment in case of rape. Do the Government propose to consider these suggestions, whether the Government propose to bring an ordinance in this regard?

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are going to the other side.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI : Sir, through you, I am asking in brief a very important and pertinent question. It is a very important issue so I would like to know, as every person across the country would like to know that in view of increasing number of incidence of raps in the country do the Government propose to bring an ordinance to the effect whereby the guilty could either be sentenced for life or to death. Do the Government propose to bring such a legislation?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, there is some misunderstanding as to the sentence which is either for seven or ten years-the minimum sentence is for seven and ten years. There are certain cases in which it is compulsory to award seven years imprisonment and in others it is compulsory to award ten years imprisonment. However, it is also provided that if the sentence is to be reduced to less than 7 or 10 years then the reasons for reducing the term have to be attributed. The provision for awarding punishment is life imprisonment.

The fourth demand was that life imprisonment is not enough, so death sentence should be awarded. When the proposal of death sentence was put up before the Law Commission it recommended that death sentence could

have its ill effects so death sentence should not be awarded, the punishment should be restricted to life imprisonment. So, there is no need to bring an ordinance for whatever has been stated by the hon. Member it is already provided for in the law.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to for the information of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that false cases are framed due to some mutual dispute, I am not saying it to assassinate some one's character, however, there are even such incidents wherein a doctor would give certificate of injury for Rs. 32 and false case would be filed against a person. The way you have decided life imprisonment for to the guilty, minimum period of punishment from seven to ten years, whereas, Section 211 provides for taking action on falsely implicating a person, it is never implemented. I would like to know from him whether a legislation to this effect is likely to be made where it is proved that false cases have been filed with the intention of implicating someone in false injury case, falsely or under coercion, then the person filing wrong case would be awarded at least half of the sentence?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, there is a legislation for the purpose. If someone has filed a false case against a person, then there is a provision whereby punishment can be awarded to the plaintiff filing wrong case. The only trouble is that if legal proceedings are initiated against a person on the basis of the petition filed in the court and whereupon the court decided that the case was false and a case is initiated against the plaintiff filing the false case...*(interruptions)* this time-period i.e. two-four years time spent in the first case and three-four years spent in the second case gives a lot of relief to the plaintiff initiating false case. These days the legal experts are considering to bring a provision where in case a judge so feels that a case is false then at the time of rejecting that case, evidence can be collected against the plaintiff filing a wrong case and decision to award or not to award punishment can be taken during the proceedings of the case. There is a provision to award punishment, however, the trial

begins only after falsity is established and evidence is collected at the instance of the judge. Owing to this the interval between the two cases becomes inordinately long and a waste. Whatever you are saying is absolutely correct. It is not that false cases do not exist, they do exist however the measures to be taken therefor are also considered.

[English]

Revenue from Biotech Industry

*263. **SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA :** Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) the revenue earned by biotech industry in the country during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the earnings; and
- (c) the policy initiatives taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make India a biotech hub in the world?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) As per the joint survey conducted by Biospectrum, a biotech and pharma magazine and the Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE), the revenue earned by the biotech industry during the last three years i.e. 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are Rs. 4745 crores, Rs. 6521 crores and Rs. 8541 crores respectively.

The biotech industry in India mainly consisting of five distinct segments – biopharma, bioagriculture, bioinformatics, bioindustrial and bioservices development and promotion of which comes under ministers/departments like the

Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Petrochemicals, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and others.

The Department of Biotechnology in the Ministry of Science and Technology is responsible generally for promoting Research and Development catalyzing human resources development at diverse levels in and to recommend policy measures for the growth of biotech industry.

Government has initiated several steps to develop India as a Biotech Hub in the world to do this. The Government has provided fiscal incentives, permitting foreign direct investment upto 100% for the biotech industry, setting up of biotech parks and bioagri centres, support to star colleges for human resource development and other measures for capacity building to develop manpower and streamlining the regulatory procedures at par with world class regulatory mechanisms. All industries located in biotech parks have been permitted to avail the benefits of Export Oriented Units (EOU) under the EXIM Policy 2004 to 2009. The land area for Special Economic Zone (SEZ) for biotech sector has been brought down to 10 hectares from 100 hectares to promote the biotech industry.

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : This is my first supplementary. Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is laudable the Government has initiated several steps to develop India as a biotech hub in the world. But, as your goodself knows, this involves investment of huge amount of money. If we look at this year's Budget for "Other Scientific Research" under Major Head 3425 of the Department of Biotechnology, it is Rs. 810 crore only. It is not much when compared to the allocation made for the year 2007-08 which stood at Rs. 614 crore. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what efforts are being made to get more Budget for biotech research. Is it true that the Ministry is planning to set apart some percentage of money allocated by the Government for public-private partnership researches? If yes, the details may kindly be given.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : I am thankful to the hon. Member to have asked this question. Let me just clarify the issue. Sir, in the Ninth Plan, the total allocation to the Department of Biotechnology was Rs. 621 crore. In the Tenth Plan, that increased from Rs. 621 crore to Rs. 1,450 crore. In the Eleventh Plan, the allocation to the Department of Biotechnology is Rs. 6,500 crore. This is something historic. This, in fact, suggests the intention of the Government to invest in biotechnology and make India a part of the story of the 21st century which is going to be a century of biotechnology.

As far as public-private partnerships are concerned, in fact, we have taken a decision in the Department of Biotechnology that out of the total Budget of Rs. 6,500 crore in the Eleventh Plan, 30 per cent would be set apart only for public-private partnerships. This again suggests that we, in the Department of Biotechnology, believe that it is only through public-private partnerships that we can get the kind of growth that we are getting in the biotechnology sector.

May I also inform the hon. Members of this House that this is the fastest growing sector of the Indian economy? In fact, if you take out bio-industry, the biotech sector has grown at an average rate of over 40 per cent. This is unheard of.

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : It is laudable and heartening to know from the hon. Minister the projections given for biotechnology in the Eleventh Plan.

Sir, my second supplementary pertains to part (c) of the main Question. One of the ways to make India biotech hub in biotech research is to encourage small and medium companies. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any programme the Government is undertaking to support R and D activities taken up by small and medium biotech companies. If so, the details may be given, with any particular reference to Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, there is a little more.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, only one supplementary at one time please.

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : It is not a full sentence. What I have read is half. There is one more supplementary. It is pertaining to this Question.

Sir, funding of early-stage startup projects of these smaller biotech companies will be of great help. So, I would like to know from the Minister the views he has taken in this aspect. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you give reply to two supplementaries.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : As far as small and medium industries in the biotech sector are concerned, we, in fact, have a separate plan to fund and invest in this particular sector. The plan is that we can give up to something like Rs.50 lakh as a grant in the small and medium scale sector, and we can give up to rupees one crore with no interest.

In fact, I may inform the hon. Member that 35 such projects have already been cleared and we are going very fast and 400 such projects are in the pipeline. We are absolutely committed to invest in the small and medium scale sector because the kind of growth that you will get and the kind of innovation you will get is from the small and medium scale sector.

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Minister for the provision of Rs. 6500 crore for the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Bio-industries are flourishing nowadays for which manpower and graduates are required. We do not have any colleges for courses in bio-technology. AICTE has very strict norms. It has laid strict norms for qualification of a professor or a principal. It is absolutely a new industry, new department and the courses are new. So, there is shortage of professors. What provision has been made by him so as to make maximum institutions available for bio-agriculture and bio-pharma and simultaneously asking the Agri-pharma or Agriculture Institutions to start such courses

under public partnership so that we could get maximum human resource base in bio-technology?

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Sir, I am again grateful to the hon. Member to have sought my response on the issue of building a human resource base. This is something that concerns us in a very big way because you may have any number of institutions, you may have crores of rupees in terms of investment; but unless you build a strong human resource base, you will not be able to carry the industry forward.

Sir, in the Department of Biotechnology, in the context of the Eleventh Five-Year Plan, we are going to set up 50 centres of excellence within the university system in which we are going to take the biotechnology teaching sector and build the infrastructure in the university system in the biotechnology sector. We have also set up a scheme by which we are going to identify two star colleges in every State in this country depending on the quality of those colleges. Once we identify those two star colleges, we will make the Department a world-class Department. We have also set up separate training centres. We want to train not only students but also teachers because there is a lack of training centres here. We have a separate scheme for training.

But, ultimately the demand for human resource will follow the opportunities in the industry and since the industry is moving at a fast pace of 40 per cent, the demand for human resource exists. Two years ago, we did not have biotech departments in many universities. Today more and more people are entering into the biotech sector and doing courses in biotechnology whether it is bio-informatics or bio-agri or bio-health or bio-industry or bio-services. These things are now growing and we are going to give a big push in the educational sector to build that human resource base.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Thank you.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA : Sir, there are some private institutions. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. Nothing else will be recorded. Shri Abu Ayes Mondal to put his supplementary now.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken by the Government to create National Regional Technology Transfer Cell, TTC, to provide high calibre technology transfer services.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Sir, quite frankly, I would like the hon. Member to explain the question a bit more because I cannot really respond to a question in which the meaning is not quite clear to me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Can you explain?

SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL : Yes, Sir. I want to know what steps the Government has taken just to create National or Regional Technology Transfer Cell, TTC to provide high calibre technology transfer services.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Sir, I do not understand what the hon. Member means by transfer cell. Could you please explain?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He wants to know more about transfer services.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : I can only respond to the question when you explain to me what do you mean by high technology transfer cell.

SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL : Yes.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : If what you mean is a Cell Repository, I can reply.

SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL : Yes. I want to draw

your kind attention to the point that it has been collected from the Outcome Budget, 2008-2009. I am telling you from that.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : What you mean is to set up a central repository of cells or cell depositories. We already have one in Chandigarh. We are in the process of setting up many more in India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Thank you.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Sir, the basic question relates to the revenue that is being earned and we have gone into the development of biotechnology. My question is very specific. As the hon. Minister has stated in his reply, there are five distinct segments which need to be developed. Earlier, one Minister had told us that the more Government gets involved, the Department or the Ministry does not flourish. The more it restrains itself, as it has restrained itself from I.T. and from beauty and that is how Indians flourished. I would like to know one thing. The amount of revenue that is being earned within the last three years has increased, but in a limited way. More initiatives have been taken to develop India as a biotech hub.

My specific question here is this. Out of these five distinct segments, FDI investment is more on bio-pharma. Would the hon. Minister tell us one thing? We are more interested in bio-agriculture. We are more interested in bio-industry. We are more interested in bio-service. What major steps the Government is taking to earn more revenue in these three aspects?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as far as bio-pharma is concerned, the hon. Member is absolutely right that the maximum revenues that are earned by us are in the bio-pharma sector. But bio-agriculture is not far behind. In fact, bio-agriculture today is now the big growth story within India. Most of the earnings that come from the bio-pharma sector are export earnings. But most of the earnings that come in the bio-agri sector are investments in the domestic agri sector. It is a very healthy trend

because what we need in this country are new technologies in the bio-agri sector to increase the levels of productivity within agriculture. In fact, the industry is showing a very healthy trend. The maximum earnings within the bio-agri sector are in India and not from exports.

As far as bio-services and bio-industry sector is concerned, the least remunerative is the bio-industry sector. The reason why it is least remunerative is that the research in bio-industry in the context of environment has just started. This is a global trend now and we are seeing a bit of it happen and the growth is only about 5 to 7 per cent.

But, as far as bio-agri is concerned, the growth is around 30 per cent. As far as services are concerned, again the growth story in services is within the domestic sector and not in the export sector. So, we are seeing some very positive trends. I can assure the hon. Member that just as in the I.T. sector, I do not want to interfere in the biotech industry. What we need to do is to hold their hand; whenever there is difficulty to hold their hand, to allow them to stand on their own legs and compete in the global market. I can assure you that the next growth story in India will be the story of the biotech sector.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Thank you. ,

Nexus between Security Personnel and Terrorists

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*264. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether terrorists have nexus with the personnel of security forces including Para-Military Forces in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has made any study to find out the reasons for involvement of personnel of security forces in such activities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial measures taken by the Government to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) There is no nexus between personnel of security forces including Para-Military Forces and terrorists. However, a few isolated cases of subversion of force personnel have been detected which are dealt with firmly as per law. It would be inappropriate to draw any general conclusion of any nexus, etc. from such isolated cases.

(e) Measures being taken by the forces to prevent/check such possibilities include, verification of character and antecedents at the time of recruitment, internal vigilance and surveillance, counseling within the units and periodic sensitization of force personnel, regular briefing and de-briefing before detailing of personnel for critical duties, ensuring that Commanding Officers have adequate time to interact with men for better officer-men relationship, etc.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : Sir, I have gone through the reply from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs. It is reassuring that there is no nexus between our paramilitary forces and terrorists. We accept the reply. But I have two supplementary questions. The first one is this. The CRPF is a premier central police force and it is tasked with the maintenance of internal security duties in the country. For an instance of this kind to be detected inside the CRPF is a very serious matter especially because there is a system of pre-recruitment verification of antecedents.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This has already come in the main answer. What is your question? He has already replied to it.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : Sir, if you please permit me to ask the question?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, put the question.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : My question is this. How was it that the pre-recruitment verification of antecedents failed to find out the actual antecedents of this person from whose possession all these goods were recovered?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, it is very unfortunate that there are some human beings who are interested in themselves rather than in protecting the interest of the entire society or nation as such. Sometimes information is not available when recruitments take place or when examination is done about their past and their antecedents. This is not only applicable to the Police, but this is applicable to the people in other areas of activities including politics. So to say that how this mistake was not detected at the time of recruitment is very difficult to reply.

We have seven lakh members of the Central Police Force. We cannot come to the conclusion — if four or five cases have been detected out of seven lakh members — that there is a nexus between the Paramilitary Forces or the Central Police Forces or the State Police Forces and the terrorists as it is going to adopt a very extreme position. It should not be done. It is very difficult for me to answer the question as to how it could happen and as to why it was not avoided.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : Sir, I have never said that there is a nexus between the Central Police Force and the terrorists because of this incident. All I asked was that there is a system of pre-verification, and in this particular case it failed. However, I will accept the hon. Minister's reply. But I have a second question.

The possession of IEDs and hand-grenades within the campus of a CRPF Battalion is something inexplicable.

How did this come about? Why did the supervising officers of that particular unit of that particular agency not manage to see that all this is being done within the campus of the CRPF, which is the premier police force tasked with the question of internal security maintenance? Some accountability has to be fixed for this failure.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is your Question? What do you want to know from the hon. Minister?

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : What is the action that is proposed to be taken to fix accountability for this failure?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : The problem is that we are going from general to the specific cases, and it will be very difficult for me to reply to the facts relating to the specific cases as such. But I can bring to the hon. Member's notice that whenever such incidents do take place, there is a law and that law — under which that Force is constituted — provides as to what kind of action has to be taken. I am sure that the hon. Member knows that law, and the hon. Member has enforced and implemented that law. Investigation is done under that law and under other laws, and punishment is awarded and action is taken.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the involvement of these personnel of security forces including Paramilitary Forces with the terrorist activities to whatever extent is not a healthy sign for the security aspect.

The Counter-Terrorism Experts have expressed that finance is the main reason for the involvement of the security personnel. We have not achieved to the expected extent to disrupt terror money with regard to formal finance institutions and trans-border global transfers. Rs. 2 million was paid as bribe to the custom officials to smuggle RDX for the 1993 Mumbai blasts. It has come to our knowledge from various newspaper and media. It is also known that some of the security personnel have been convicted by the court and they have been arrested for their involvement because of finance.

The main reason is the involvement of finance. We have failed to control it so far. The percentage of involvement of paramilitary forces or military forces may be very negligible. One of the direct questions asked was: "If so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise." Has the Government made any assessment to find out as to what extent the involvement is there and why is it there? Has any study been conducted by the Government? The terrorist activities are posing a danger for the entire country. The entire country is worried about that. We are spending thousands of crores of rupees to contain terrorism. But what are the kinds of activities which the Government is undertaking?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is your question?

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Coming to internal vigilance and surveillance, at the recruitment stage, you have certain arrangements and that is all right. However, these involvements have been detected after they have been recruited. What is the level of internal vigilance and surveillance necessary? Is the present arrangement adequate? What mechanisms is the Government putting in place to control the involvement of security forces?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : I have already explained this matter at great length. The police forces are there; in big force, if one or two cases have been detected, to come to the conclusion that there is a nexus between the Central paramilitary forces and the State police and the military is not correct. We should not come to that conclusion. We should not ask such questions which will ultimately prove to be demoralizing to the forces which are laying down their lives while protecting the property and the lives of the people of any part of the country. Now, this kind of attitude is a demoralizing attitude.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : That is not our intention.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Suppose a question is asked as to why this has happened. Supposing I ask a

question as to why something happened in Orissa, do you have any answer? I have to understand the situation.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : You have to answer. I am not here to answer. You are from the Government. How can I answer? How will the Minister ask the Member to answer?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Tripathy, please sit down. Nothing should be recorded except the reply of the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please address the Chair.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : I am not asking you, but I will ask your Government, if you want. But let us understand the reality. If you are taking a stand just to embarrass the police forces, to demoralize the forces, it does not help.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please address the Chair. Nothing should be recorded except the reply of the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, when we are trying to understand the difficulties of the State Government and the State police, the hon. Members sitting here, who do not have the experience of running the States, come and ask the questions for which we are not responsible; the State is responsible.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious issue. There has never been any intention to demoralize the police force. Keeping in view the manner in which the police force camps are being attacked through you, I would like to know as to what

*Not recorded.

extent the terrorists who surrendered and were given chance to join police force are involved in these attacks and have nexus with the terrorists. What is the criteria for recruitment in armed forces of those who are abandoning the path of terrorism? How many people have been found involved in these activities ever since they were recruited in the police forces? These are the things which I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we have adopted a policy under which we and our Government are making an effort to check the terrorist activities and bring back those people into the mainstream of the society who got them selves deviated from society by adopting the path of terrorism. State Governments have been instructed to implement this policy. They have been told that they will be provided funds by the Central Government if they need so in implementing the aforesaid policy. So, it is mandatory for them to get it implemented.

Thus, if someone comes back, he is provided jobs somewhere. In one or two cases they have been recruited in police forces. In some cases it has been seen that they tried to continue their activities. Action was taken in these cases. Even if someone comes with the arms and says he will not go back into the terrorist camps, he is given money so that he did not go back over there. But, at the same time, this money is kept in the bank of Jammu and Kashmir and is given after three years. We has also asked the Government of Bihar to frame a policy like this, if such a thing is happening in their state. We will provide them money, but they must frame a policy. Now, it is upto the State Government to ensure how to use this fund either by giving them instant money or after three years or by providing them jobs. State Governments have been given full autonomy for these things, so they are to frame their own policy. We are providing them financial assistance from here. It is their own duty to go ahead with the policy they have formulated.

[English]

MD. SALIM : Sir, I think the title of the Question itself

is misleading. When you say nexus, it means something deep-rooted and deep-seated. There are black sheep everywhere. They are there unfortunately even in the security forces here and there, as the Minister has said. There are reports from which we find that — even in the incident in Rampur and in some of the camps in Jammu and Kashmir — either for the sake of promotion, or for immediate applause, or for some reward there have been incidents which have been deliberately done by one or two security persons which came to light after the investigation. Is there any specific information, beside all these news reports, for the Parliament to know that there have been certain incidents? If so, what is the number of those incidents where insiders are involved instead of outsiders and that is reported? Is the Government aware of that fact? If so, is the Minister eager to share this with this House?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, as far as the exact question is concerned, I would like to reply by saying that in 2005 there was only one case which related to CRPF. As far as the BSF is concerned, there was one case in 2006. As far as Jammu and Kashmir Police is concerned, there were two cases in 2006. If we compare these numbers with the large number of police officers and forces, to jump to the conclusion that there is a nexus between the forces and the extremists or terrorists is probably not going to be very helpful.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : Sir, the hon. Minister is well aware that in order to bring down the levels of unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir, from time to time the Central Paramilitary Forces conduct special recruitments into the BSF and CRPF. Of late one has read in the newspapers about certain links between a minuscule part of these boys who are recruited from Jammu and Kashmir and the militant organizations in Jammu and Kashmir. To what extent are these reports correct and what is being done to ensure that this propaganda does not tarnish the reputation of the majority of the boys who are recruited who, being Muslims as they are, are loyal to the uniform that they wear and the country that they serve?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : I do not have the exact information. We have been discussing these matters every now and then. As far as our understanding goes, this kind of thing is not happening. Even if one or two cases are brought to our notice, they are looked into very carefully to take corrective action.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Lal Singh Ji, if you want a reply, please speak its brief.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : Sir, you know a policy has been formulated in my State and the country which is known as surrender policy. Those who are involved in terrorist activities emotionally and ideologically, are rehabilitated in the Para-military forces or the security forces? Why can't they be rehabilitated in other places also? I would like to say that please do not do so in their cases. The question is only to rehabilitate them. It does not relate to any Muslim or Hindu. It is wrong to recruit militants in paramilitary or security forces. I would like to say that the Government should rehabilitate them in places other than the security forces.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Trade Agreement with ASEAN and EU¹

*265. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is in the process of concluding a trade agreement with the ASEAN and is also moving ahead on another trade and investment agreement with the European Union;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the signing of the Free Trade Agreements with ASEAN counterparts is likely to enable India to effectively integrate with the new and emerging global economic architecture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Negotiations for ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (AIFTA) are currently in progress and both sides are discussing various aspects of the proposed Agreement, including the Negative Lists and the modalities for tariff concessions offered by both sides. Negotiations for Trade in Goods Agreement are at an advanced stage and only a few issues remain to be resolved.

At the 7th India-EU Summit held at Helsinki during October 2007, it was decided that the two sides should enter into negotiations on Trade and Investments Agreement. So far, three rounds of negotiations have been held between India and EU. Discussions are being held on Trade in Goods, Non-Tariff issues, Customs Cooperation and Trade Facilitation, Rule of Origin, allocation procedures, trade defence, competition, IPRs and GIs, services and investment.

(c) and (d) ASEAN-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) would be economically beneficial to the people of India and would help in promoting greater regional economic integration. It is expected to provide greater impetus to Trade in Goods and Services between both the sides and also to open up investments. It is also a framework for future integration with other countries in the South East Asia region.

Modernisation of Police Force

*266. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the central allocation of funds in each year alongwith the details of the amount released and the amount utilised by the State Governments in the last five years under the Non-Plan Scheme 'Modernisation of State Police Forces';

(b) the details of the States who have failed to furnish the utilisation certificates in each of the last five years; and

(c) the action proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) The State-wise details of allocation and release of funds for the period 2002-03 to 2006-07 under the Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces (MPF), along with utilized and unutilized balances during the period 2002-03

to 2005-06 are given in the enclosed Statement-I

(b) The details of State (s) having unspent balances during the last five years is given in the enclosed Statement-II

(c) While, the State Governments are persuaded from time to time to ensure utilization of funds expeditiously, the unspent balances for the period from 2002-03 to 2005-06 pending with the State (s) being are adjusted while releasing further funds during 2007-08 under the Scheme.

Statement-I

(Rs. in crore)

Name of State	2002-03				2003-04			
	Allocated	Funds released	Amount spent	Unspent amount	Allocated	Funds released	Amount spent	Unspent amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	81.32	81.32	81.32	0.00	69.46	69.46	69.46	0.00
Arunachal Pradesh	5.20	5.20	5.20	0.00	7.24	7.24	7.24	0.00
Assam	16.50	16.50	15.98	0.52	36.52	36.52	35.92	0.60
Bihar	11.50	11.50	11.50	0.00	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.00
Chhattisgarh	16.70	16.70	16.53	0.17	17.47	17.47	17.41	0.06
Goa	2.00	2.00	1.10	0.90	1.40	1.40	1.25	0.15
Gujarat	50.00	50.00	48.17	1.83	42.21	42.21	42.21	0.00
Haryana	22.10	22.10	22.10	0.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	0.00
Himachal Pradesh	6.20	6.20	6.20	0.00	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.00
Jammu and Kashmir	28.50	28.50	28.50	0.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00
Jharkhand	12.73	12.73	12.73	0.00	8.50	8.50	7.98	0.54
Karnataka	75.00	75.00	75.00	0.00	69.31	69.31	69.31	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Kerala	25.13	25.13	25.13	0.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	51.33	51.33	51.24	0.09	48.24	48.24	48.24	0.00
Maharashtra	67.94	67.94	67.94	0.00	62.84	62.84	60.83	2.01
Manipur	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.00	11.50	11.50	11.50	0.00
Meghalaya	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.00	5.29	5.29	5.29	0.00
Mizoram	5.50	5.50	5.50	0.00	8.47	8.47	8.47	0.00
Nagaland	9.95	9.95	9.95	0.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	0.00
Orissa	16.76	16.76	16.76	0.00	21.91	21.91	21.91	0.00
Punjab	32.10	32.10	32.10	0.00	19.34	19.34	19.34	0.00
Rajasthan	16.17	16.17	16.17	0.00	43.10	43.10	42.98	0.12
Sikkim	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.00	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.00
Tamil Nadu	68.10	68.10	68.10	0.00	54.98	54.98	54.98	0.00
Tripura	5.60	5.60	5.60	0.00	12.83	12.83	12.83	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	60.39	60.39	60.39	0.00	65.02	65.02	65.02	0.00
Uttarakhand	6.58	6.58	6.58	0.00	7.41	7.41	7.41	0.00
West Bengal	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.00	2.17	2.17	2.17	0.00
Total	695.00	695.00	691.49	3.51	705.27	705.27	701.79	3.48

(Rs. in crore)

Name of State	2004-05				2005-06				2006-07	
	Allocated	Funds released	Amount spent	Unspent amount	Allocated	Funds released	Amount spent	Unspent amount	Allocated	Funds released
1	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Andhra Pradesh	79.93	79.93	79.93	0.00	101.41	101.41	101.41	0.00	88.12	88.12
Arunachal Pradesh	9.13	9.13	9.13	0.00	7.00	7.00	0.62	6.38	11.53	11.53

1	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Assam	41.37	41.37	41.37	0.00	56.68	56.68	48.86	7.82	52.18	52.18
Bihar	45.25	45.25	45.25	0.00	39.87	39.87	34.60	5.27	51.62	51.62
Chhattisgarh	32.72	32.72	32.56	0.16	40.74	40.74	35.45	5.29	57.06	57.06
Goa	0.28	0.28	0.00	0.28	1.06	1.06	0.00	1.06	1.00	1.00
Gujarat	39.54	39.54	38.56	0.98	39.85	39.85	39.85	0.00	45.52	45.52
Haryana	22.13	22.13	22.13	0.00	14.95	14.95	14.95	0.00	19.69	19.69
Himachal Pradesh	2.57	2.57	2.57	0.00	6.78	6.78	6.78	0.00	3.92	3.92
Jammu and Kashmir	110.89	110.89	110.89	0.00	109.22	109.22	104.38	4.84	88.13	88.13
Jharkhand	22.33	22.33	22.33	0.00	40.74	40.74	40.73	0.01	47.00	47.00
Karnataka	58.87	58.87	58.87	0.00	65.85	65.85	65.85	0.00	64.15	64.15
Kerala	26.55	26.55	26.55	0.00	18.84	18.84	18.84	0.00	24.53	24.53
Madhya Pradesh	42.27	42.27	42.06	0.21	31.65	31.65	31.65	0.00	43.24	43.24
Maharashtra	71.00	71.00	68.84	2.16	88.78	88.78	85.15	3.63	105.10	105.10
Manipur	15.24	15.24	15.24	0.00	16.97	16.97	16.97	0.00	14.09	14.09
Meghalaya	7.58	7.58	7.58	0.00	6.57	6.57	6.57	0.00	8.59	8.59
Mizoram	7.45	7.45	7.45	0.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	0.00	10.48	10.48
Nagaland	13.09	13.09	13.09	0.00	17.52	17.52	17.52	0.00	22.68	22.68
Orissa	27.76	27.76	27.76	0.00	35.08	35.08	34.85	0.23	38.00	38.00
Punjab	21.79	21.79	21.79	0.00	20.31	20.31	20.26	0.05	15.00	15.00
Rajasthan	42.67	42.67	42.58	0.09	34.81	34.81	34.62	0.19	40.47	40.47
Sikkim	5.90	5.90	5.90	0.00	2.43	2.43	2.15	0.28	3.46	3.46
Tamil Nadu	56.78	56.78	56.78	0.00	65.51	65.51	65.51	0.00	61.65	61.65
Tripura	11.17	11.17	11.17	0.00	11.83	11.83	4.60	7.23	11.34	11.34
Uttar Pradesh	106.55	106.55	106.55	0.00	96.12	96.12	96.12	0.00	94.28	94.28

1	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Uttarakhand	7.99	7.99	7.99	0.00	16.76	16.76	16.76	0.00	5.28	5.28
West Bengal	29.20	29.20	29.20	0.00	29.67	29.67	29.67	0.00	37.11	37.11
Total	960.00	960.00	956.12	3.88	1025.00	1025.00	982.72	42.28	1065.00	1065.00

Note: The utilisation certificates from the States for 2006-07 would be due in April 2008.

Statement-II

(Rs. in crore)

Name of State	2002-03— Unspent amount	2003-04— Unspent amount	2004-05— Unspent amount	2005-06— Unspent amount	Total unspent balance for 2002-03 to 2005-06
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.38	6.38
Assam	0.52	0.60	0.00	7.82	8.94
Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.27	5.27
Chhattisgarh	0.17	0.06	0.16	5.29	5.68
Goa	0.90	0.15	0.28	1.06	2.39
Gujarat	1.83	0.00	0.98	0.00	2.81
Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.84	4.84
Jharkhand	0.00	0.54	0.00	0.01	0.55
Madhya Pradesh	0.09	0.00	0.21	0.00	0.3
Maharashtra	0.00	2.01	2.16	3.63	7.8
Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.23
Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.05
Rajasthan	0.00	0.12	0.09	0.19	0.4
Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.28
Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.23	7.23
Total	3.51	3.48	3.88	42.28	53.15

Note: The utilisation certificates from the States for 2006-07 would be due in April 2008.

Deportation of Foreigners

*267. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has launched a campaign to deport the foreign nationals living illegally in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of illegal foreign nationals deported to their respective countries under this campaign as on date, State-wise and country-wise;

(d) the number of foreigners about whom inquiry is being conducted; and

(e) the time by when they are likely to be deported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) to

(e) Detection and deportation of foreigners who are living illegally in the country is a continuous and ongoing process. The powers to deport foreigners living illegally in the country have been delegated to the State Governments and UT Administrations under section 3(2)(c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946.

A statement providing the State and Country-wise details in respect of foreigners deported from India during the three years 2005, 2006 and 2007 (till June 2007) is given in the enclosed Statement

If a foreigner does not possess an appropriate/valid travel document, or comes to adverse notice or overstays beyond the validity of visa, necessary enquiries are conducted in regard to violation of the relevant laws governing the entry, stay and exit of the foreigners in India. On completion of the inquiry, if it is established that the foreigner has violated the relevant laws, deportation process is initiated against the foreigner as per the provisions of Section 3(2)(c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946. No centralized data is maintained on inquiries conducted against the foreigners.

Statement

State and Country-wise of foreigners deported from India during the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 (upto June)

State	Country	Year-wise Number of foreigners deported		
		2005	2006	2007*
1	2	3	4	5
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Bangladesh	63	—	165
	Combdia	—	—	18
	Indonesia	39	5	7
	Myanmar	142	—	213
	Srilanka	7	—	4

1	2	3	4	5
	Thailand	—	—	1
	China	25	—	—
	China (Taiwan)	6	—	—
	Ghana	2	—	—
	Philippines	10	—	—
Andhra Pradesh	Afghanistan	—	—	1
	Iran	—	—	4
	Nigeria	—	3	—
	Uganda	1	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	Bangladesh	9	9	9
	Belarus	3	3	3
	China	1	2	4
	Myanmar (Burma)	81	84	84
	Stateless-Tibet	11	11	11
	Ukraine	1	1	1
Assam	Bangladesh	2220	2221	1547
Bihar	Afghanistan	9	9	9
	Bangladesh	12	12	14
Chhattisgarh	Bangladesh	—	1358	—
Delhi	Afghanistan	92	131	14
	Angola	—	1	—
	Argentina	—	—	1
	Australia	—	1	1
	Austria	1	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
	Bahrain	1	—	—
	Bangladesh	5725	4824	1971
	Belgium	1	—	—
	Burundi	—	—	1
	Cameroon	—	1	—
	China	8	8	6
	China (Taiwan)	1	—	—
	Egypt	—	—	1
	Eritrea	—	—	1
	Estonia	—	1	—
	Ethiopia	3	4	—
	France	—	1	—
	Georgia	1	—	—
	Guinea	1	—	—
	Ghana	—	1	1
	Iran	3	5	4
	Iraq	1	—	—
	Israel	1	3	1
	Ivory Coast	—	1	—
	Japan	1	1	—
	Jordan	1	1	1
	Kenya	10	4	1
	Kyrgyzstan	—	2	—
	Malaysia	—	1	—

1	2	3	4	5
	Mauritius	—	1	1
	Mongolia	—	1	—
	Mozambique	—	1	—
	Nepal	1	2	2
	Netherlands	1	—	—
	Nigeria	32	22	7
	Palestine	1	—	1
	Pakistan	9	10	—
	Russia	1	1	—
	Saudi Arabia	—	3	2
	Senegal	—	1	—
	South Africa	—	—	1
	South Korea	—	1	—
	Srilanka	3	—	—
	Stateless Tibet	1	—	—
	Sudan	7	5	2
	Tanzania	3	1	2
	Thailand	1	—	—
	Turkey	—	2	1
	Ukraine	—	1	—
	USA	1	2	1
	Uganda	1	2	1
	United Kingdom	—	—	1
	Uzbekistan	1	2	1

1	2	3	4	5
	Yemen	2	1	1
	Yugoslavia	1	—	—
Goa	Australia	—	2	—
	Croatia	1	—	—
	Eritrea	—	1	—
	France	2	2	1
	Germany	—	6	1
	Iran	3	—	—
	Israel	—	3	1
	Italy	—	—	2
	Kazakhstan	—	1	—
	Netherlands	2	—	1
	Nigeria	2	4	—
	Russia	6	4	5
	Spain	—	1	—
	Switzerland	—	—	1
	Ukraine	—	4	—
	United Kingdom	—	4	7
	USA	—	1	—
	Yemen	—	1	1
	Yugoslavia	—	1	—
Gujarat	Bangladesh	20	18	20
	France	—	1	—
	Nigeria	—	—	2

1	2	3	4	5
	Others	—	—	2
Haryana	Bangladesh	7	21	116
	Kenya	1	—	—
	United Kingdom	—	—	1
Himachal Pradesh	China	—	1	—
	France	—	—	1
	Hong Kong	—	1	—
	Israel	—	1	—
	Italy	2	—	—
	Japan	2	—	—
	Nigeria	—	2	1
	Srilanka	1	—	—
	United Kingdom	—	—	1
Jharkhand	Afghanistan	—	—	1
Karnataka	Iran	2	—	1
	Iraq	1	—	—
	Italy	—	1	—
	USA	3	—	—
	United Kingdom	1	—	—
	Zambia	—	—	1
Kerala	Australia	2	—	—
	Bahrain	1	—	—
	Bangladesh	2	—	1
	Canada	3	—	1

1	2	3	4	5
	China (Taiwan)	—	1	—
	Denmark	1	—	—
	France	1	1	1
	Germany	2	1	—
	Malaysia	1	—	—
	Maldives	3	2	2
	Netherlands	—	—	1
	Oman	—	1	—
	Pakistan	1	—	—
	Philippines	—	1	—
	Russia	—	1	—
	Saudi Arabia	—	1	—
	Sri Lanka	14	1	4
	Thailand	—	1	—
	USA	1	—	—
	UAE	1	—	—
	United Kingdom	9	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	Kanya	—	2	1
	Nigeria	—	1	—
	Uganda	—	—	2
Maharashtra	Bangladesh	298	688	955
	Canada	—	1	—
	China	—	15	—
	Czechoslovakia	—	1	—

1	2	3	4	5
	Eritrea	—	3	1
	Ethiopia	—	2	1
	Hong Kong	—	1	—
	Indonesia	—	1	—
	Iran	—	3	—
	Iraq	—	4	—
	Jordan	—	—	1
	Kenya	—	2	2
	Malaysia	—	4	—
	Morocco	—	2	—
	Nepal	—	31	—
	Netherlands	—	1	—
	Nigeria	—	22	—
	Romania	—	1	—
	Saudi Arabia	1	—	—
	Singapore	—	1	—
	Somalia	—	4	1
	South Africa	—	3	—
	Spain	—	1	—
	Sri Lanka	—	18	1
	Sudan	—	5	8
	Uganda	—	1	—
	UAE	—	1	—
	USA	—	—	1

1	2	3	4	5
	Yemen	—	1	10
Manipur	France	—	2	—
	USA	3	—	—
Meghalaya	Bangladesh	—	136	54
Mizoram	Bangladesh	3	—	13
	Myanmar	645	588	166
Nagaland	Nigeria	—	8	—
Orissa	Bangladesh	22	22	22
Punjab	Afghanistan	2	2	1
	Bangladesh	140	93	35
	China	—	—	4
	Nepal	—	—	1
	Nigeria	—	1	3
	Pakistan	154	90	—
	South Korea	—	1	—
Rajasthan	Afghanistan	—	2	—
	Bangladesh	147	91	13
	France	—	1	—
	Germany	—	3	—
	Kenya	—	2	—
	Nigeria	2	—	1
	Poland	—	1	—
	Saudi Arabia	—	—	3
Sikkim	France	—	—	3

1	2	3	4	5
Tamil Nadu	France	—	—	1
	Malaysia	1	—	—
	Nigeria	—	2	—
	Srilanka	—	1	—
Tripura	Bangladesh	2009	1806	886
Uttar Pradesh	Bangladesh	146	122	52
	Germany	1	—	—
	Israel	1	—	—
	Nigeria	—	3	—
	Norway	—	1	—
	Russia	—	—	1
	Uzbekistan	—	1	—
	Uttarakhand	Germany	—	1
	United Kingdom	—	—	1
West Bengal	Bangladesh	4084	2273	5081
	China (Taiwan)	1	—	—
	France	1	—	—
	Morocco	4	—	—
	Myanmar	11	1	—
	Nepal	1	—	1
	Nigeria	—	1	—
	Russia	3	—	—
	Thailand	—	—	32
Grand Total		16350	14933	11658

*Foreigners including Pakistanis

*[English]***Non-Formal Education Scheme**

*268. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of projects under Non-formal Education Scheme for which assistance was given by the Union Government to the various State Governments including Government of Gujarat during the Tenth Plan;

(b) the total amount so released and actually utilized by each of the State Government under the scheme during the above period, year-wise; and

(c) the achievements made by State Governments including Government of Gujarat, State and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) No funds were given to the State Governments during the Tenth Five Year Plan as the Non-Formal Education Scheme ceased to be in operation as of 31.03.2001 during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Availability of Security Personnel

*269. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the ratio of security personnel available per 1000 people in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has asked the State Governments to strengthen the internal security in their respective States; and

(c) if so, the details of security personnel required in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) A chart showing police-population ratio, State-wise, as on 31.12.2006, is enclosed as the Statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has been regularly urging the State Governments to augment the strength of their police forces and strengthen their intelligence gathering machinery.

Statement

(as on 31.12.2006)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Police — Population ratio	
		Police personnel per one lakh of population	Police personnel per 1000 population
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	98	0.98
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	464	4.64
3.	Assam	178	1.78
4.	Bihar	57	0.57
5.	Chhattisgarh	131	1.31
6.	Goa	227	2.27
7.	Gujarat	152	1.52
8.	Haryana	149	1.49
9.	Himachal Pradesh	187	1.87
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	505	5.05
11.	Jharkhand	98	0.98
12.	Karnataka	92	0.92
13.	Kerala	129	1.29
14.	Madhya Pradesh	114	1.14
15.	Maharashtra	147	1.47

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
16. Manipur		554	5.54
17. Meghalaya		360	3.60
18. Mizoram		768	7.68
19. Nagaland		558	5.58
20. Orissa		99	0.99
21. Punjab		276	2.76
22. Rajasthan		104	1.04
23. Sikkim		631	6.31
24. Tamil Nadu		129	1.29
25. Tripura		591	5.91
26. Uttar Pradesh		83	0.83
27. Uttarakhand		146	1.46
28. West Bengal		94	0.94
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		693	6.93
30. Chandigarh		398	3.98
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		87	0.87
32. Daman and Diu		123	1.23
33. Delhi		348	3.48

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
34. Lakshadweep		463	4.63
35. Pondicherry		201	2.01
Total (All-India)		126	1.26

Ban on Import of Indian Fruits

*270. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some countries have banned the import of various Indian fruits during 2006-07 and 2007-08;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken up the issue with such countries;

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

(e) the steps taken for promotion of export of Indian fruits in the International Market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) The details of the ban imposed by different countries on import of Indian fruits are given below:—

Statement

Country	Name of fruits for which market access is denied	Reasons
1	2	3
China	14 fruits and vegetables including guava, watermelons, musk/Hami Melon, papayas, pomegranate, sapota and custard apple	Import of the fruits is not being allowed in the absence of a phyto-sanitary protocol.
Japan	Grape and Mango	There is a ban on import of grapes owing to the alleged presence of fruit flies. The ban on import of 6 varieties of mango was lifted in June 2006

1	2	3
USA	Mango and Pomegranate	Import of mango was not allowed in the absence of a phyto-sanitary protocol. This was permitted in April 2007. Import of pomegranate is not allowed owing to quarantine requirements.
Australia and New Zealand	Mango	Due to presence of fruit flies and stone weevil.
Russia	All the fruits	Temporary restrictions were placed on import of plant based products in January 2008 owing to the alleged presence of a few live and dead insects in a consignment of sesame seeds exported from India.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken up the issue of lifting of ban on import of the fruits mentioned in reply to parts (a) and (b) above with the respective Governments. This is at various stages of negotiations/discussions. While the Chinese Government has sought time to initiate Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) for the fruits and vegetables, a delegation from the quarantine authority of Australia will visit India in April 2008 to inspect mango facilities in India. India has requested the United States to suggest mitigative methods for import of pomegranate. The Japanese Government has sought results of survey conducted by National Research Centre in Western and Southern regions. In the case of Russia, the matter has been taken up with them.

(e) The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has been taking various measures to promote export of fruits. These include:—

- (i) Setting up of centers for perishable cargo at International Airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore and Thiruvananthapuram, common pack houses, and other infrastructural facilities.
- (ii) Setting up and upgradation of testing laboratories and implementation of residue monitoring plans, development of packaging and preparation of pre and post harvest manuals for export of agri produce including fruits.

- (iii) Setting up of Agri Export Zones for agri produce including fruits.
- (iv) Participation in international trade fairs, organisation of promotional campaigns, buyer seller meets and training programmes for certification bodies and farmers.
- (v) Financial assistance to its registered exporters under its schemes for Financial assistance for Infrastructure Development, Market Development, Quality Development, Research and Development and Transport assistance.

[Translation]

Export of Tea

271. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) the total quantity of tea exported alongwith its value during each of the last three years and in the current year till date, country-wise particularly Pakistan;
- (b) whether the export of tea to Pakistan has declined during the said period;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost tea export to various countries including Pakistan; and

(e) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The total quantity of tea exported along with the value of export to all major countries including Pakistan during the last 3 years and the current year 2007-08 are given in Statement I and II.

(b) The volume of export of tea from India to Pakistan had shown a significant improvement during 2006-07. From 4.68 M.Kgs during 2004-05 valued at Rs. 22.61 crore, the export to Pakistan during 2006-07 was 14.06 M.kgs valued at Rs. 90.67 crore - a growth of 200% in volume and 301% in value during 2006-07 over 2004-05. However, the exports during 2007-08 (April to December) to Pakistan have registered a decline of 72.8% in volume and 78.7% in value terms over the same period of previous year.

(c) Kenya being traditionally a major supplier of tea to Pakistan experienced a drought situation during 2006 and consequently decline in tea production. This helped Indian exporters to grab a greater share of the market that witnessed substantial increase in exports to Pakistan during 2006-07. However, during the year 2007, tea supply

from Kenya picked up and coupled with this, there was a decline in the Kenyan tea prices at the Mombassa auction. This helped Kenyan teas to regain the tea market in Pakistan. The appreciation of Indian Rupee against Dollar also hit the Indian exporters hard that resulted in a decline in exports during 2007-08.

(d) and (e) The Tea Board/Govt. is taking various measures to boost the export of Indian tea in the world market. The steps being taken include conducting promotional activities in the foreign markets, lending promotional support to Indian tea exporters in their marketing efforts, enhancing the quality and image of Indian tea abroad etc. Such activities are carried out by Tea Board by participating in various international fairs/exhibitions and mounting trade delegations. The efforts of Tea Board are supplemented by its overseas offices located at London, Moscow and Dubai.

Realizing the potential of Indian tea in the Pakistan market, Government/ Tea Board is striving hard to boost the tea exports to Pakistan. A high level delegation led by Chairman, Tea Board visited Pakistan during 21st April to 27th April, 2007. With a view to give impetus to trade, including tea, efforts are on to open rail route between the two countries and to take further measures towards reduction of import tariffs in Pakistan. Pakistan had reduced import duty on tea from 20% to 10% in June, 2004.

Statement-I

Major Country-wise Exports of Tea from India

Name of the countries	2006-07		2005-06		2004-05	
	Qty. (M.Kgs.)	Value (Rs. Crs.)	Qty. (M.Kgs.)	Value (Rs. Crs.)	Qty. (M.Kgs.)	Value (Rs. Crs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Russian Federation	39.36	322.21	36.47	268.22	36.67	272.45
Kazakhstan	9.69	104.67	10.83	114.28	13.62	143.31
United Kingdom	22.86	214.09	21.59	186.17	19.88	184.91
Netherlands	3.13	48.00	2.78	36.30	2.98	39.56

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Germany	4.51	89.02	4.97	100.84	5.06	112.65
Ireland	2.37	46.73	2.08	28.47	3.10	46.37
Poland	3.94	35.00	4.00	31.30	4.71	34.64
U.S.A.	8.76	138.99	9.30	136.30	7.93	115.98
U.A.E.	22.77	231.22	26.78	265.87	24.28	271.42
Iran	9.91	105.79	6.49	65.02	6.78	81.26
Iraq	34.92	180.76	30.53	158.06	38.38	204.45
Saudi Arabia	1.12	11.04	1.27	12.49	0.82	8.79
A.R.E.	3.40	25.32	0.74	5.05	0.05	0.28
Afghanistan	9.44	51.76	3.52	16.53	1.82	10.34
Singapore	0.47	7.22	0.49	6.92	0.73	7.58
Sri Lanka	3.08	29.14	2.69	25.03	3.24	27.06
Kenya	8.37	46.45	2.65	11.77	7.17	34.54
Japan	2.60	61.83	2.95	69.38	3.29	82.36
Pakistan	14.05	90.67	10.71	43.87	4.68	22.61
Australia	4.49	89.05	4.76	81.95	4.90	83.31
Other Countries	6.20	89.53	7.67	96.23	11.56	110.79

Statement-II

	1	2	3
<i>Major Country-wise Exports of tea from India during 2007-08 (April-Dec)</i>			
Kazakhstan		5.71	56.71
Ukraine		0.77	5.47
Uzbekistan		0.03	0.33
Other CIS		0.19	3.24
Total CIS		30.25	251.30
United Kingdom		11.84	110.84

Name of the Countries	Qty. (M.Kgs.)	Value (Rs. Crs.)
1	2	3
Russian Federation	23.55	185.55

1	2	3
Netherlands	1.88	29.71
Germany	4.40	77.03
Ireland	1.96	32.31
Poland	2.76	23.90
U.S.A.	5.58	88.66
Canada	0.62	7.73
U.A.E.	16.86	162.86
Iran	8.27	90.70
Iraq	—	—
Saudi Arabia	0.99	8.46
A.R.E.	3.80	24.51
Turkey	0.03	0.45
Afghanistan	4.97	25.67
Singapore	0.18	3.34
Sri Lanka	2.06	17.69
Kenya	2.17	10.39
Japan	1.45	30.73
Pakistan	3.33	17.22
Australia	3.83	70.75
Other Countries	5.11	27.29
Total	112.34	1111.54

[English]

Computer Education in Government Schools

*272. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether computer education has not yet been properly promoted in the Government secondary and senior secondary schools;

(b) if so, the present status of the computer education in the Government institutions in the country;

(c) the details of schemes formulated and being implemented for developing computer education in those institutions;

(d) whether the State Governments have asked for funds for introducing computer education in the Government schools;

(e) if so, the funds provided by the Centre so far, State-wise; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Schools" is being implemented since December, 2004, inter alia, to promote the usage of ICT especially in secondary and higher secondary Government schools in rural areas. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided to States/UTs for provision of ICT infrastructure, content, teachers' training and internet connectivity to enable computer literacy among students and for computer aided teaching and learning in Government and Government aided secondary and higher secondary schools.

(d) to (f) Funds are sanctioned to States/UTs based on their Computer Education Plans. No fund was released during 2004-05. Details of funds released to States/UTs during the years 2005-06 to 2007-08 are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Funds released to States/UTs Government under ICT in Schools Scheme during 2005-06 to 2007-08

		(Rs. in lakh)		
Sl. No	Name of the State/ UT	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	200.28	3750.00

1	2	3	4	5
2. Arunachal Pradesh		444.81	267.26	0.00
3. Assam		0.00	0.00	1240.54
4. Chandigarh		0.00	35.20	100.00
5. Chhattisgarh		0.00	247.70	0.00
6. Daman and Diu		25.00	0.00	0.00
7. Goa		292.50	0.00	571.50
8. Gujarat		0.00	11.25	1022.15
9. Haryana		230.50	250.00	1250.00
10. Jammu and Kashmir		0.00	0.00	570.06
11. Jharkhand		0.00	0.00	1074.00
12. Karnataka		1200.00	1200.00	4558.00
13. Kerala		312.50	312.50	1016.00
14. Lakshadweep		0.00	8.40	0.00
15. Madhya Pradesh		0.00	0.00	807.50
16. Maharashtra		0.00	337.50	500.00
17. Mizoram		150.00	0.00	0.00
18. Nagaland		319.59	327.37	1299.46
19. Pondicherry		0.00	34.47	259.53
20. Punjab		0.00	0.00	91.24
21. Rajasthan		53.26	0.00	400.00
22. Sikkim		270.00	0.00	0.00
23. Tamil Nadu		2.10	0.00	1312.50
24. Tripura		0.00	603.0	0.00
25. Uttar Pradesh		0.00	0.00	3115.47
26. Uttarakhand		75.00	0.00	377.25

1	2	3	4	5
27. West Bengal		393.17	0.00	964.33
Total		3768.43	3834.93	24279.53

[Translation]

Trade Between India and west Asia

*273. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total volume and value of trade between India and West Asia during the last three years and in the current year till date, country-wise;

(b) whether there is adequate scope for Indian export to these countries;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase exports to these countries and also to explore new markets; and

(d) if so, the success achieved by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The trade turnover between Indian and West Asian Countries for the period 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and current year 2007-08 (April-Oct.) are indicated in the enclosed Statement

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Some of the steps taken to increase exports to the West Asian countries include providing market development assistance, supporting market access initiatives, participating in fairs and exhibitions and strengthening of business contacts. Issues pertaining to trade and economic cooperation between India and West Asian countries are regularly reviewed through bilateral Joint Commissions and Joint Committees. Current trends in trade turnover are indicative of the success achieved. Trade turnover has grown from US \$ 21,752.52 mn. in 2004-05 to US \$ 68,880.26 mn. in 2006-07 between Indian and West Asian countries.

Statement

India West Asia trade in the last three years

S.No. Country	2004-05			2005-2006			2006-2007			2007-2008		
	Exports	Imports	Total Trades	Exports	Imports	Total Trades	Exports	Imports	Total Trades	Exports	Imports	Total Trades
1. Bahrain	156.46	121.87	278.33	192.25	189.56	381.81	182.31	469.17	651.48	120.24	336.49	456.73
2. Iran	1,231.39	410.21	1,641.6	1,186.35	702.46	1,888.81	1,449.63	7,621.38	9,071.01	1,400.93	5,587.94	6,988.87
3. Iraq	131.19	1.12	132.31	155.94	2.05	157.99	203.31	5,521.71	5,725.02	113.35	3,319.83	3,433.18
4. Israel	1,005.76	988.11	1,993.87	1,201.50	1,031.19	2,232.69	1,321.65	1,076.59	2,398.24	922.81	888.6	1,811.41
5. Jordan	128.25	355.89	484.14	184.97	442.33	627.3	178.97	470.85	649.82	123.62	378.28	501.9
6. Kuwait	421.44	305.94	727.38	513.73	461.85	975.58	610.76	5,985.28	6,596.04	361.5	3,610.83	3,972.33
7. Lebanon	67.46	20.46	87.92	71.84	18.51	90.35	66.87	11.1	77.97	50.71	4.42	55.13
8. Oman	267.67	20.61	288.28	408.43	265.59	674.02	626.52	459.83	1,086.35	515.94	380.19	896.13
9. Qatar	209.42	672.85	882.27	259.34	901.62	1,160.96	329.21	2,066.53	2,395.74	292.39	1,345.46	1,637.85
10. Saudi Arab	1,412.06	1,301.15	2,713.21	1,809.77	1,632.34	3,442.11	2,580.81	13,353.13	15,933.94	1,931.17	9,669.60	11,600.77
11. Syria	253.18	3.82	257	276.67	5.13	281.8	408.06	79.49	487.57	506.41	11.79	518.2
12. U Arabemts	7,347.88	4,641.10	11,988.98	8,591.79	4,354.08	12,945.87	12,005.35	8,607.45	20,612.8	8,853.26	7,273.28	16,126.54
13. Yemen Republic	246.41	30.82	277.23	278.81	10	288.81	1,185.03	2,009.25	3,194.28	691.52	1,061.27	1,742.79
Total of West Asia	12,978.57	8,673.95	21,752.52	15,133.39	10,016.71	25,150.1	21,148.50	47,731.76	68,880.26	15,883.85	33,857.98	49,741.83
% Share in India's total	15.42	7.96	11.15	14.68	6.72	9.97	16.75	25.89	22.18	18.44	25.51	22.73
India's Total	83,535.94	1,11,517.43	1,95,053.37	1,03,090.53	1,49,165.73	2,52,256.26	1,26,232.34	1,84,378.13	3,10,610.47	86,117.53	1,32,735.57	2,18,853.1

Data Source: DGCIS, Kolkata

Security to Witnesses

*274. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether witnesses of various crimes are hesitating to testify in courts as the Government has not provided them security and the criminals often go unpunished;

(b) if so, whether untoward incidents have happened to the witnesses during each of the last three years;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide security to the witnesses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT) : (a) to (d) Data in respect of reluctance of witnesses to testify on account of intimidation, though highlighted off and on, is not maintained. The Indian Penal Code provides against threatening any person to give false evidence (Section 195A). Sections 327, 329, 330, 331, 503 etc., make provision for restraining any person from committing an illegal act, criminal intimidation, insult and annoyance. The Law Commission in its 198th Report on 'Witness Identity Protection and Witness Protection Programme' has recommended a number of measures for witness protection. The report of the Law Commission has been referred to all the States/UTs as the subject of Criminal law and procedure figures in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule.

Revenue Earned by Prasar Bharati

*275. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of

INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of revenue earned by the Prasar Bharati during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the revenue earned by Prasar Bharati is not sufficient even to meet its own expenditure;

(c) if so, the funds provided to Prasar Bharati to meet its revenue expenditure and carry out its developmental activities during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to enhance the revenue earnings of Prasar Bharati?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) As informed by Prasar Bharati, the revenue earned during the last three years, State-wise is given in the enclosed Statement-I

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The details of funds provided to Prasar Bharati to meet its revenue expenditure and carry out developmental activities during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement-II

(d) Prasar Bharati is an autonomous body and Government does not interfere in its functioning. AIR and DD make their own efforts for effective utilization of infrastructure, proper planning, marketing and monitoring of revenue realization for increasing the revenue. Prasar Bharati being a Public Service Broadcaster, its primary objective is to inform, educate and entertain the masses across the length and breadth of country. Revenue generation can only be a by-product of its main focus.

Statement-I

State-wise Revenue Generation for last three years

(Figure in Rs. crore)

Sl.No.	State	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07		
		DD	AIR	Total	DD	AIR	Total	DD	AIR	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00		0.00	0.08		0.08	0.08		0.08

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2. Andhra Pradesh	10.29	2.17	12.46	8.95	5.60	14.55	9.97	3.97	13.94	
3. Arunachal Pradesh	0.20		0.20	0.37		0.37	0.00		0.00	
4. Assam	7.24		7.24	10.85		10.85	2.39		2.39	
5. Bihar	3.49	2.83	6.32	3.72	7.55	11.27	1.82	8.72	10.54	
6. Chhattisgarh	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	
7. Delhi	465.39	44.98	510.37	811.27	75.50	886.77	686.82	83.56	770.38	
8. Gujarat	4.67	0.68	5.35	4.71	1.19	5.90	7.05	1.24	8.29	
9. Haryana	0.09		0.09	0.09		0.09	0.10		0.10	
10. Himachal Pradesh	0.05		0.05	0.26		0.26	0.67		0.67	
11. Jammu and Kashmir	0.09	0.65	0.74	0.12	1.12	1.24	0.52	1.39	1.91	
12. Jharkhand	1.52		1.52	0.92		0.92	0.22		0.22	
13. Karnataka	9.38	2.28	11.66	9.96	3.87	13.83	7.08	4.78	11.86	
14. Kerala	0.00		0.00	0.09		0.09	0.15		0.15	
15. Madhya Pradesh	5.03	1.98	7.01	4.30	3.07	7.37	2.28	4.45	6.73	
16. Maharashtra	24.85	63.08	87.93	26.75	98.30	125.05	36.46	106.48	142.94	
17. Manipur	0.20		0.20	0.40		0.40	0.00		0.00	
18. Meghalaya	0.17		0.17	0.74		0.74	0.01		0.01	
19. Mizoram	0.20		0.20	0.43		0.43	0.12		0.12	
20. Nagaland	0.17		0.17	0.39		0.39	0.00		0.00	
21. Orissa	4.97	0.90	5.87	5.29	1.18	6.47	4.29	1.15	5.44	
22. Punjab	8.92		8.92	9.45		9.45	8.90		8.90	
23. Rajasthan	5.38	1.39	6.77	3.91	3.50	7.41	2.53	3.25	5.78	
24. Tamil Nadu	24.00	14.21	38.21	18.65	15.70	34.35	19.99	20.03	40.02	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
25. Tripura		0.42		0.42	0.70		0.70	0.00		0.00
26. U.T. (Chandigarh)		0.10	1.72	1.82	0.08	2.38	2.46	0.19	4.17	4.36
27. U.T. (Goa)		0.06		0.06	0.03		0.03	0.28		0.28
28. U.T. (Pondicherry)		0.02		0.02	0.03		0.03	0.02		0.02
29. Uttar Pradesh		70.68	4.50	75.18	9.11	5.41	14.52	8.18	4.99	13.17
30. West Bengal		17.69	2.23	19.92	15.31	2.70	18.01	18.10	2.94	21.04
Total		685.27	143.60	808.87	946.96	227.07	1174.03	818.22	251.12	1069.34

Statement-II

Statement showing the Total Expenditure incurred and Source of funding during the last three years

Non-Plan			
<i>(Figure in Rs. crore)</i>			
Year	Total Exp.	Grain-in-Aid	Gap met from IEBR
1	2	3	4
2004-05	1323.11	918.66	404.45
2005-06	1453.65	942.91	510.74
2006-07	1328.16	775.96	552.20
Total	4104.92	2637.53	1467.39
Revenue Plan			
2004-05	151.14	87.44	63.70
2005-06	243.31	135.11	108.20
2006-07	281.45	255.50	153.32
Total	675.90	478.05	325.22

1	2	3	4
Capital Plan			
2004-05	124.11	90.61	33.50
2005-06	220.29	175.47	44.82
2006-07	276.29	40.02	287.84
Total	620.69	306.10	366.16
Grand Total	5401.51	3421.68	2158.77

[English]

Quality of Technical Education

*276. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will, the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of the All India Council for Technical Education was held in the month of December 2007;

(b) if so, whether the meeting was organized to consider ways to enhance access, equity, inclusiveness,

affordability, relevance and quality of technical education in the country;

(c) if so, the main decisions arrived at in the meeting;

(d) whether the Government is making all possible efforts to take the quality of the technical education to the next higher level and on par with the highest international standards; and

(e) if so, the measures worked out in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) had organized a National Conference on Development of Technical Education in India in December, 2007.

(b) These issues were discussed in the said conference.

(c) The conference had no decision making role. However, some of the important suggestions made in the Conference were as follows:—

I. Access, Equity and Inclusion

- i. Regional and other imbalances should be addressed through relaxations and suitable incentives.
- ii. Fee structure should be regulated.

II. Quality Assurance

The National Board of Accreditation should consider institution-wise accreditation also, together with programme-wise accreditation, and should move towards grading system in accreditation.

III. Assessment of Manpower and Skills Requirement Including expansion of polytechnics

- i. The available infrastructure should be fully utilized by running two shifts. It was

also proposed that a scheme for Testing and Certification for workers with skills acquired by non-formal mode, should be introduced.

- ii. Polytechnics should consider offering courses in the service sector as per market demand and could have specific programmes in the hospitality sector like tourism, aviation etc.

IV. Academic Reforms — Curriculum Framework, Credit System and Evaluation

A certain common core curriculum should be developed so that it could set up a minimum Bench Mark for adoption by various technical institutions.

V. Faculty Development

Recommendations of Professor P. Rama Rao Committee Report should be implemented.

VI. Industry Institute Interface

The industry should be involved not only in placement activities and student project work but also in the areas of curriculum, faculty development, quality assurance and research activities etc.

VII. Role of AICTE In the Changing Environment and Global Competitiveness

- i. AICTE should set up Centers of Excellence and Centers of Advanced Studies.
- ii. AICTE should evolve mechanisms to provide exposure to country's technical institutions to the world-class institutions.
- iii. AICTE should deal effectively with unauthorized institutions as well as approved institutions running unapproved programmes.

- iv. AICTE Act should be reviewed and amended to make it more effective.

(d) and (e) The XI Five Year Plan envisages several steps for improvement in the quality of technical education including the setting up of new institutions like IITs, IIMs, Schools of Planning and Architecture, and Indian Institutes of Information Technology etc., revamping of faculty development programmes, encouraging research, and improvements in curricula, pedagogy, accreditation and evaluation system.

Enrolment in Primary Education

*277. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of children enrolled in primary classes so far;

(b) the method/criteria adopted for establishing the authenticity of enrolment data of children in primary classes;

(c) the agencies by which these data are collected;

(d) whether the data so collected are reliable and reflect the actual number of enrolment in primary education;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the steps taken by the Government to have the actual number of enrolment in primary education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Total number of children enrolled in primary classes (I-V) in 2004-05 was about 13.08 crore.

(b) to (f) The above figures are based on data furnished by State/UT Governments, who are responsible for their authenticity. The Ministry also scrutinizes data received from them before compilation.

Shortage of Scientists

*278. SHRI RANEN BARMAN :
SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY :

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

(a) whether the quality and pace of scientific research have suffered due to ban on recruitment of scientists to fill up the vacancies in various research establishments under his Ministry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) The impact of scientific research is measured in the form of number of publications, impact factor and the patents filed. The output of scientific research from India, as measured by research papers published in cited journals, has been slowly increasing at the rate of 8% per annum as against global average of 4.5 %. However, in terms of publications India's rank has shifted from 8th in 1985 to 14th in 2006 on account of relative performance by emerging countries. But India is ahead of all countries in terms of publication output per dollar invested in R and D. One of the important factors contributing to the weaker relative performance as against the other emerging economies is that of full time equivalent scientist positions in R and D per million of population. The Indian figure is 115 scientists per million which is more than 6 times lower as compared to China, 30 times lower as compared to United States and 50 times lower as compared to Finland. The ban on recruitment of scientists in Government S and T establishments/public funded S and T institutes has had an adverse impact on the quantum of scientific output of the country in relation to some emerging economies. Government has initiated some remedial measures for exemption from deemed abolition of S and T posts lying vacant for more than one year.

Community Radio Stations

*279. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has recently approved a scheme for setting up of Community Radio Stations by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) which have been given permission to operate Community Radio Stations; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has liberalized the Policy for setting up Community Radio Stations in India in December 2006. Under the new policy, 'Non-profit' organisations like civil society and voluntary organizations, State Agriculture Universities (SAUs), ICAR Institutions, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Registered Societies and Autonomous Bodies and Public Trusts registered under Societies Act are eligible for grant of permission for setting up Community Radio Stations in addition to educational institutions which were already eligible. The new policy is aimed at allowing greater participation by the civil society on issues relating to development and social change.

(c) The State-wise details of Non-Governmental Organizations which have been given permission to operate Community Radio Stations are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

S. No.	State	Name of Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	1. Deccan Development Society, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh

1	2	3
		2. Abid Ali Khan Educational Trust, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
2	Bihar	1. Hanuman Prasad Gramin Vikas Seva Samiti, Kurhani, Muzaffarpur, Bihar 2. Ayodhya Lal Kalyan Niketan, Gopalganj, Bihar
3	Delhi	1. The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi for Community Radio Station at Supi Village, Mukteshwar, Uttaranchal 2. The Society for Development Alternatives, New Delhi for Community Radio Station at TARAGram, Orchha, Tikamgarh Distt, Madhya Pradesh 3. Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals, New Delhi Community Radio Station at Sironj Tehsil, Vidisha District, Madhya Pradesh
4	Jharkhand	1. Shree Narsingh Memorial Trust, Dhanbad, Jharkhand
5	Karnataka	1. The Mysore Resettlement and Dev. Agency, Bangalore, Karnataka
6	Kerala	1. Wayanad Social Service, Wayanad, Kerala
7	Maharashtra	1. Mannvikas Samajik Sanstha, Satara, Maharashtra 2. Jai Jui Vichar Manch. Solapur, Maharashtra
8	Manipur	1. Houdou Akou Rural Development Society, Senapati, Manipur
9	Orissa	1. Young India Konark, Orissa

1	2	3
10	Tamilnadu	1. Alternative for India Development, Chennai, Tamilnadu for Radio Station at PJCTC College, AID, Nenua Mode, Meral Village, Meral Block, Garwha District, Bihar
11	Uttar Pradesh	1. Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development, Gola, Distt-Khera, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

Broadcast of National Programmes

280. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of free-to-air and pay TV Channels being telecast in the country, channel-wise;

(b) the details of places not having cable connection/where National Programmes of Doordarshan are not being telecast;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints in this regard;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) Details of Free to Air and pay channels of private broadcasters is given in the Statement-I. Doordarshan is presently operating 30 TV channels which are all free to air. The list of DD channels is given the enclosed Statement-II. Apart from the above Lok Sabha Television Channel which is run by Lok Sabha Secretariat is also a free to air channel.

(b) to (e) Government has not conducted any survey on cable TV penetration in the country as such no information is available about the places where cable connections are not available. In terrestrial mode, DD-1 channel coverage is available to about 91.9% population of the country. Areawise coverage is about 80.9%

Multi channel TV coverage through Doordarshan's free to air DTH service "DD Direct +" is also available in the entire country with the exception of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. As such places not having cable connection can receive television broadcast through Doordarshan's DTH service.

Statement-I

List of Free-to-Air Channels

1. Aalami Sahara
2. Aaseervatam TV
3. Aastha International
4. Aastha Television Channel
5. Ahimeaa
6. Akash B
7. AM TV
8. Amrita
9. Ananda
10. Angel TV
11. Ashirwad
12. Asianet (Malayalam)
13. Asianet News
14. Asianet Plus
15. Australia Network

16. Azad
17. B TV
18. B4U Music
19. Balle Balle
20. Bhakthi
21. Biz 24
22. Blessing TV
23. Bollywood TV
24. Boomerang
25. Brindavan TV
26. Business Today
27. Care TV
28. Care World
29. CCTV-9
30. Channel (V) International
31. Channel 10
32. Channel Eight
33. Channel No. 1
34. Chutti
35. CTVN-AKD-Plus
36. Daystar Television Network
37. Delhi TV
38. Deutsche Welle TV
39. Dhalwal TV
40. E 24
41. Enterr 10
42. Era Channel
43. ETV Assam
44. ETV Bihar (Hindi)
45. ETV Madhya Pradesh (Hindi)
46. ETV Malayalam
47. ETV Punjab
48. ETV Rajasthan (Hindi)
49. ETV Tamil
50. ETV UP (Hindi)
51. ETV Urdu
52. Focus TV
53. FTV
54. God TV
55. Golden Cinema
56. HBN
57. Home Shop 18
58. IBN 7
59. Imayam TV
60. India News
61. India TV
62. India Vision News
63. J Movie
64. Jai Hind
65. Jain TV

66. Jaya Max
67. Jaya Plus
68. Jaya TV
69. Jeevan TV
70. Jhankar Movies
71. Just TV Music
72. Just TV Punjabi
73. Kairali
74. Kalsaignar ISAI Aruvi
75. Kalsaignar TV
76. Kasthuri
77. KBS World
78. Khalsa World
79. Khoj TV
80. Kiran TV
81. Kolkata TV
82. Lamhas Classic
83. Lemon TV
84. Life 24
85. Live India
86. M.H. One News
87. M.H. One Shraddha
88. M-3
89. Maa Bhakthi
90. Maa Music
91. Maa News
92. Mahuaa
93. Makkal TV
94. Mallemaala
95. Mana Telugu
96. Manorama News Central
97. Manorama News International
98. Manorama News North
99. Manorama News South
100. Manoranjan TV
101. Marine Biz TV
102. Mega
103. MH1
104. MI Marathi
105. Movie on Demand English
106. Movie on Demand Hindi
107. Music India
108. Naxatra TV
109. NDTV Good Times
110. NDTV Imagine
111. NDTV Metronation
112. NDTV Metronation Bangalore
113. NDTV Metronation Chennai
114. NDTV Metronation Kolkata
115. NDTV Metronation Mumbai

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 116. NE Bangla | 141. Sadhna |
| 117. NE Hi Fi | 142. Sahara Samay Bihar |
| 118. NE Television | 143. Sahara Samay MP |
| 119. Nepal 1 | 144. Sahara Samay Mumbai |
| 120. News 24 | 145. Sahara Samay NCR |
| 121. News Live | 146. Sahara Samay Rashtriya |
| 122. News X | 147. Sahara Samay UP |
| 123. NTV | 148. Sahara TV |
| 124. OTV | 149. Samay |
| 125. PBC TV | 150. Sangeet Bangla |
| 126. People | 151. Sanskar |
| 127. Power Vision | 152. Sanskruthi |
| 128. Pragya TV | 153. Satsang |
| 129. PTC Punjabi News | 154. Satya TV |
| 130. Punjab Today | 155. Set MAX |
| 131. R TV | 156. Shakti TV |
| 132. Raaz | 157. Shalom Television |
| 133. Raj Musix | 158. Sitara |
| 134. Raj News | 159. Sobhagya |
| 135. Raj News Telugu | 160. Space |
| 136. Real Estate | 161. Spacetoon Kid's TV |
| 137. Reality TV | 162. Splash TV |
| 138. S1 Tadka | 163. Sri Venkateswara |
| 139. S1 TV | 164. SS Music |
| 140. Saam TV | 165. Standard World |

166. Star Maazza
167. Star Anando
168. Star News
169. Star Utsav
170. STV Goa News
171. STV Haryana News
172. STV UP News
173. Subha Vaartha
174. Sudarshan
175. Sur Sangeet 2
176. Surya TV
177. Suvama
178. Suvama News
179. Tamilan Television
180. Tara Musix
181. Tara News
182. Tara Punjabi
183. TBN Channel
184. TCM Turner Classic
185. Tehkeaat
186. Time TV
187. TMG Enter
188. TML Voice of India
189. TML Voice of India Bangla
190. TML Voice of India Gujarati
191. TML Voice of India Lifestyle
192. TML Voice of India Marathi
193. TML Voice of India Music
194. TML Voice of India NCR
195. TML Voice of India UP
196. Topper
197. Total TV
198. Tulsi
199. TV 100
200. TV 5
201. TV 5 Monde
202. TV 9
203. TV 9 Gujarat
204. TV 9 Kannada
205. TV 9 Mumbai
206. TV 9 NCR
207. TVC Online
208. Udaya TV-II
209. Unity-Hariyali
210. UTV News
211. Vasanth
212. Virsa TV
213. Voyages TV
214. WE
215. Wellness

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 216. Win TV | 18. Cbeebies |
| 217. Yes-India Vision | 19. Channel (V) |
| 218. YO Music | 20. Classic Cinema |
| 219. Zee Gujarati News | 21. CNBC-TV 18 |
| 220. Zee Punjabi News | 22. CNN IBN |
| 221. Zee Rx | 23. CNN International |
| 222. Zee Trendz | 24. Delhi Aaj Tak |

List of Pay TV Channels

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. 24 Ghanta | 25. Discovery Channel |
| 2. 9X | 26. Discovery Travel & Living |
| 3. 9XM | 27. Disney Channel |
| 4. Aaj Tak | 28. ESPN |
| 5. Aajtak Tez | 29. ETC-Hindi |
| 6. Action Cinema | 30. ETC-Punjabi |
| 7. Adithya TV | 31. ETV 2 |
| 8. Animal Planet | 32. ETV Bengali |
| 9. Animax | 33. ETV Gujarati |
| 10. Awaaz | 34. ETV Kannada |
| 11. AXN | 35. ETV Marathi |
| 12. B4U Movies | 36. ETV Oriya |
| 13. Bindaas | 37. ETV Telugu |
| 14. BBC Entertainment | 38. Gemini Cable Vision |
| 15. BBC World | 39. Gemini Music |
| 16. Bindaas Movies | 40. Gemini News |
| 17. Cartoon Network | 41. Gemini TV |
| | 42. HBO |

43. **Headlines Today**
44. **Hungama TV**
45. **Jagran**
46. **KTV**
47. **Maa TV**
48. **MTV**
49. **National Geographic**
50. **NDTV 24X7**
51. **NDTV India**
52. **NDTV Profit**
53. **Neo Sports**
54. **Neo Sports+**
55. **Nick**
56. **Play TV**
57. **Pogo**
58. **Premiere Cinema**
59. **Raj Digital Plus**
60. **Raj TV**
61. **SAB**
62. **Sahara Filmy**
63. **Sahara Hit Music**
64. **Sahara One**
65. **Set Pix**
66. **Smile TV**
67. **Sony Entertainment Television (Set)**
68. **Star Cricket**
69. **Star Gold**
70. **Star Movies**
71. **Star One**
72. **Star Plus**
73. **Star Sports**
74. **Star World**
75. **Sun Music**
76. **Sun News**
77. **Sun TV**
78. **Teja News**
79. **Teja TV**
80. **Ten Sports**
81. **The History Channel**
82. **The MGM**
83. **Times Now**
84. **Toon Disney**
85. **Udaya Movies**
86. **Udaya News**
87. **Udaya TV**
88. **Udaya Varthegalu**
89. **Ushe TV**
90. **UTV Movies**
91. **VH1**
92. **Vijay**

93. Vissa
94. World Movies
95. Zee 24 Taas
96. Zee Bangla News
97. Zee Business
98. Zee Cafe
99. Zee Cinema
100. Zee Kannada
101. Zee Marathi News
102. Zee Music
103. Zee News
104. Zee Next
105. Zee Sports
106. Zee Studio
107. Zee Talkies
108. Zee Telugu
109. Zee TV
110. Zoom TV

Statement-II*Doordarshan Channels***I. National Channels:**

1. DD-1
2. DD (News)
3. DD Sports
4. DD-Bharati

5. DD-Urdu
6. DD-Rajya Sabha
7. DD-Gyan Darshan
8. DD-India (International Channel)

II. Regional Language Satellite Channels:

1. DD-Bangla
2. DD-Chandana
3. DD-Gujarati
4. DD-Kashir
5. DD-North-east
6. DD-Oriya
7. DD-Podighai
8. DD-Sahyadri
9. DD-Saptagiri
10. DD-Malayalam
11. DD-Punjabi

III. State Networks:

Channel	State	Kendra
1	2	3
DD - 14	Rajasthan	Jaipur
DD - 15	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
DD - 16	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
DD - 17	Bihar	Patna
DD - 19	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
DD - 20	Jharkhand	Ranchi

1	2	3
DD - 21	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
DD - 22	Haryana	Hissar
DD - 23	Uttaranchal	Dehradun
DD - 24	Tripura	Agartala
DD - 25	Mizoram	Aizwal

Total : 8+11+11 = 30

[English]

Kidnapping and Terror Attacks in the North East

2533. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Intelligence Bureau has lately submitted a report to the Government abouts spate of kidnappings and terror attacks in the North East since 2001;

(b) if so, whether the report attributes the continuing disturbances, terror and militancy to the uncertainty amongst the tribals about their land rights on forest lands; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for removing such uncertainty amongst the tribals in the context of the Forest Land Rights Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI) : (a) No, Sir. However, reports regarding developments in the North Eastern States which also includes details of violent incidents, kidnapping etc. are being received by the Government at periodic intervals.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

National Song in Schools

2534. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the

Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to make singing of 'Vande Mataram' compulsory in Government schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the names of the States which have introduced it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government of India (Ministry of Human Resource Development) to make singing of 'Vande Mataram' compulsory in Government schools.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Loading Problem in Iron Ore Exports

2535. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of loading facilities and capacities available and operational at major ports for handling iron ore exports;

(b) whether there are snags in the loading process at ports leading to fall in iron ore exports;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to review and consider improvements in infrastructure by removing all bottlenecks in movement and loading of iron ore for export;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for

modernization of the entire operations to arrest the loss of iron ore during the loading process?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) :
(a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Citizenship Status for Pakistani Refugees

2536. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the citizenship, domicile or residentship status of a large number of refugees from Pakistan or Pak Occupied Kashmir and other countries is not clearly defined;

(b) if so, the number of such refugees and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of proprietary and employment rights denied to them; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT) : (a) to (c) The refugees from West Pakistan are citizens of India and are allowed to exercise their right to franchise in the Parliamentary elections. However, as they are not permanent residents of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, they are not allowed to vote in the elections to the State Assembly. In the year 1947, during partition, as many as 5,674 families comprising 47,215 persons migrated from West Pakistan and settled in Jammu, Kathua and Rajouri districts of Jammu Division of the State. At present, the number of families has reportedly gone upto 24,200 and 1,50,000 persons (approximately).

The disabilities suffered by these refugees *inter alia* include:

(i) They cannot acquire immovable property in the Jammu and Kashmir State;

(ii) They cannot mortgage the land in their possession for raising loans, etc.;

(iii) They are not entitled to get jobs under the State Government;

(iv) The Scheduled Castes among them cannot avail the reservation quota for the Scheduled Castes in the State; and

(v) Their children are not entitled for admission to Government professional/technical educational institutions in the State.

(d) The matter of disabilities suffered by the refugees concerns the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Promotion of Research Activities

2537. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN :
SHRI NARHARI MAHATO :

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

(a) whether the Government has any plan to boost the innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) programme in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount allocated for the purpose;

(c) the details of scientists and research scholars likely to be selected under this programme, particularly from West Bengal, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to create attractive job opportunities in Science and Technology and to prevent the brain drain?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The Government of India has mounted a special scholarship scheme titled "Innovation

in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)* to attract talented youth to study and careers with science. The main features of the INSPIRE are: (a) Scheme for Early Attraction of Talents for Science (SEATS) providing Science innovation scholarship of Rs. 5000 for a total of one million young learners of the age group 10-15 years once in their school career and mentorship through global science leaders including Nobel Laureates and Indians leaders in science at a summer camp for the top 1% performers in the Class X examination every year for period of five years; (b) Scholarships for Higher Education (SHE) for the age group of 17-22 years @ Rs. 1 lakh per year for continuing science education at B.Sc and M.Sc. levels for 10,000 candidates and c) Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (AORC) for 1000 young researchers in the age group of 22-32 years for 5 years to pursue doctoral research in science backed by an assured career opportunity scheme for another period of five years on completion of their Ph D. The INSPIRE Programme, as it offers Science as a career option by providing necessary opportunities to youth with aptitude for science and a desire to innovate, in addition to reasonable financial assistance, would help in producing more science students and Ph.Ds and help in increasing the stock of the scientific community necessary for meeting future challenges including preventing the brain drain.

The scheme also envisages that the available number of scholarships would be distributed to students from various Boards based on total number of students taken their examinations in the respective Boards including West Bengal. The total allocation for the entire 11th Five Year Plan is Rs. 2250 crores for the INSPIRE Program and is presently at various levels of Government approval.

[Translation]

Monitoring of Private Educational Institutions

2538. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :
SHRI KIREN RIJUJU :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of private educational institutes engaged in imparting higher education in metropolitan cities;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that the above institutes are not able to provide quality education;
- (c) if so, whether the Government is formulating any scheme to monitor the functioning of these institutes;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to control the functioning of these institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(b) to (e) At present, private universities are regulated by the University Grants Commission (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003. However, in respect of the Deemed-to-be Universities, the UGC has constituted an Expert Committee that has prepared draft UGC (Institutions Deemed-to-be Universities) Regulations, 2008. These are under consideration of the Commission in consultation with the stakeholders.

Liberahan Commission

2539. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the term of the Liberahan Commission has been extended by the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said Commission has made available any interim report to the Government so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the expenditure incurred on the said Commission so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The term of the Liberhan Ayodhya Commission of Inquiry has been extended upto 30.04.2008.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) An expenditure of Rs. 747.28 lakh been incurred on the Commission upto 11.03.2008.

[English]

CBI Inquiry on Gujarat Violence

2540. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hon. Supreme Court, in its recent ruling has stated that there is no objection in inquiring into the Gujarat violence cases outside the State as well as by the CBI;

(b) if so, whether the Government has ordered the CBI to investigate the Gujarat riot cases afresh;

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

(d) whether any time schedule has been given to CBI to complete the probe; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) So far as this Ministry is concerned, no such order has been conveyed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in recent time. However, the National Human Rights Commission has filed Writ Petition (Cri) No. 109 of 2003 in the Supreme Court of India against State of Gujarat and Ors. making the plea that the critical cases relating to Gujarat riots of

2002 be entrusted to the CBI. The NHRC has also filed Transfer Petition (Criminal) Nos. 194-202 of 2003 in the Supreme Court of India against the State of Gujarat and Ors. seeking the transfer of certain critical cases to a court outside the State of Gujarat. The matter is subjudice.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Expenditure on Advertisement

2541. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the expenditure on advertising by various Government departments/public undertakings has been increasing;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the reasons therefor during each of the last three years, till date, State-wise;

(c) whether any direction has been issued to all the Government departments/public undertakings to route their advertisements through Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal to ease the eligibility conditions for empanelment of newspapers to promote those published in remote areas and Regional languages;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The expenditure on advertising by various Government Departments/Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) has been increasing over the last three years due to greater number of media campaigns and enhancement of advertisement

rates. State-wise details of expenditure during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) As per the Advertisement Policy of the Government effective from 2nd October, 2007, all Central Government Ministries/Departments shall route their advertisements, including display advertisements, through Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP). However, they may issue tender notices directly to empanelled newspapers only at DAVP rates. PSUs/ Autonomous Bodies and Societies of Government of India may issue all advertisements directly at DAVP rates to empanelled newspapers as per norms.

(e) to (g) No Sir. In the Advertisement Policy effective from 2nd October, 2007 eligibility conditions for empanelment of newspapers have already been relaxed for newspapers in languages like Bodo, Garhwali, Dogri, Kashmiri, Khasi, Konkani, Maithili, Manipuri, Mizo, Nepali, Rajasthani, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Urdu and Tribal languages/dialects as certified by State Government or newspapers published in Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and North Eastern States to 6 months of regular and uninterrupted publication and 500 copies of paid circulation. Further, in case of all regional and other language small and medium newspapers, the qualifying period shall now be 18 months.

Statement

State-wise expenditure for the period 2005-2006, 2006-2007 and 2007-2008

(in Rs.)

Sl. No	State	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008 (Committed) upto 13.03.2008
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	49578420	71865249	80595138
2.	Assam	15583124	18712899	22064249
3.	Bihar	27426964	44358731	41704943
4.	Gujarat	68453311	81636344	73751117
5.	Haryana	13048694	16772582	18207888
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4253005	5953195	5391596
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	23738096	25176123	32327818
8.	Karnataka	34784185	49303245	58425828
9.	Kerala	33261789	41281687	48171544
10.	Madhya Pradesh	43973702	65674784	69807017
11.	Maharashtra	166787054	229573081	207034131
12.	Manipur	4226663	4069850	5087980

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Meghalaya	3253754	4551507	4900629
14.	Nagaland	2167686	3049324	3262131
15.	Orissa	29617096	41385958	45485685
16.	Punjab	38953395	45600932	39274165
17.	Rajasthan	59288268	85236159	73603393
18.	Sikkim	1135608	2180817	4858155
19.	Tamilnadu	57682964	85752235	93142741
20.	Tripura	8329508	9109015	9084369
21.	Uttar Pradesh	99363528	127378021	129723129
22.	West Bengal	119831980	131795908	140619467
23.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	00	4334	92695
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	1342843	1719985	3654228
25.	Chandigarh	31924497	42089222	32010299
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	00	00	00
27.	Delhi	524637758	675782218	644051448
28.	Goa	3890021	6430138	5402932
29.	Lakshadweep	00	00	00
30.	Mizoram	1646228	2302167	5316631
31.	Pondicherry	1082967	1582565	2541073
32.	Daman and Diu	446955	547149	2074705
33.	Chhattisgarh	14324195	20997170	24615206
34.	Jharkhand	16186865	23960758	22616786
35.	Uttaranchal	12294051	17175087	20329572
Total		1512515172	1983008439	1969228686

[Translation]

Modernisation of Prisons in Rajasthan

2542. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the central share provided for modernisation of prisons in Rajasthan alongwith the heads under which the said fund has been provided during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the work under the first phase of the centrally sponsored scheme for modernisation of prisons has been completed;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the time by when the second phase of the said scheme is likely to be initiated; and

(f) the steps taken to complete the work under the first phase expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT) : (a) The central assistance released to the Government of Rajasthan under the scheme of Modernization of Prisons from 2005-06 to 2007-08 is given as under for the construction of new jails, repair, renovation and extension of existing jails, construction of staff quarters and for improvement of water and sanitation in jails:

Year	Amount (Rs. in Crore)
2005-06	5.4691
2006-07	2.1692
2007-08 (upto February 2008)	9.9109
Total	17.5492

(b) to (d) As per the latest report dated 17.3.2008 received from the Government of Rajasthan, out of 10 new jails to be constructed under the scheme, 5 jails have been completed. Further 18 new barracks which were to be constructed have been completed. Out of 361 Staff quarters to be constructed, the construction of 62 staff quarters have been completed. The total expenditure incurred by the State Government is Rs. 49.1856 crore as against the total release of Rs. 62.50 crore (central and state share taken together).

The scheme which was to end on 31.3.2007 has been extended to 31.3.2009 to enable the State Governments to complete the project.

(e) The second phase of the scheme will be considered only after successful completion of the first phase.

(f) The implementation of the scheme is monitored through review meetings, periodical reports, site visits etc. The State Governments have been asked to complete the entire project activity by 31.3.2009.

[English]

Arms Seized by BSF

2543. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge cache of arms was seized by Border Security Force (BSF) from the Jungles of Karbi Anglong district of Assam in January this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the armed militants operating in these jungles have laid down arms;

(d) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year as on date; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the spread of militancy in North Eastern States and to bring surrendered militant into the mainstream of Social life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI) : (a) and (b) As per information received Border Security Force (BSF) in a joint operation with State Police had seized 3 AK-47 rifles, automatic rifles, 2 other rifles, 1 sten gun, 1 grenade launcher, hand grenades, IEDs and sizable ammunitions.

(c) and (d) While no group has laid down arms as yet, tripartite Suspension of Operations (SoO) arrangements are in force with pro talk faction of United Peoples Democratic Solidarity (UPDS), a militant outfit active in Karbi Anglong District in Assam, since August 1st, 2002. However, violent activities are being committed by militant outfits such as Karbi Longri N.C. Hills Liberation Front (KLNLF) in this area. 32 KLNLF militants have surrendered between the year 2005 to 2008 (upto 29.02.2008). Year wise details are as under:

Year	Number of KLNLF militants surrendered
2005	9
2006	12
2007	11
2008 (upto 29.2.2008)	Nil

(e) Efforts of the State Governments, who are primarily responsible for ensuring public order and security in these areas, are being supplemented by the Central Government through various measures such as deployment of Additional Central Security Forces to aid the State authorities with the objective of carrying out intensive counter insurgency operations and providing security for vulnerable institutions and installations based on threat assessments; vigilance and surveillance on the border, including construction of border fencing; sharing of intelligence; financial assistance for strengthening of the local Police Forces and intelligence agencies under the Police Modernization Scheme; provision of assistance for

strengthening various aspect of security apparatus and other aspects of anti-militancy operations by way of reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure; assistance to the States for raising of additional Forces in the form of India Reserve Battalions; etc. The Central Government is maintaining close and continuous coordination with the States to review the situation and taking further steps as may be necessary on a continuing basis.

In addition, the Ministry is also implementing a 100% centrally funded scheme for surrender cum-rehabilitation of militants in the North East. The main features of the schemes are immediate grant of Rs. 1.50 lakh to be kept in the name of the surrendere as fixed deposit for a period of 3 years; stipend at the rate of Rs. 2000 per month upto a period of 36 months; vocational training at Government expenses and incentives for the weapons surrendered.

[Translation]

Missing Demarcation Poles on Indo-nepal Border

2544. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the poles erected for demarcation of the border between India and Nepal are missing;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has held any discussion with the Government of Nepal in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI) : (a) to (e) The India-Nepal boundary has been primarily established on the basis of the Treaty of Sugauli of 1815 and the subsequent Memorandum of 1816 as amended and confirmed by the Treaty of 1860. Strip map surveys of 99% of the border and identification of 97.7% of the

boundary on the ground has been completed. Boundary strip maps have been printed for all segments of the boundary that have been identified and have also been signed at the level of the Joint Technical Committee (JTC) on boundary matters.

It has been further decided to set up an inter-governmental Boundary Working Groups as successor to the JTC, to inter alia define boundary line in the remaining sectors, and undertake inspection, construction, maintenance and repair of boundary pillars. Repair and restoration of damaged/missing boundary pillars is an ongoing process jointly taken up by both the sides.

Popularity of Akashvani Programme

2545. SHRI GANESH SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that the popularity of different programmes of All India Radio is declining gradually;

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

(c) whether maximum time slot is given to the burning issues in all the Broadcasts of All India Radio;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the extent to which the All India Radio has been successful so far in attracting the attention of the Government towards the burning issues in Madhya Pradesh and other States;

(f) whether there is any provision for having discussions on the developmental works got done by local Members of Parliament on All India Radio; and

(g) if so, the details of such provisions?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

(SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a): Prasar Bharati have informed that the popularity of different programmes broadcast from All India Radio has not declined. In fact, the listenership of All India Radio has increased over the years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Various topics of social, economic, political, nature including burning issues before the country are widely and adequately covered in different programmes, news bulletins and news based programmes on the national hookup as well as on the state hookup broadcast from AIR Stations located throughout the country.

(e) Different programmes including news and news based programmes usually cover the entire country attracting the attention of people, policy makers, Government functionaries etc.

(f) and (g) Development works implemented by local Members of Parliament which are of high interest to the public at large are covered in regional news and news based programmes broadcast from various AIR Stations, besides various news bulletins including regional and language bulletins. In addition, Members of Parliament are also invited for participation in regional programmes broadcast from various AIR Stations.

Enrollment of SC/ST Students in NVs

2546. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Male/Female students belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SCs/STs) enrolled in Navodaya Vidyalayas during the years 2006-07 and 2007-08, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to enhance the existing percentage of enrollment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) State-wise enrollments of male and female students belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas during the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 are given in the enclosed Statement-I and Statement-II respectively.

(b) No, Sir. During 2006-07, SC and ST students constituted 24% and 15.5% respectively of the total enrollment in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas. The corresponding percentages in 2007-08 were 24.2% and 16.3% respectively.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Number of Male/Female Students Enrolled in JNVs during 2006-07

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	2006-07			
		Male		Female	
		SC	ST	SC	ST
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands (UT)	4	19	4	42
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1684	858	730	261
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	30	1412	23	1028
4.	Assam	932	1311	481	628
5.	Bihar	1841	334	907	164
6.	Chandigarh (UT)	91	5	45	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	638	962	256	438
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli (UT)	9	52	4	29
9.	Daman and Diu (UT)	25	13	8	2
10.	Delhi (UT)	186	25	91	10
11.	Goa	20	32	15	16
12.	Gujarat	960	607	344	323
13.	Haryana	1540	26	514	17

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Himachal Pradesh	966	404	620	284
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	427	670	247	456
16.	Jharkhand	841	1265	414	623
17.	Karnataka	1728	762	758	447
18.	Kerala	775	134	531	141
19.	Lakshadweep (UT)	0	125	0	96
20.	Madhya Pradesh	3681	2505	854	912
21.	Maharashtra	2047	867	956	430
22.	Manipur	281	1069	188	643
23.	Meghalaya	29	856	17	648
24.	Mizoram	1	212	1	129
25.	Nagaland	3	545	2	465
26.	Orissa	1392	1664	565	570
27.	Pondicherry (UT)	242	1	80	0
28.	Punjab	1948	11	1198	3
29.	Rajasthan	2748	1760	701	590
30.	Sikkim	45	207	35	209
31.	Tripura	179	271	86	136
32.	Uttar Pradesh	6997	312	1298	81
33.	Uttarakhand	763	156	203	59
34.	West Bengal	310	86	152	42
Total		33363	19538	12328	9922

Statement-II**Number of Male/Female Students Enrolled in JNVs during 2007-08**

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	2007-08 (As on 31st December 2007)			
		Male		Female	
		SC	ST	SC	ST
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	20	2	38
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1725	846	747	279
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	42	1680	31	1284
4.	Assam	1073	1438	512	707
5.	Bihar	1905	366	938	181
6.	Chandigarh (UT)	97	5	58	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	670	1123	280	390
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli (UT)	5	83	3	32
9.	Daman and Diu (UT)	21	12	10	7
10.	Delhi (UT)	174	23	106	14
11.	Goa	16	37	17	17
12.	Gujarat	959	619	361	376
13.	Haryana	1620	39	582	20
14.	Himachal Pradesh	1014	443	598	320
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	443	730	242	486
16.	Jharkhand	913	1355	449	667
17.	Karnataka	1780	828	832	477
18.	Kerala	771	143	549	148

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Lakshadweep (UT)	0	113	0	94
20.	Madhya Pradesh	3768	2720	1102	1199
21.	Maharashtra	1996	895	989	444
22.	Manipur	309	1079	209	666
23.	Meghalaya	27	872	24	687
24.	Mizoram	5	292	5	208
25.	Nagaland	7	749	5	596
26.	Orissa	1429	1799	610	678
27.	Pondicherry (UT)	223	3	140	1
28.	Punjab	2115	25	1241	34
29.	Rajasthan	2839	1786	741	617
30.	Sikkim	49	243	55	252
31.	Tripura	192	281	94	154
32.	Uttar Pradesh	7298	367	1544	91
33.	Uttarakhand	797	172	247	77
34.	West Bengal	445	105	219	52
Total		34728	21291	13542	11273

*[English]***Tea Production**

2547. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of tea produced by the tea producing States against the target fixed during each of the last three years and in the current year, till date;

(b) whether the share of Indian tea exports in the world market has declined during the above period;

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

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up factories on cooperative basis for small tea growers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) If not, the steps taken by the Government to increase the tea production, boosting the export of tea and provide assistance to the small tea growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) Targets have not been fixed for production of tea State-wise. The quantity of tea produced by the tea producing States during last three years is given below:—

(Figures in million Kgs)

State/Districts	2005	2006 (E)*	2007(E)
Assam	487.49	483.65	479.92
West Bengal	217.55	233.29	231.44
Tripura	7.52	7.18	7.31
Arunachal Pradesh	2.62	2.20	2.52
Manipur	0.11	0.11	0.12
Sikkim	0.16	0.15	0.16
Nagaland	0.19	0.17	0.19
Meghalaya	0.10	0.10	0.12
Mizoram	0.07	0.07	0.08
Other North Indian States (includes Bihar, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Orissa)	2.61	2.70	2.83
Total North India	718.42	729.62	724.69
Tamil Nadu	158.84	152.27	153.13
Kerala	63.34	68.76	61.83
Karnataka	5.37	5.26	5.03
Total South India	227.55	226.29	219.99
All Total	945.97	955.91	944.68

(E)* Estimated and subject to revision

(b) and (c) The export share of Indian tea in World market has been around 12-13% for the last few years. During 2006 the export share of Indian Tea was 13.76%. However, during the year 2007 the share of Indian exports in the world market has declined to 10.18% which is mainly due to increase in production of tea in Kenya, decline in the Kenyan tea prices at the Mombassa auction and appreciation of Indian rupee against dollar.

(d) to (f) Presently fifteen Co-operative tea factories are functioning in Nilgiri area of Tamil Nadu for the benefit of the small tea growers. More than 500 private bought leaf factories are functioning in various tea growing regions and the processing capacity of these factories is enough to cater to the present demand. Small Tea Growers/their associations are however availing the financial assistance under various plan schemes being administered by the Tea Board for the purpose.

Advanced Computing and Ayurveda Research Centre

2548. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Advanced Computing Research Centre and Ayurveda Research Centre have achieved the envisaged objectives.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering to widen the scope of project under the Integrated Long Term Programme (ILTP);

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Russian Indian Centre for Advanced Computing Research (RICACR) has been successfully working on joint projects related to fundamen-

tal and applied matters of algorithmic support for high-efficiency computers of parallel architectural design; development of software products; numeric modelling and researching in the field of continuum mechanics; physics; high-power shock detonation wave physics; ecology; geology and geophysics; processing of seismic data; weather forecasting and climate modelling; economics; satellite computer technologies; remote probing). Russian Indian Centre for Ayurvedic Research (RICAR) is working towards providing necessary research and development base for undertaking studies including those on the pharmacokinetics of Ayurvedic drugs, including toxicity studies and development of improved processes for the formulation of standardized Ayurvedic drugs. Presently one major project on "Genotype-phenotype correlation based on the principles of Ayurveda with special focus on prakriti" is being implemented.

(c) to (e) Presently, there is no proposal to widen the scope of these Centres. Since these are project based activities, new proposals are to be considered as and when received from scientific communities of two countries for joint work.

Unique Property Identification Code

2549. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has issued a public notice on 15.12.2007 as per section 123-A of the DMC (Amendment) Act, 2003, to provide details of properties by 29.2.2008 for maintaining a Municipal Assessment Book and to give an Unique Property Identification Code (UPIC No.);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the information provided by all property holders; and

(c) the action taken by the MCD against the persons who have not provided the details of their properties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI) : (a)

Yes, Sir. To maintain a Municipal Assessment Book and to give an Unique Property Identification Code, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi issued a public notice on 15.12.2007.

(b) In view of (a) above, the action has been initiated under the relevant law. This law covers land or covered space of building or any portion thereof within its municipal limit.

(c) Action is to be taken on detection of cases of violation arising out of noncompliance of law.

Funds for Small and Medium Scale Industries

2550. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision has been taken to constitute a fund worth Rs. 15, 000 crore for small and medium scale industries during the year 2008-09; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Finance Minister during Budget Speech 2008-09 has announced creation of two funds of Rs. 2,000 crore each in Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) - one for risk capital financing and the other for enhancing refinance capability to the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector.

Grants to State Universities

2551. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the development assistance provided by University Grants Commission to the State Universities including Tamil Nadu during each of the last three years, University-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase development assistance and provide maintenance assistance to State Universities during the Eleventh Plan Period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) A statement showing development

assistance provided by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to State Universities including Tamil Nadu during each of the last three years, University-wise is enclosed as Statement.

(b) to (d) The UGC will provide development assistance in accordance with the allocation of funds for the XI Plan. Further, the University Grants Commission does not provide maintenance grants to State universities, as these universities are maintained by the State Governments concerned.

Statement

Statement showing grants released to the State Universities by University Grants Commission (UGC) during the Years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 under General Development Assistance Scheme

(Rs. in lakh)

S. No.	State/Name of the University	Grant released during 2004-05	Grant released during 2005-06	Grant released during 2006-07
A	B	C	D	E
ANDHRA PRADESH				
1.	Andhra University, Vishakhapatnam	**	114.30	**
2.	Kakatiya University, Warangal	**	77.00	38.50
3.	JNTU, Hyderabad	199.25	**	85.85
4.	Nagarjuna University, Nagarjunanagar	**	74.10	**
5.	Osonia University, Hyderabad	**	**	111.73
6.	P.S. Telugu University, Hyderabad	97.50	48.75	**
7.	S.V. University, Tirupati	171.41	90.98	**
8.	S.P.M. University, Tirupati	135.00	67.50	**
9.	S.K.D. University, Anantapur	139.80	**	70.00
10.	NALSAR University, Hyderabad	—	160.00	20.00

A	B	C	D	E
11.	Daravidain University	—		105.60
	GUJARAT			
12.	Bhavnagar University, Bhavnagar	135.00	**	67.50
13.	Gujarat University, Ahmedabad	**	**	**
14.	M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara	**	450.09	75.20
15.	North Gujarat University, Patan	82.20	41.10	**
16.	Sardar Patel University, Vallabha Vidyanagar	132.60	66.30	**
17.	Saurashtra University, Rajkot	**	78.00	**
18.	South Gujarat University, Surat	**	**	85.80
	KARNATAKA			
19.	Bangalore University, Bangalore	**	114.88	**
20.	Karnataka University, Dharwad	81.00	**	**
21.	Kuvempu University, Shankarghatta	**	28.88	
22.	Gulbarga University, Gulbarga	120.00	**	62.10
23.	Mangalore University, Manglorgangothri	105.00	**	**
24.	Mysore University, Mysore	**	76.20	**
25.	National Law School of India University, Bangalore	**	18.00	21.00
26.	Kannada University, Hampi	**	28.00	**
27.	Karnataka State Women's University, Bijapur	—		
	KERALA			
28.	Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam	159.21	**	69.46
29.	Kerala University, Thiravantapuram	**	80.07	**
30.	Calicut University, Calicut	114.99	74.10	**
31.	Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi	184.48	**	213.20

A	B	C	D	E
32.	Kannur University, Mangattuparamba	**	**	184.48
33.	Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady	—	64.00	**
MADHYA PRADESH				
34.	A.P.S. University, Rewa	127.20	**	63.60
35.	Barkatullah University, Bhopal	153.30	**	**
36.	Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore	**	**	63.60
37.	Dr. H.S. Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar	**	**	**
38.	Jiwaji University, Gwalior	**	63.00	**
39.	M.G. Chitrakoot Gramodhya Vishwavidyalaya, Chitrakoot	**	42.90	84.00
40.	Rani Durgawati Vishwavidyalaya, Jabalpur	**	245.70	**
41.	Vikram University, Ujjain	**	164.10	82.00
42.	National Law Instt. University, Bhopal	—	86.00	86.00
MAHARASHTRA				
43.	North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon	47.35	**	103.60
44.	S.R.T. Marathwada University, Nanded	45.00	90.00	**
45.	Amravati University, Amravati	121.95	62.75	**
46.	Dr. B.A. Marathwada University, Aurangabad	139.20	**	**
47.	Shivaji University, Kolhapur	**	137.55	107.78
48.	S.N.D.T. Women's University, Mumbai	216.76	**	**
49.	Nagpur University, Nagpur	183.64	**	137.97
50.	University of Pune, Poona	165.00	82.50	
51.	University of Mumbai, Mumbai	**	106.16	**

A	B	C	D	E
GOA				
52.	Goa University, Goa	81.00	**	182.00
TAMILNADU				
53.	Madurai Kamraj University, Madurai	78.00	78.00	78.00
54.	Tamil University, Thanjavur	**	45.00	22.50
55.	Manomaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli	**	56.00	**
56.	Bharathiar University, Coimbatore	**	66.00	**
57.	Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli	**	66.30	**
58.	Madras University, Chennai	**	90.00	**
59.	Mother Teresa University, Kodaikanal	**	**	**
60.	Annamalai University, Annamalaiagar	**	**	53.27
61.	Alagappa University, Karaikudi	58.29	40.63	91.88
62.	Anna University, Chennai	**	**	152.20
63.	Periyar University, Salem			72.00
ARUNACHAL PRADESH				
64.	Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal	**	159.00	80.00
ASSAM				
65.	Gauhati University, Gauhati	**	**	**
66.	Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh	**	**	**
BIHAR				
67.	Patna University, Patna	75.94	60.50	**
68.	B.B.A. Ambedkar Bihar University, Muzaffarnagar	47.03	117.22	**
69.	T.M. Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur	68.20	**	131.20
70.	K.S.D. Sanskrit University, Darbhanga	36.48	**	**

A	B	C	D	E
71.	Magadh University, Badh-Gaya	**	61.22	**
72.	L.N. Mithila University, Darbhanga	63.60	127.20	**
73.	B.N. Mandal University, Madhepura	—	94.40	**
74.	Jai Prakash University, Chhapra	—		63.00
75.	Veer Kunwar Singh University, Arrah	—		110.40
DELHI				
76.	Guru Gobind Singh Indraprasthan University, Delhi	85.00	**	90.00
HARYANA				
77.	M.D. University Rohtak	85.50	85.80	85.50
78.	Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra	**	120.00	135.00
79.	Guru Jambheshwar University, Hissar	81.90	**	41.00
HIMACHAL PRADESH				
80.	Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla	81.00	162.00	**
JAMMU and KASHMIR				
81.	Jammu University, Jammu Tawi		153.25	**
82.	Kashmir University, Hazratbal	84.85	**	81.00
JHARKHAND				
83.	Ranchi University, Ranchi	50.70	**	**
84.	Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribah	105.70	**	**
ORISSA				
85.	Utkal University, Bhubaneswar	**	139.50	**
86.	Berhampur University, Bhanja Bihar	78.00	**	156.00
87.	Sambalpur University, Jyoti Vihar	76.43	**	181.88

A	B	C	D	E
88.	Shri Jagannath Sanskrit University, Puri	**	92.40	**
89.	Fakir Mohan University, Balasore	—		76.00
90.	North Orissa University, Baripada			
PUNJAB				
91.	Panjab University, Chandigarh	**	97.94	**
92.	Punjabi University, Patiala	**	74.10	**
93.	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	**	85.80	**
RAJASTHAN				
94.	Rajasthan University, Jaipur	**	84.00	**
95.	J.N. Vyas University, Jodhpur	**	**	83.96
96.	M.L. Sukhadia University, Udaipur	**	51.40	**
97.	M.D.S. University, Ajmer	**	111.90	56.00
TRIPURA				
98.	Tripura University, Tripura		128.20	**
UTTAR PRADESH				
99.	Bundelkhand University, Jhansi	90.00	**	**
100.	Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut	125.10	**	71.60
101.	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, Agra	**	**	**
102.	Dr. R.M.L. Avadh University, Faizabad	**	131.40	23.48
103.	D.D.U. Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur	37.06	107.86	26.97
104.	Lucknow University, Lucknow	171.60	**	129.30
105.	M.G. Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi	**	76.80	**
106.	VBS Purvanchal University, Jaunpur — 222002. Purvanchal University, Jaunpur	**	**	**

A	B	C	D	E
107.	M.J.P. Rohilkhand University, Bareilly	**	**	**
108.	Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi	38.00	**	60.00
109.	Ch. Shahu Ji Maharaj Kanpur University, Kanpur	**	**	40.30
110.	Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Handicapped University, Chitrakootanam	90.96	—	90.96
UTTRANACHAL				
111.	H.N.B. Garhwal University, Srinagar	**	**	182.00
112.	Kumaun University, Nainital	148.20	**	**
WEST BENGAL				
113.	Calcutta University, Calcutta	**	115.40	**
114.	Jadavpur University, Kolkhata	**	148.55	74.28
115.	Burdwan University, Burdwan	**	69.40	**
116.	Kalyani University, Kalyani	**	68.00	**
117.	North Bengal University, Darseling	145.20	**	111.60
118.	Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata	**	**	243.00
119.	Vidyasagar University, West Midnapore	120.00	57.60	**
120.	Bengal Engg. University, Howrah, Shibpur	**	100.00	**
CHHATTISGARH				
121.	Guru Ghasidas University, Bilaspur	**	**	**
122.	Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya, Khairagarh	**	**	157.50
123.	Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur	127.20	**	63.60
124.	H.N. Law University, Raipur	**		56.00
Total		5550.08	6153.68	5272.35

Peripheral Development of NALCO

2552. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has set up any project level committee for the peripheral development in NALCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the NALCO has provided funds to the Government of Orissa for this project; and

(d) if so, the details and the total funds provided and utilised during each of the last three years, till date?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) has informed that in pursuance to the provision of Orissa Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy-2006,

Revenue Department, Government of Orissa on 6.7.2006 has constituted Rehabilitation and Peripheral Development Advisory Committees (RPDACs) for Angul and Damanjodi under the Chairmanship of concerned Revenue Divisional Commissioner which includes members from District Administration, local Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly, President Zilla Parishads, Chairperson of Panchayat Samities, members of local Non-Government Organisations and representative from NALCO. These Committees identify and decide number of projects to be taken up and executed under the Peripheral Development Scheme by the Company and the District Administration.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details of funds provided by NALCO to the District Administration and other Government agencies for execution of peripheral development activities during last three years, till date (upto 14.3.2006), out of NALCO Peripheral Development Funds are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Amount deposited with District Administration and other Government Agencies for the Peripheral Development activities during the financial years 2004-05 to 2006-07, till date (upto 14.3.2006), out of NALCO's Peripheral Development Funds in Angul Sector

(Amount Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Total Nos. of Projects executed by agencies of Government of Orissa	Amount Sanctioned for the Projects in the scope of District Administration	Total funds provided by NALCO	Projects completed	
				No.	Value
2004-05	34	107.85	107.85	23	71.75
2005-06	38	181.30	181.30	—	—
2006-07	35	172.19	172.19	—	—
2007-08 (upto 14.3.08)	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	—
Total	107	461.34	461.34	23	71.75

Amount deposited with District Administration for the Peripheral Development activities during the financial years 2004-05 to 2006-07, till date (upto 14.3.2008), out of NALCO's Peripheral Development Funds in Mines and Refinery Complex, Damanjodi

(Amount Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Total numbers of Projects executed by District Administration	Amount sanctioned for the Projects in the scope of District Administration	Total funds provided by NALCO to District Administration	Projects completed	Value of the projects completed
2004-05	67	480.35	398.26	53	358.35
Spl. Proj.	1	40.00	40.00	1	40.00
2005-06	89	403.65	264.64	36	157.10
2006-07	78	429.45	201.54	19	106.97
2007-08 (upto 14.3.08)	109	827.00	108.50 (for 49 projects)	—	—
Total	344	2180.45	1012.94	109	662.42

Involvement of Police Officials of Andaman and Nicobar Islands in Illegal Activities

2553. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding involvement of Police Officials in getting the houses and plots vacated and getting possession thereof illegally in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the total number of complaints received by the Government during each of the last three years, UT-wise and cadre-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government against such officials found guilty; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such illegal activities in future?

The MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI) : (a) No, Sir. However, a complaint was received against an employee of Andaman and Nicobar Police who constructed a house on land which he had already sold to someone else, taking advantage of the land being left unattended.

(b) In case of Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands only above mentioned complaint was received in 2007. Information in respect of other Union Territories is being collected.

(c) A case under Section 448/379 IPC has been registered against the concerned employee by the Andaman and Nicobar Police. Disciplinary action has also been initiated against him separately. Action against the accused employee can be taken only after case against him is established.

(d) Prompt and strict action as per law will be taken against any such official, if found guilty.

Census of Tribals

2554. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :
PROF. M. RAMADASS :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a decline in the population of tribals during each of the last three censuses;

(b) if so, the number of tribals according to each of the last three censuses alongwith the reasons for this decline, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT) : (a) to (c) No Sir, the Scheduled Tribe (ST) population of the country has registered an increase in the last three decades. From 5.16 crore in 1981, their number has increased to 6.77 crore in 1991 and 8.43 crore in 2001 Census. In proportionate terms, Scheduled Tribes constituted 7.8 per cent of the total population in 1981 and 8.1 in 1991. In 2001 Census, their proportion has been 8.2 per cent.

Setting Up of National Marine Academy

2555. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal for setting up of a National Marine Academy in Kerala; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposals of the various State Governments including Kerala for setting up the Institute in their States have been received in this Ministry. The proposal of Marine Training Institute is being considered by the Government but it is still at conceptual stage. Location for this Marine Training Institute has not yet been decided. The State Governments have been informed that since the proposal is at conceptual stage, their proposals would be considered at appropriate stage.

Recruitment of Ex-Servicemen in PMF

2556. DR. K.S. MANOJ : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to recruit Ex-Servicemen to various Paramilitary Forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether any such proposal is pending before the Government for approval;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by when it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) There is already a provision contained in Ex-servicemen (Re-employment in Central Civil services and posts) Rules 1979, according to which 10% of the vacancies in each of the categories of Group 'C' posts and 20% of the vacancies in each of the categories of Group 'D' posts of CPFs are notified for Ex-servicemen.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Vocational Education to Women

2557. SHRI SURESH ANGADI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme to provide vocational education to women, especially to weaker sections of the society in the country particularly in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for the above scheme during the current year to various States including Karnataka, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the achievement made under the scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. A. A. FATMI): (a) to (c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education, women and the weaker sections are covered. No funds have been released to any State Government including Karnataka during the current year.

(d) State-wise cumulative details of the schools sanctioned and enrolment capacity created so far under the scheme are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

**SCHEME OF VOCATIONALISATION OF THE
SECONDARY EDUCATION AT + 2 LEVEL**

*No. of Vocational Schools/Sections sanctioned and
Enrollment Capacity Created.*

As on 01.04.2006

S. No.	Name of the State/UTs	No. of Vocational School/ sanctioned	No. of Vocational Sections sanctioned	No. of students admitted/ trained
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1486	1880	94000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	4	200

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	510	510	25500
4.	Bihar	752	752	37600
5.	Chhattiegarh	20	Nil	Nil
6.	Goa	106	106	5300
7.	Gujarat	77	1032	51600
8.	Haryana	116	795	43350
9.	Himachal Pradesh	82	82	4100
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	37	502	1900
11.	Jharkhand	Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	Karnataka	563	1427	71350
13.	Kerala	475	1008	56430
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1307	1307	65350
15.	Maharashtra	958	3480	174000
16.	Manipur	10	57	2850
17.	Meghalaya	2	20	1000
18.	Mizoram	106	51	2550
19.	Nagaland	8	16	800
20.	Orissa	231	1024	46200
21.	Punjab	345	1146	42300
22.	Rajasthan	155	465	23250
23.	Sikkim	40	9	450
24.	Tamil Nadu	800	2140	123727
25.	Tripura	17	12	600
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1010	2550	117500

1	2	3	4	5
27. Uttaranchal		111	Nil	Nil
28. West Bengal		39	39	1950
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		3	3	150
30. Chandigarh		20	58	2900
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		2	2	100
32. Daman and Diu		Nil	2	250
33. Delhi		207	93	4650
34. Lakshadweep		Nil	Nil	Nil
35. Pondicherry		20	16	800
Total		9619	20588	1002707

[Translation]

Research Students in Central Universities

2558. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of students who have completed M. Phil. and Ph. D. during the years 2000 to 2007 from the Central Universities including Delhi University, University-wise;

(b) whether the number of research students in Central Universities including Delhi University has been declining constantly;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken to increase the number of research students in Central universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Home Guards

2559. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of those States where the services of Home Guards are being utilized to supplement the paramilitary forces;

(b) whether the Home Guards are not considered as regular employees in various States and their services are utilised on daily wages basis;

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

(d) whether the Government has any plan to improve the service conditions of Home Guards through an Uniform Central Law;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from the State Governments in this regard;

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

(h) the response of the Government in this matter, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI) : (a) Presently, Home Guards are not being utilized to supplement the paramilitary forces in any state. However, Border Wing Home Guards in the States of Punjab, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and West Bengal were utilized by the Border Security Force till 1992.

(b) and (c) Home Guards is a voluntary organization and almost all ranks up to level of company commander

are volunteers. Being a voluntary organization, Home Guards are not considered as regular employees.

They are paid daily allowance as and when utilized by the State Governments.

(d) and (e) Home Guards in a 'State' subject and there is no central legislation on Home Guards. There is no proposal for a Uniform Central Law on the Home Guards.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) and (h) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Margin Money Scheme

2560. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN : Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attitude of Banks and the Khadi and Village Industries Commission towards the 'Margin Money Scheme' has led to the closure of many industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, the number of such proposals pending and the names of the banks where these are pending in Maharashtra; and

(d) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir. There are no such cases reported.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise. However, 1863 project proposals under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), earlier known as Margin Money Scheme, are pending for disposal with various banks located in Maharashtra, as per details given enclosed statement.

(d) Approval of the project depends on technical and financial appraisal by the respective banks and they take their credit decision as per the viability of the projects. Sometimes, the project proposals submitted by the prospective entrepreneurs are not complete in all respects and in such cases the banks need to get the deficiencies rectified and therefore, there could be a delay in clearing the projects. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) holds review meetings with the bankers periodically to take stock of the implementation of the scheme by the banks and speeds clearance of the proposals. Also, for expeditious clearance of the REGP project proposals by the banks, adequate funds towards margin money admissible under REGP are placed well in advance with various implementing banks by KVIC and these funds are replenished periodically as per need.

Statement

Bank-wise number of REGP project proposals pending in Maharashtra State (as on 12.3.2008)

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Number of proposals pending
1	2	3
1.	Bank of India	159
2.	Central Bank of India	80
3.	Bank of Maharashtra	466
4.	Bank of Baroda	67
5.	State Bank of India	410
6.	State Bank of Hyderabad	80
7.	Union Bank of India	64
8.	Punjab National Bank	23
9.	Canara Bank	20

1	2	3
10.	Allahabad Bank	3
11.	Dena Bank	31
12.	United Bank of India	12
13.	Andhra Bank	2
14.	Vijaya Bank	7
15.	Indian Overseas Bank	3
16.	Punjab and Sindh Bank	1
17.	UCO Bank	12
18.	Syndicate Bank	15
19.	Indian Bank	6
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	4
21.	R and S Gramin Bank	397
22.	Marathawada Gramin Bank	1
Total		1863

[English]

**Contribution of Indian SSI sector in
the Global Market**

2561. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL : Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide incentives to Small Scale Industries sector to enable them to compete in the global market;

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

(c) the details of contribution of Indian SSI sector in the global market;

(d) whether the targets for growth rate of small scale industries for the 11th Plan has been fixed;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the strategy formulated by the Government to achieve the targeted growth rate of small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government implements various schemes and programmes to enable micro and small enterprises (MSE, formerly known as SSI) to enable them to compete in the global market and strengthen their export competitiveness. Such programmes and schemes, inter alia include assistance for participation in international exhibitions/fairs, reimbursement for obtaining bar-code certification, etc. under its Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme. In addition, other support measures such as organising training programmes on packaging for exports, assistance for technology upgradation under Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS), incentives for obtaining ISO/9000-14001, etc. are included to promote export competitiveness of the MSE sector.

(c) During the year 2005-08, Indian MSE sector accounted for approximately 33% of the total exports from the country.

(d) and (e) A growth rate of 12% has been envisaged for the MSE sector during the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12).

(f) Promotion and development of micro and small enterprises is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments/UT administrations. The Government of India, however, supplements their efforts by providing supportive measures for enhancing their competitiveness through specific measures, such as, easy availability of credit, comprehensive need-based development of MSE clusters including development of infrastructure, assistance for technological upgradation, training and capacity building

of entrepreneurs, etc. The Government, with a view to further enhancing their competitiveness has also announced (i) the Package for Promotion of MSE, (ii) implementation of National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme, besides operationalising the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006, from 2 October 2006.

[Translation]

Objectionable Remarks on Hindu God-Goddesses in Syllabus

2562. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR :
SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether controversial remarks on Lord Rama, Lakshmana, Sita and Hanuman have been included in the concurrent syllabus of B.A. (History) Hons. of Delhi University;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for inclusion of the same; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to delete the said remarks from the course?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi, some organizations have objected to the inclusion of an essay titled 'Three Hundred Ramayans: Five Examples and Three Thoughts on Translation' by late Shri A.K. Ramajunan in the suggested readings for the concurrent course on 'Culture in India: Ancient' in the B.A. (Honours) programme of the University alleging that it contained derogatory references to the Hindu gods and goddesses. In view of the reservations expressed, the University has constituted a

Committee of eminent scholars, consisting of Prof. B.D. Chattopadhyaya, Prof. R.N. Mishra, Prof. M.G.S. Narayanan, Prof. Kapila Vatsyayan and Prof. M.K. Dhawalikar, to review the matter and give their views/ opinion on it.

Un-Recognised Academic Institutions

2563. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether several academic institutions are functioning in the country without recognition of the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken to close down such institutions in the country and create awareness among the students about such institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Some institutions are functioning without obtaining the required approvals from the concerned Government Agencies/ Institutions.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is an examining body which grants affiliation to schools.

In the field of higher education, universities and some other institutions of National importance can be established only by law of Parliament or that of State legislatures. In addition, institutions can be declared Deemed-to-be Universities by the Central Government on the recommendations of the University Grants Commission (UGC) under the University Grants Commission Act, 1956. All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) accords recognition to institutions imparting management and technical education.

(d) UGC has put the list of fake universities on their web-site www.ugc.ac.in. UGC has also sent communication to State Governments for taking necessary action in the matter. AICTE has also put the list of unapproved institutions on their wet-site www.aicte.ernet.in.

Foreign Aid for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

2564. SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of countries with which the Government signed agreements for financial assistance for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and District Primary Education Programme during each of the last three years and current year alongwith the amount of funds for which agreements were signed, country-wise;

(b) the amount of foreign assistance available with the Government for the said schemes till date; and

(c) the names of the State in the country where District Primary Education Programme is being implemented at present and needs to be implemented alongwith the time by when the said programme is likely to be started in the said States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) to (c) The Government of India has signed funding agreements with the World Bank, Department for International Development (DFID) of United Kingdom (UK) and the European Commission during the last 3 Years i.e. 2004-05 to 2006-07 for implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme for a total amount of Rs. 4710.00 crores. During 2007-08 an agreement with the DFID of UK has been signed for financing SSA programme to the tune of 150 million pounds from 2007-08 to 2010.

Presently, District Primary Education Programme is under implementation in Rajasthan and Orissa. This Programme is coming to end on 31.03.2008 in Rajasthan and 30.11.2008 in Orissa. The projects were for Rs. 341.50

crore and Rs. 300.83 Crore covering a period from 27.07.2001 to 31.03.2008 and from 18.09.2001 to 30.11.2008, respectively.

All States and Union Territories are presently covered under the SSA programme.

Ban on Import of Indian Produce by Russia

2565. SHRI GANESH SINGH :
SHRI PRABODH PANDA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Russian authority have put a ban on imports of plants/ agricultural products like tea, coffee, rice, tobacco etc. from India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Russian authority have detected Kharpa beetle pest in the Indian consignment of sesame seeds which has landed in Russia;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government has confirmed the report; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to lift the ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) Russia had imposed temporary restrictions on import of plant products from India w.e.f. 28.1.2008. Subsequently, due to the intervention of Government of India, the Russian side has allowed imports of Indian Tea, Coffee, Spices, tobacco and certain categories of vegetables (including onions and mushrooms) falling under specified HS codes of the Russian Federation and entering Russia through the state border points, subject to these products corresponding to the phytosanitary requirements of the Russian Federation, in packages manufactured without use of natural plant fibres.

(b) to (d) As per the Russian authorities, their experts had intercepted 'Khapra' beetle pest in a consignment of sesame seeds at the State Border point of the Russian Federation (Novorossiysk). The investigation report in respect of the reported consignment has been furnished to the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (FSVPS) of the Russian Federation. It has been informed that the phytosanitary treatment protocols had been adopted and the fumigation was carried out by an accredited agency in India as per norms and the requirements of FSVPS, and the consignment was therefore free from pests.

(e) The matter has been taken up with the Russian side through the Embassy of India, Moscow and has also been raised at higher levels in the bilateral meetings held during the visit of the Russian dignitaries to India on 12-13 February 2008 for early removal of temporary restrictions imposed on all plant products.

**Kidnapping of Students from
Arunachal Pradesh**

2566 SHRI KIREN RIJUJU :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the terrorist outfit NSCN (K) has kidnapped about 39 students from the Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh and taken them to the terrorist training camps in Myanmar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI) : (a) to (c) As per reports, 52 youths of Tirap district were abducted

by National Socialist council of Nagaland (Khaplang) on there different occasions during the month of January, 2008. Inputs indicate that out of these, 30 youths have since been released and two others escaped from the custody. The remaining 20 youths are still reported to be in their custody and have been kept in their camps in Myanmar.

State Police and Security Forces have been advised to take all possible measures against the outfit. Additional Forces have also been deployed.

The assistance of Government of Myanmar has been sought for locating the kidnapped youths.

Abhijit Sen Committee on WPI

2567. SHRI SURAJ SINGH :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Shri Abhijit Sen to study and make recommendations for computation of Wholesale Price Index (WPI);

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the date of the constitution of the said committee, its terms of reference and time frame for submitting its report;

(c) whether the said committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said committee; and

(e) the time by when these recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee was set up on the 26th December, 2003. The Working Group is entrusted, inter alia, with the responsibility of updating the base to a more recent period, enhancing the coverage of the product basket and deriving Weighting Diagram, which will reflect the structural changes that have taken place in the economy. The current tenure of the Working Group is till March 31, 2008.

(c) No, Sir, the committee has not yet submitted its report.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Setting Up of Science Parks

2568. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has provided central assistance for setting up of science parks during each of the last three years in the country and in the current year till date including Orissa;

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

(c) whether new science parks are also proposed to be set up in the country during 2008-09 including Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No, Sir. However, the Department of Science and Technology has promoted Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Parks (STEPs) established in academic institutions for nurturing entrepreneurship amongst S and T persons.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Intrusion of Nepali Maoists into India

2569. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than 500 Nepali Maoists sneaked into the Indian Territory in December, 2007, despite deployment of para military forces in the Champavat area of Uttarakhand bordering Nepal and also shouted anti-Indian slogans;

(b) if so, whether the maoists equipped with arms and weapons are intruding in large scale into Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar bordering Nepal;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these outfits are also printing fake Indian Currency notes from across Indo-Nepal border; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check such activity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) No, Sir. The Indo-Nepal border is guarded by the Shashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Indian Police, who appropriately thwart any such attempted intrusion.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There is no specific evidence to suggest this.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

New Colleges

2570. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a mechanism in the Ministry to study the growing new colleges and their utility in terms of producing quality students;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (c) For the purpose of ascertaining the standards of teaching, examination and research of a University, the University Grants Commission (UGC) causes inspection of any department or departments. To assess the quality of University/Colleges, the UGC has established National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) under Section 12 (ccc) of the UGC Act 1956.

Similarly, for technical institutions, the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) causes inspection of any department or departments of technical institution or University to ascertain the standards of teaching, examination and research. To evaluate the technical institutions or programme, the AICTE has constituted the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) under Section 10(u) of the AICTE Act 1987.

[Translation]

Implementation of CAS By Cable Operators

2571. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cable operators of four Metro cities have expressed their inability to implement the Conditional Access System (CAS);

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Government has accepted the suggestions given by the cable operators in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) No, Sir. Conditional Access System (CAS) in notified areas of metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata has been implemented since 31.12.2006 and in Chennai since 2003.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) CAS has been implemented after considering the suggestions of all the stakeholders. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has also issued interconnection regulations, quality of service regulations and tariff orders after due consultation with all stakeholders including cable operators. Government has, accordingly, amended the Cable Television Networks Rules 1994 on 31.7.2006 and specified time bound activities to be carried out by Government, TRAI, Broadcasters, Multi-system operators and cable operators, which has ensured the smooth implementation of CAS w.e.f. 31.12.2006.

[English]

Export of Marine Products

2572. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA" :
SHRI RAMESH DUBE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of exports of marine items including sharks during each of the last three years and in the current year till date item-wise;

(b) the details of forex earned during the said period;

(c) whether many countries have banned Indian marine products as these were found unhygienic;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to monitor the quantity and standard of marine product for export alongwith the steps taken to increase the share of Indian marine products in the world trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) Item wise exports of marine products including sharks in quantity and value term during last three years and 2007-2008 (upto January 2008) and the details of foreign exchange earned is at the enclosed in the Statement.

(c) and (d) No country has banned imports of marine products from India except Saudi Arabia which has banned items (other than canned/processed items), on account of

India figuring in the WHO epidemiological record as a cholera infected country;

(e) The Government has initiated several measures, including setting up of new state of art laboratories and upgrading of existing laboratories to meet the required international norms. Furthermore, several training programmes are regularly held on implementation of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Programme (HACCP) to meet the challenging international requirements. The Government has also notified limits for certain contaminants and prohibited the use of certain banned items in fish and fishery products processed in the country, at par with EU and US regulations.

Statement

Export of Marine Products

(Q: Quantity in Ton, V: Value in Rs. Crore, \$: USD Million)

Item		2007-08 (#)	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
1		2	3	4	5
Fr. Shrimp	Q:	115779	137397	145180	138085
	V:	3386.86	4506.08	4271.51	4220.67
	\$:	840.07	997.64	970.43	938.41
Fr. Fin Fish(*)	Q:	178381	270751	182344	159689
	V:	1038.72	1452.88	998.70	759.27
	\$:	259.25	321.95	225.94	168.7
Fr. Squid	Q:	24735	55701	52352	48124
	V:	301.42	797.37	575.52	477.26
	\$:	74.21	175.75	130.49	106.63
Fr. Cuttlefish	Q:	40372	47252	49651	44239

1		2	3	4	5
	V:	653.51	568.32	549.15	474.01
	\$:	162.71	126.25	124.48	104.89
Dried items	Q:	16414	24293	14167	9692
	V:	192.85	183.16	132.56	121.01
	\$:	47.98	40.75	30.03	27.09
Live items	Q:	1934	2478	2568	2262
	V:	52.56	64.06	61.71	50.75
	\$:	13.02	14.22	13.99	11.31
Chilled items	Q:	4803	7200	5060	3988
	V:	85.65	117.30	81.56	68.14
	\$:	21.38	26.63	18.40	15.16
Others	Q:	53455	67571	60841	55280
	V:	555.12	674.35	574.58	475.58
	\$:	137.47	149.72	130.46	106.29
Total	Q:	435873	612641	512164	461329
	V:	6266.69	8363.53	7245.30	6646.69
	\$:	1556.09	1852.93	1644.21	1478.48
(*) Includes Fr. Shark	Q:	36	20	7	Neg
	V:	0.57	0.03	0.08	"
	\$:	0.14	0.06	0.02	"

(#) Provisional up to January.

Flow of FDI

2573. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the progressive de-licensing of various sectors and procedural simplifications have helped the Government register phenomenal upswing in FDI inflows; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) :

(a) Yes, Sir. The policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been progressively liberalised since 1991 through a periodic review process. The present FDI policy is liberal, transparent and investor-friendly according to which FDI up to 100% is permitted on the automatic route in most sectors/activities.

(b) FDI inflows into India has risen from US\$ 2.6 billion in 2003-04 to US\$ 15.7 billion in 2006-07. During the current financial year, the FDI inflows during April-December 2007 was US\$ 12.7 billion.

[Translation]

Literacy Scheme for Tribals

2574. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of illiteracy is very high among the tribals in the country;

(b) if so, the number of illiterate tribals in the country presently, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce a literacy scheme for the tribals in view of widespread illiteracy among them;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether certain States have sent proposals for financial assistance to the Union Government for literacy Programmes among the tribal people;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) and (b) According to census 2001, literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes is 47.10%. However, literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes increased by 17.50% during 1991-2001 against the over all increase of 12.63% in the literacy rate of the country. A statement showing State-wise number of illiterate Scheduled Tribes as per census 2001 is enclosed.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Literacy programmes of National Literacy Mission are implemented for imparting literacy to all illiterates in 15-35 age group with special emphasis on disadvantaged sections of society including Tribals. Literacy programmes in tribal districts are funded in the ratio of 4:1 between Central Government and State Government as against 2:1 ratio in case of other districts.

Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, 74 districts with high tribal concentration have been identified for special focus and Rs. 1500 crore have been provided. 52 districts identified by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are receiving focused attention for girls education, infrastructure and convergence with Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Under National Programme of Education for Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGL), special focus is given for education of girls from Scheduled Tribe communities. Under Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) Schools, out of 2180 Girls residential schools at upper primary level, 457 have been sanctioned in ST blocks directly benefiting tribal girls to continue their basic education.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing the Schemes of Construction of Boys'/Girls' Hostels for STs, Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas, Educational Complex in low literacy pockets for development of women literacy among Scheduled Tribe girls. 73 Eklavya model residential schools from Class VI to Class XII are also being funded in States/UTs.

(e) to (g) Proposals received from the States for their districts are based on total number of illiterates in 15-35

age group, which includes tribals also. Based on this, so far 597 districts of the country have been covered under Total Literacy Campaign, 485 districts under Post Literacy Programme and 328 districts under Continuing Education Programme.

Statement

State-wise number of Illiterate Scheduled Tribes (7+Age Group) as per Census 2001

S. No.	India/State	Illiterates-2001 (Persons)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2,619,983
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	285,786
3.	Assam	1,033,026
4.	Bihar	433,272
5.	Chhattisgarh	2,599,576
6.	Delhi	—
7.	Goa	210
8.	Gujarat	3,222,009
9.	Haryana	—
10.	Himachal Pradesh	72,796
11.	Jharkhand	3,412,302
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	564,160
13.	Karnataka	1,512,548
14.	Kerala	112,042
15.	Madhya Pradesh	5,654,112
16.	Maharashtra	3,151,424

1	2	3
17.	Manipur	217,603
18.	Meghalaya	609,171
19.	Mizoram	74,675
20.	Nagaland	515,743
21.	Orissa	4,203,733
22.	Punjab	—
23.	Rajasthan	3,073,429
24.	Sikkim	31,405
25.	Tamil Nadu	325,122
26.	Tripura	361,522
27.	Uttar Pradesh	54,530
28.	Uttarakhand	78,472
29.	West Bengal	2,077,219
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8,514
31.	Chandigarh	—
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	63,707
33.	Daman and Diu	4,389
34.	Lakshadweep	6,712
35.	Pondicherry	—
INDIA		36,379,192

[English]

Education Cess

2575. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA :

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Education Cess collected during each of the last three years and in the current year;

(b) the amount disbursed to each State/Union Territory, out of the amount collected during the said period;

(c) the amount utilized by each State/Union Territory during the said period;

(d) the details of the balance amount remaining with the Union Government, indicating the scheme on which the said amount is likely to be utilized; and

(e) the criteria adopted for disbursement of this amount to State Government/Union Territory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) As per information furnished by Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, the amount collected on account of Education Cess @ 2% on major Central Taxes is as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. in Crores)
2004-05	4176.51
2005-06	7134.32
2006-07	9196.26
2007-08 (April-December, 2007)	3725.06 (amount collected on account of Education Cess on Direct Taxes)
2007-08 (April, 2007-January, 2008)	3646.00 (amount collected on account of Education Cess on Indirect Taxes)

(b) to (e) Education Cess is not a part of the net proceeds of the divisible pool of sharable taxes based on constitutional provisions and as per the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission. The proceeds of Education Cess credited into a non-lapsable fund called Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh (PSK) are utilized exclusively for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme. Expenditure on SSA and MDM Scheme is incurred from PSK after the funds provided by way of Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) are fully utilized. No specific allocation is made separately to States/UTs against the amount collected through Education Cess. Assistance under PSK is released to States/UTs as per the schematic pattern and budgetary allocation for SSA and MDM Scheme.

Field Trials of Genetically Modified Seeds

2576. SHRI B. MAHTAB : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether extensive Genetically Modified (GM) field Trials are going on in rice and groundnut in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the States where such field trials are being done;

(c) whether the field trials are fraught with risk leading to GM contamination of the neighboring conventional crops; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No Sir. The field trials on rice and groundnut are not extensive as they are only small trials at multi-locations to assess the yield parameters, effect on non target pests, pollen flow studies and effect on rhizosphere. These tests are for assessing the environmental safety as well as benefit analysis of the GM rice and groundnut in comparison to the conventional rice and groundnut.

(b) Field trials on transgenic rice are being conducted in an experimental area not exceeding one acre per location at Tamil Nadu (Tanjore and Coimbatore); Maharashtra (Raigad and Bhandara); West Bengal (24 South Parganas and Midnapur); Bihar (Gaya); Jharkhand (Ranchi); Karnataka (Davangere and Mandya); and Gujarat (Anand). No field trial on transgenic groundnut is being conducted.

(c) and (d) No Sir. There are standard methods of avoiding contamination specified by the regulatory system like installing physical/biological barriers around the GM crop under trial, keeping a specified isolation distance from the neighboring field and not planting such trial where related same crop of rice or groundnut is cultivated. The standard operating procedures and protocols have been specified by the regulatory system.

Poor Quality of Doordarshan Transmission

2577. SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the quality of transmission of Doordarshan is poor as compared to the transmission of private TV channels, transmitting in digital format;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to replace the existing analogue TV transmitter into digital transmitters so that multiple channels can be transmitted;

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

(d) if not, there reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide better quality of transmission on Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

(SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) to (e) Technical quality of Doordarshan transmission both in satellite and terrestrial mode is satisfactory. Private TV channels have transmission only in satellite mode and the quality of Doordarshan satellite channels, which are in digital format, is comparable to private TV channels.

Schemes for establishment of digital transmitters are included in the draft 11th Plan of Doordarshan, which has not yet been approved.

Construction of Roads along Indo-Nepal Border

2578. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to construct 850 kilometers long road along Indo-Nepal border to check illegal infiltration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also an urgent need to construct a road along Indo-Nepal border in Raxual etc. in Bihar to check illegal infiltration of Maoists etc.; and

(d) if so, measures being taken to keep a constant vigil at Indo-Nepal border in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI) : (a) to (c) A proposal for the construction of approximately 1271 Kms. length of various roads along Indo Nepal border covering States viz. Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar is under consideration in order to facilitate better communication, patrolling and to check anti-national activities. The proposal includes new roads connecting Raxaul etc. along the Indo-Nepal border.

(d) Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has been given the task to ensure the border security on the Indo-Nepal border as the Border Guarding Force. The State Governments concerned have also been sensitized in this regard. SSB

is working in close coordination with the State Governments and the respective District Administration. The Government of India is also keeping a close watch on the overall situation.

Introduction of High Order Thinking Skills by CBSE

2579. SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR :
SHRI RAKESH SINGH :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether CBSE has introduced High Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) for students appearing in Board exams this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry of Human Resource Development is aware that HOTS is causing anxiety among the students; and

(d) the remedial steps taken to ease the tension of the students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations contained in National Curriculum Framework (NCF) — 2005 on examination reforms by way of a shift from content-based testing to problem solving and competency based testing, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) made the following changes in the design of question papers this year.—

- (i) A larger number of questions with very short answers.
- (ii) About 20% questions on assessment of higher order thinking skills.
- (iii) Question papers to make good correlation between speed and accuracy.

(iv) Shift from content based testing to problem solving and competency based testing.

(c) and (d) CBSE had informed the schools about the change in the structure of the question paper in the beginning of the academic session. Sample question papers with marking scheme based on the revised design and guidelines were also made available to the schools.

In addition, 15 minutes additional time was given to the students during the examination to read question papers thoroughly. Counseling facilities through helpline programme have also been provided.

[Translation]

Indian Education Service

2580. SHRI RAKESH SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for constituting Indian Education Service; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) There is no proposal at present in view of the lack of consensus among States.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

India as a Hub of Global Car Manufacturing

2581. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has the potential of emerging as

a major designing and engineering hub for global car manufacturing; and

(b) If so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure a conducive atmosphere for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Vision of Automotive Mission Plan 2006-16 launched by the Prime Minister envisages India to emerge as the destination of choice in the world for design and manufacture of automobiles and auto components with output reaching a level of US\$145 billion, accounting for more than 10% of the GDP and providing additional employment to 25 million people by 2016. The National Automotive Testing R and D Infrastructure Project (NATRIP) is the single largest initiative taken by the Government to set up world-class automotive testing and homologation facilities in India with a total investment of Rs. 1718 crore to give Indian automotive sector an edge over the emerging automotive destinations of the world.

[Translation]

Gorkha Hill Council Bill

2582. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

SHRI M.K. SUBBA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a request from Darjeeling Region regarding "Gorkha Hill Council Bill";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT) : (a) to (c) An 'In Principle' Memorandum of Settlement (MOS) was signed on 06.12.2005 between the Government of West Bengal and Shri Subash Ghisingh, the then caretaker Administrator, Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council for creating an autonomous self governing Council under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution for the hill areas of Darjeeling District in the State of West Bengal following due consultative, legislative and constitutional processes by the State and Central Governments. In pursuance of the MOS, two Bills, namely, the Constitution (One Hundred and Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2007 and the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2007 were introduced by the Government in the Lok Sabha on 30.11.2007 for creation of a new Council, viz., Gorkha Hill Council, Darjeeling under the Sixth Schedule. The Bills were referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination. The Committee has presented its report on 28.02.2008. The matter is pending.

[English]

Infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir

2583. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rate of infiltration has come down in Jammu and Kashmir (Jammu and Kashmir) during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of infiltrators arrested during the current year; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check infiltrators in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a)

and (b) As per the available report, the details of estimated infiltration that took place in the State of Jammu and Kashmir from across the border, during the last five years are given below:—

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
No. of estimated infiltration	1373	537	597	573	535

(c) No infiltrator has been apprehended while infiltrating to the State during current year till January.

(d) The Government in tandem with the State Government, have adopted a multi-pronged approach, to contain cross-border infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir, which includes, inter-alia, strengthening of border management and multi-tiered and multi-modal deployment along International Border/Line of Control and near the ever changing infiltration routes, construction of border fencing, improved technology, weapons and equipment for security forces, improved intelligence and operational coordination and synergizing intelligence flow to check infiltration and pro-active action against the terrorists within the State. The counter infiltration efforts are reviewed periodically at various levels in the State Government (including the two Unified Headquarters headed by the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir) and in the Central Government.

Indian Science Congress

2584. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :

SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY :

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

(a) whether the Ninety-fifth Indian Science Congress was held in January, 2008;

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

(c) whether the Government has allocated any funds for the implementation of plans and programmes discussed in the said conference; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the session, various issues were discussed which include (1) Biotechnology for well-being of all (2) Space Technology for knowledge (3) Biodiversity (4) Transportation (5) Genomics and Society (6) Nanotechnology (7) Evergreen Revolution (8) Coping with water scarcity (9) Renewable Energy (10) Science Education Content, Presentation and Purpose (11) Technology challenges for Domestic Water Security in Rural India (12) Bioinformatics (13) Sustainability Science (14) Oceanography and Ocean Technology (15) Current status of Viral Diseases and Control, Novel Management Strategies (16) Public/Private/Industry interaction (17) Defence Science and Technologies (18) Bio-models in Medical Research (19) Stem Cells and Gene therapy (20) E-learning, E-Governance and Tele-Medicine (21) Science Promotion: International Collaboration (22) India's Energy Security (23) Science for School children. Suggestions emerged on Food and Nutrition Security, Gender Justice and Gender equality, water security, Biotechnology, Climate change and Sea Level rise, Energy, Mass transportation, etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Housing Scheme for Salt Workers

2585. DR. K. DHANARAJU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any housing scheme is being run for salt workers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount granted to each worker under this scheme during each of the last three years;

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase the amount to Rs. 75,000 per worker; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) :

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of India had sanctioned a Central Sector Plan Scheme in the 10th Five Year Plan "Namak Mazdoor Awas Yojana" to provide financial assistance for the construction of dwelling units for the salt workers. All bonafide salt workers who are not owning a house or who have not availed financial assistance from any other scheme for construction of dwelling units are eligible for assistance under this scheme. The cost of each dwelling unit is Rs. 50,000/- which includes Rs. 10,000/- as cost of infrastructure facilities. 90% financial assistance is extended by the Government of India and balance 10% is met by the beneficiaries/State Governments/Stakeholders/NGOs, etc.

The outlay for this scheme during the 10th Five Year Plan was Rs. 24.75 crore, out of which Government of India's contribution is Rs. 22.50 crore.

The amount is released in favour of the State Government concerned who execute work either through N.G.O. or salt workers.

(d) and (e) The on-going scheme is under evaluation. Decision regarding continuation of the scheme, its nature, scope and amount of assistance will be taken after receipt of evaluation report.

Radio Channels

2586. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of Radio Channels has increased considerably;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last

three years State and Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether the number of Radio listeners has also increased proportionately;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Radio Channels are being used to popularize local governance as recommended by the Administrative Reforms Commission; and

(f) if so, the details of Broadcasts and duration devoted for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

(SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. On 31st March, 2004, there were 214 All India Radio (AIR) Stations and 336 transmitters. As on date, there are 231 AIR Stations and 372 transmitters. The details of AIR Stations are enclosed as Statement-I.

Also, Government had introduced a Policy of expansion of FM Radio through Private Agencies in 1999. 21 Channels were operationalised under the Scheme. Subsequently, a new Policy of expansion of FM Radio through Private Agencies was notified in 2005 and permission for operationalization of 245 Channels was granted under this Scheme. As on date, 205 FM Channels are operational. Details of Private FM Channels are enclosed as Statement-II.

(c) and (d) According to the All India Radio Survey conducted during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2006-07, AIR listenership was 310 million, 340 million and 357 million respectively. This clearly indicates increasing trend of listenership/listeners of AIR. No specific study has been undertaken by the Government with regard to listenership of FM Radio Channels.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. AIR Channels are being used to publicize the success stories regarding Local Governance recommended by Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussorie. About 30 AIR Stations are

broadcasting programmes based on the success stories as recommended and each Station is devoting 20 to 35 minutes for each programme. On an average, 10 to 20 programmes are being broadcast every month covering this issue.

In December, 2006, Government has formulated a

new Policy on Community Radio with a view to allow greater participation by the Civil Society on the issues relating to development and social change. The Community Radios can work as powerful means for rural employment and may be effectively used for dissemination of information regarding various Scheme and Policy of the Government.

Statement-I

New Transmitters commissioned during last three years

S. No.	Place	Project	Date of Commissioning
1	2	3	4

TRANSMITTERS COMMISSIONED DURING 2004-05

1	Kupwara (Jammu and Kashmir)	20 KW MW Tr. (Rely) and S Qtr.	25.05.2004
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TRANSMITTERS COMMISSIONED DURING 2005-06

1	Saraipalli (Chhattisgarh)	1 KW FM Tr. studio and S/qtrs (LRS).	18.06.2005
2	Mandla (Madhya Pradesh)	1 KW FM Tr. studio and S/qtrs (LRS).	21.06.2005
3	Himmatnagar (Gujarat)	1 KW MW Tr. studio and S/qtrs (LRS).	21.06.2005
4	Rajgarh (Madhya Pradesh)	3 KW FM Tr. studio and S/qtrs (LRS).	23.06.2005
5	Portblair (Andaman and Nicobar Island)	10 KW FM Tr. and stereo studio	22.06.2005
6	Agartala (Tripura)	10 KW FM Tr. and stereo studio (interim setup)	15.08.2005
7	Imphal (Manipur)	10 KW FM Tr. and stereo studio (interim setup)	June, 05
8	Shimla (Himachal Pradesh)	1 KW FM Tr. (Interim-set up)	09.07.2005
9	Gulbarga (Karnataka)	1 KW FM Tr. (Interim set up)	15.08.2005
10	Madurai (Tamilnadu)	1 KW FM Tr. (Interim set up)	15.08.2005
11	Aurangabad (Maharashtra)	1 KW FM Tr. (Interim set up)	15.08.2005
12	Rohtak (Haryana)	1 KW FM Tr. (Interim set up)	15.08.2005

1	2	3	4
13	Udaipur (Rajasthan)	1 KW FM Tr. (Interim set up)	15.08.2005
14	Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh)	1 KW FM Tr. (Interim set up)	02.09.2005
15	Yerkaud (Tamilnadu)	100 W FM Tr. (LPT Relay Centre)	20.07.2005
16	Kurseong (West Bengal)	5 KW FM Tr. (Addl Ch.)	25.12.2005
17	Darjeeling (West Bengal)	100 W FM Tr. (LPT Relay Centre)	27.12.2005
18	Deogarh (Orissa)	100 W FM Tr. (LPT Relay Centre)	23.12.2005
19	Shillong (Meghalaya)	10 KW FM Tr. and stereo studio	27.12.2005
20	Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	5 KW FM Tr. (2nd Ch.)	25.12.2005
21	Manjeri (Kerala)	3 KW FM Tr. studio and S/qtrs (LRS).	28.01.2006

TRANSMITTERS COMMISSIONED DURING 2006-07

1	Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh)	1 KW FM Tr. (Interim set up)	17.06.2006
2	Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)	1 KW FM Tr. (Interim set up)	11.07.2006
3	Kargil (Jammu and Kashmir)	200 KW MW Tr.	01.09.2006
4	Drass (Jammu and Kashmir)	1 KW MW Tr. and S/qtrs (Relay).	01.09.2006
5	Tiesuru (Jammu and Kashmir)	1 KW MW Tr. and S/qtrs (Relay).	01.09.2006

TRANSMITTERS COMMISSIONED DURING 2007-08

1	Baripada (Orissa)	5 KW FM Tr. (Rep. of 1 KW MW Tr.)	01.09.2007
2	Kohima (Nagaland)	1 KW FM Tr. (Interim set up)	02.10.2007
3	Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh)	10 KW FM Tr. and stereo studio	02.10.2007
4	Aizawi (Mizoram)	6 KW FM Tr. and stereo studio	02.10.2007
5	Dharmapuri (TN)	10 KW FM Tr. (Interim set up)	02.10.2007
6	Nyoma (Jammu and Kashmir)	Relay Centre with 1 KW MW Tr.	02.10.2007
7	Diskit (Jammu and Kashmir)	Relay Centre with 1 KW MW Tr.	02.10.2007

1	2	3	4
8	Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)	1 KW FM Tr. (Interim set up)	02.10.2007
9	Aurangabad (Bihar)	100 Watt LPT Relay Centre	23.10.2007
10	Soro (Orissa)	1 KW MW Tr.	02.12.2007
11	Pondicherry	5 KW FM Tr.	02.12.2007
12	Macherla (Andhra Pradesh)	3 KW FM Tr.	02.12.2007

Note : 3 MW Transmitters were decommissioned as these were replaced by FM transmitters

Statement-II

List of Operationalised Pvt. FM Radio Stations in India

S. No.	State/UT	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	4	8	13
2.	Assam	0	0	3	3
3.	Bihar	0	0	2	2
4.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	4	4
5.	Delhi	3	4	1	8
6.	Goa	0	0	3	3
7.	Gujarat	1	11	0	12
8.	Haryana	0	3	3	6
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	2	0	2
10.	Jharkhand	0	0	6	6
11.	Karnataka	1	6	3	10
12.	Kerala	0	0	13	13

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1	0	12	13
14.	Maharashtra	5	2	12	19
15.	Meghalaya	0	0	1	1
16.	Orissa	0	0	5	5
17.	Pondicherry	0	0	3	3
18.	Punjab	0	2	10	12
19.	Rajasthan	0	6	14	20
20.	Tamil Nadu	4	5	12	21
21.	Tripura	0	0	1	1
22.	Uttar Pradesh	1	3	13	17
23.	West Bengal	4	2	5	11
Total		21 *	50	134	205

*Operationalised prior to 2005-06

Industrial Parks

2587. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Industrial Parks set up in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government is contemplating to set up more Industrial Parks in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) :

(a) State-wise approvals given under the Industrial Park Scheme during each of the last three years is in the enclosed as Statement.

(b) and (c) Government of India does not set up Industrial Parks. The parks are set up by developers who are eligible for 100% Income Tax exemption for 10 years as per Section 80 IA of Income Tax Act, 1961 under the Industrial Park Scheme.

Statement

State-wise details of approvals given under the Industrial Park Scheme during each of the last three years

Sl. No.	State	Number of approvals given			
		2005	2006	2007	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	8	3	17
2.	Gujarat	3	—	—	3
3.	Haryana	—	1	—	1
4.	Karnataka	18	7	1	26
5.	Maharashtra	32	4	1	37
6.	Pondicherry	—	—	1	1
7.	Punjab	1	—	—	1

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Rajasthan	14	58	6	78
9.	Tamil Nadu	1	6	—	7
10.	Uttar Pradesh	1	1	—	2
11.	Uttaranchal	2	3	1	6
12.	West Bengal	1	1	—	2
Total		79	89	13	181

[Translation]

Quality Control Norms on Small Industries Products

2588. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI :
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether environment friendly and quality control rules are enforced on small scale Sector with regard to sale of the items manufactured by them in the international market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance provided for the development of small scale industries by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Several environmental and quality standards are applicable to various products for sale in the international market. They vary from product to product and country to country and are applicable to all products whether manufactured by micro and small enterprises or otherwise. The globally accepted Quality and Environmental Management Standards are ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 series respectively.

(c) The Government provides various types of assistance to the micro and small enterprises (MSEs) in the areas of credit, technology and quality up-gradation, marketing, infrastructure development, etc., by implementing several schemes and programmes. Some of the major schemes implemented for the promotion and development of MSEs are Credit Guarantee Scheme, Performance and Credit Rating Scheme, Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme, ISO 9001/14001 Certification Scheme, Cluster Development Programme, Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme, etc.

Earthquake Prone Areas

2589. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO : Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the earthquake prone areas have been classified into many categories in the country;

(b) if so, the norms adopted for the classification;

(c) the earthquake resistant measures taken by the Government during each of the last three years, category-wise; and

(d) the details of the allocation made and expenditure incurred by the Government in this regard during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) These areas have been classified based on the past earthquake history particularly in terms of occurrences, frequencies and intensities over different regions of the country. The Bureau of Indian Standards has divided the country broadly into four seismic zones i.e., Zone-II, Zone-III, Zone-IV and Zone-V on the basis of scientific data, in addition to historical data. Zone V is considered to be the most seismically active region while Zone-II is the least.

(c) Detailed mapping of the specific areas with

information on different parameters related to geology, geomorphology, land use, land cover, ground response spectra, basement configurations and landslide hazard, peak ground acceleration etc. need to be generated for seismic micro-zonation, so as to evolve earthquake resistant development plans within the broad zones of seismic hazard. Earthquake Risk Evaluation Center (EREC) is created in the India Meteorological Department (IMD) for generating such scientific inputs for mitigating seismic hazards. Several R & D programmes in seismology were also launched for generating specific inputs for generating urban scale seismic hazard within the broad zones of seismic hazard.

Further, several capacity building initiatives are taken by various ministries of Government of India for moving towards seismic safety regime. Some of them are:

(i) Launch of Urban Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction Project (UEVRP) in 38 cities with the population more than 5 lakhs.

(ii) Operating two Programmes for Engineers and Architects called "National Programme for Engineers in Earthquake Risk Management" and "National Programme for Capacity Building for Architects in Earthquake Management" by associating with IITs, NIT and Indian Institute of Architects.

(iii) Launch of National Programme on Earthquake Engineering Education (NPEEE) for strengthening the resource institutions in the field of improved earthquake engineering research facilities and laboratory equipments.

All these initiatives are aimed at reducing the vulnerability to earthquakes through preparation of response plans at various levels by training of architects and engineers in evolving overall earthquake resistant safe construction practices in the country.

(d) During past 3 years, a sum of Rs. 2.3 crores

has been utilized by Ministry of Earth Sciences for generating appropriate scientific inputs for seismic hazard assessment. Also, for the promotion of R & D in the areas of earthquake science and for generating specific inputs for urban scale seismic hazard assessment, funds to the tune of Rs. 4.0 crores have been utilized.

[English]

Evaluation of NCERT Books

2590. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are various factual mistakes in the textbooks of different classes printed and published by the NCERT;

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

(c) whether the Government has set up any evaluation committee to look into the issue and monitor such incidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is not aware of any factual mistakes in the textbooks that it has published.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) NCERT makes efforts to maintain high quality in preparation of textbooks and also to ensure that its textbooks are free of factual errors. However, if any printing or typographical or other errors are noticed, these are rectified from time to time in reprint editions.

Export of Indian Toys

2591. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's share in the International Toy Market is negligible;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide incentives/assistance to the domestic toys industry to increase India's export of toys in the International markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (c) India's share in global toys market is 0.05%. Most of the units operating in this sector are micro and small enterprises. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises is implementing programs for the micro and small enterprises including toys industry. Such programs, inter-alia, include assistance for participation in international exhibition/fairs, reimbursement for obtaining bar code certification, organizing training programmes for packaging for exports, assistance for technology upgradation under Credit Linked capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS), incentives for obtaining ISO/9000-14001 etc. Testing facilities have been created at Regional Testing Centers at New Delhi and Mumbai. Besides, financial assistance is also provided to toy exporters for participation in international fairs and Buyers — Sellers Meets (BSMs) etc. through Sports Goods Export Promotion Council (SGEPC).

Cashew Export

2592. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) India's position in cashew export in the world

during the last three years and in the current year, till date, country-wise;

(b) whether India is the largest producer, importer, processor and exporter of cashew in the world;

(c) the names of the countries competing with India in cashew foreign trade; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to bring India to the top position in cashew export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) India is the largest exporter of cashew kernels in the world. The global export of cashew kernels for the last three years are as given below:—

Countries/ Year	2005	2006	2007	2008
	M.T	M.T	M.T	(Jan and Feb) M.T.
India	118805	117325	115265	16812
Brazil	46494	52164	63504	N.A.
Vietnam	104000	97751	103421	N.A.
Others	N.A.	5217	10887	N.A.
Total	269299	272457	293077	

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, India is the largest producer, importer, processor and exporter of cashew in the world. The main countries competing with India in cashew are Vietnam and Brazil.

(d) The Government through Cashew EPC undertakes various export promotion programmes like participation in International food fairs, International conventions and Seminars, sponsoring trade delegations, market surveys, disseminating trade enquiries, market information, publishing statistics, journals, etc. organizing Buyer Seller

Meets and implementing schemes for assisting exporters to improve quality of cashew kernels exported etc. under the MDA, MAI, ASIDE and Five year Plan Schemes of the G.O.I. These would help the Indian cashew exporters to improve the quality of their products on par with international standards and to obtain more enquiries for their products, thereby increasing our exports from India.

Norms for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

2593. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request has been received by the Union Government from State Governments for relaxing the norms for the implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA);

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

(c) the response of the Government and steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) to (c) The Framework for implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has been amended in relation to the priorities of the XIth Plan period especially for quality improvement and equity, as well as due to cost escalations.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Explosives and Narcotics

2594. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA :

SHRI HEMLAL MURMU :

SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE :

SHRI AMITAVA NANDY :

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of smuggling of arms, ammunitions, explosives and narcotics etc. into the country from various countries including Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar have come to the notice of the Government as reported in *Metro Now* dated 23.02.2008 and in *Dainik Jagaram* dated 16.02.2008.

(b) if so, the total number of such cases registered alongwith the quantum of these items seized during each of the last three years and in the current year as on date, item-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether any reports of smuggling of drugs and explosives by foreign nationals have come to the notice of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof, countrywise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to curb such instances of smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI) : (a) Yes Sir, the reports relate to smuggling of arms and seizure of explosives.

(b) Details are given in enclosed statement-I

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, a number of foreign nationals have been arrested for involvement in trafficking of narcotics drugs. Details are given in enclosed statement-II.

(e) The following steps are being taken by the Government to curb such instances of smuggling:

(i) Effective domination of the Border by carrying out round the clock surveillance of the border patrolling and by deploying observation posts all along the International Border.

(ii) Erection of fencing along the international border.

(iii) Flood lighting of the border to enhance the observation.

(iv) Construction of border Roads to facilitate border patrolling.

(v) Introduction of modern and hi-tech surveillance equipments.

(vi) Upgradation of intelligence network and coordination with sister agencies under the umbrella of leading intelligence agencies meetings which are held at functional and directional level. Proper coordination is also being maintained with Army police/locals.

(vii) Conduct of special operations along the borders.

Statement-I

Number of claimed Seizures of Arms/Ammunition/Explosives and Narcotics

2005

State	Indo-Bangladesh Border				Indo-Pak Border				
	Arms	Amn.	Explosives	Narcotics	State	Arms	Amn.	Explosives	Narcotics
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8	9
West Bengal	12	.05	05	15	Gujarat	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8	9
Assam	02	—	—	07	Rajasthan	01	02	01	01
Meghalaya	03	02	—	01	Punjab	03	03	—	03
Tripura	07	07	—	12	Jammu and Kashmir	27	31	07	—
Mizoram	—	—	—	—					
Total	24	14	05	35		31	36	08	04

2006

West Bengal	08	04	01	86	Gujarat	—	—	—	—
Assam	01	01	—	29	Rajasthan	02	01	—	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—	40	Punjab	05	03	—	01
Tripura	10	01	02	119	Jammu and Kashmir	11	01	—	01
Mizoram	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—
Total	19	06	03	274		18	05	—	02

2007

West Bengal	42	07	—	11	Gujarat	—	—	—	—
Assam	04	—	—	03	Rajasthan	02	01	01	01
Meghalaya	—	—	—	07	Punjab	08	02	—	02
Tripura	18	12	—	18	Jammu and Kashmir	12	11	02	01
Mizoram	—	—	—	—					
Total	64	19	—	39		22	14	03	04

2008 (upto 29th February)

West Bengal	01	—	—	36	Gujarat	—	—	—	—
Assam	01	01	—	06	Rajasthan	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8	9
Meghalaya	—	—	—	06	Punjab	01	01	—	01
Tripura	01	—	—	58	Jammu and Kashmir	01	01	—	—
Mizoram	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—
Total	03	01	—	106		02	02	—	01

Statement-II

As per the reports received in the Bureau, the details of foreign nationals arrested throughout India under the provisions of the NDPS Act, 1985, country-wise during 2005-2007 are as under

(Provisional)

S. No.	Nationality	Persons arrested		
		2005	2006	2007
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Austria	1	1	0
2.	Australia	0	1	1
3.	Afghanistan	0	2	5
4.	Bangladesh	0	1	0
5.	Bahamas	0	1	0
6.	Brazil	0	1	0
7.	Burundi	0	0	1
8.	Canada	1	6	2
9.	Congo	0	1	1
10.	China	0	6	0

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Cameroon	0	1	0
12.	Czech Republic	1	0	0
13.	Finland	0	1	0
14.	France	1	2	3
15.	Germany	3	2	3
16.	Gambia	1	0	0
17.	Ghana	1	2	0
18.	Guine Bissau	0	0	1
19.	Israel	8	4	0
20.	Italy	5	2	3
21.	Iran	0	3	3
22.	Indonesia	0	2	1
23.	Ivory Coast	1	0	3
24.	Japan	0	4	1
25.	Kenya	2	2	1
26.	Liberia	1	1	0
27.	Maxico	0	0	1

1	2	3	4	5
28.	Malawi	0	0	1
29.	Malaysia	1	0	0
30.	Myanmar	42	20	22
31.	Namibia	0	0	1
32.	Maldives	0	0	1
33.	Netherland	0	1	0
34.	Nepal	13	58	43
35.	Nigeria	41	52	51
36.	Pakistan	1	9	1
37.	Phillippines	0	1	0
38.	Palestine	0	0	2
39.	Russia	2	1	0
40.	Sierra Leone	0	1	0
41.	Singapore	1	1	2
42.	South Africa	5	4	1
43.	Swetzerland	0	1	0
44.	Srilanka	22	23	9
45.	Tanzania	11	7	2
46.	Thailand	0	1	3
47.	Uganda	1	0	1
48.	United Kingdom	6	2	1
49.	USA	1	2	1
50.	Zambia	0	2	1
Total		173	232	173

*[English]***Bangladeshi Infiltration**

2595. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY :

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :

SHRI KIREN RIJUJU :

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to detect the presence of Bangladeshi Nationals in the country, who infiltrated illegally;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the intelligence department have reported that Assam is likely to become a training centre of Bangladeshi Terrorist Organisation (HUJI) due to constant infiltration from Bangladesh;

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

(e) the total number of infiltrators arrested/killed by the security forces at the borders during each of the last three years and in the current year as on date alongwith the quantum of items seized from the infiltrators; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to identify those points where there is massive infiltration alongwith the steps taken to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There are reports that some insurgent groups from the North Eastern Region particularly United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) have links with Pakistan ISI and certain other fundamentalist/terrorist organizations such as Bangladesh based Herkat-ul-Jehad Islami (HUJI),

which in turn is reported to have links with Pakistan based terrorist groups and Pakistan ISI. Concerted and focused Counter Insurgency measures have been taken by the Police and Security Forces/Agencies against militant outfits including ULFA resulting in significant successes including the arrest of number of important functionaries of the outfits. Intensive Counter Insurgency operation against ULFA and other armed insurgent groups continue to be pursued.

The Government during bilateral talks with Bangladesh have inter-alia emphasized the need for effective action against fundamentalist/terrorist organizations reported to be based there.

(e) The information in respect of apprehension of foreign intruders and seizure of contraband, arms and ammunition during the last three years is as under:-

Apprehension of foreign intruders

Year	Total apprehended
2005	6384
2006	5131
2007	4206
2008 (Till February)	602

Seizure of contraband, arms and ammunition

Year	Contraband (in Rs.)	Arms (in Nos.)	Ammunition (in Nos.)
2005	94,59,69,972	38	477
2006	107,81,34,794	48	327
2007	119,08,22,776	65	1679
2008 (Till February)	14,00,92,735	04	2

(f) The Government of India has taken several measures to check infiltration across the borders, which inter-alia includes round the clock surveillance and patrolling on the borders and establishment of observation posts; construction of border fencing and flood lighting; introduction of modern and hi-tech surveillance equipment; upgradation of intelligence set up and coordination with the State Governments and concerned intelligence agencies.

Surrogate Advertisement

2596. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to take action against tobacco and liquor companies indulging in 'surrogate' advertising in print, electronic and outdoor media; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) Yes Sir,

(b) This Ministry has recently issued a Notification dated 25.02.2008 amending the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 to the effect that no advertisement shall be permitted which promotes directly or indirectly production, sale or consumption of cigarettes, tobacco products, wine, alcohol, liquor or other intoxicants. Failure to comply will entail action as per the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder.

As far as the press in India is concerned, it is free from Government control. The Press Council of India, a statutory autonomous body, have laid down Norms for Journalistic Conduct under Article 13(2)(b) of the Press Council Act 1987 stating that — No advertisement shall be published, which promotes directly or indirectly production, sale or consumption of cigarettes, tobacco products, wine, alcohol, liquor or other intoxicants

Evaluation of Technical Education

2597. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the AICTE has made any evaluation of the present level of technical education in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the technical courses being offered in the country are at par with international standards;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the quality of technical education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) and (b) The National Board of Accreditation, set up under the AICTE Act, accredits programmes of technical education after assessing their quality.

(c) and (d) There are no uniquely defined "international standards" in regard to technical education courses.

(e) The XI Five Year Plan envisages several steps for improvement of quality technical education, including setting up more institutions like IITs and IIMs, and improvements in curricula, pedagogy, accreditation and evaluation system, and faculty development programmes.

Export of Rice

2598. ADV. SURESH KURUP :
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRAKUMAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has permitted the STC and MMTC to export rice, other than Basmati during

each of the last three years and in the current year, till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the countries to which export has been permitted;

(c) whether India is losing its rice market in Saudi Arabia to the United States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to boost the export of rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) The export of non-basmati rice during the last three years and upto 8th October 2007 of the current year were freely allowed. Thereafter till 31st October, 2007, non-basmati rice exports were banned. Subsequently, non-basmati rice exports have been subject to a Minimum Export Price that is currently US\$ 650 per ton FOB.

(c) and (d) No Sir. India's share in Saudi Arabia's rice imports in 2005 was 68.9%, whereas in 2006 it reached 73.6%. The US exports to Saudi Arabia has remained at 7.9% during 2005 and 2006. Thus, India's share in rice market in Saudi Arabia has increased over the years.

(e) The Government, in general, has been promoting exports of rice directly and through statutory bodies like APEDA. In order to boost exports, the Government provides various incentives through APEDA for infrastructure, development, quality control, market development and promotion, packaging, publicity, information dissemination etc. However, from 9th October, 2007, certain restrictions have been imposed on rice exports to shore up the domestic availability.

Threats of Laskar-e-Toiba

2599. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh and Junagadh in Gujarat are the targets of Lashkar-e-Toiba as per the intelligence reports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to deal with the activities of LeT in the country particularly in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) According to available information, there are no specific inputs at present regarding any specific threat of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) to target Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh and Junagadh in Gujarat.

(c) Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) is a terrorist organization banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The action taken by the Government to counter terrorism and check the activities of terrorist groups include intensive patrolling and surveillance on the borders; checking infiltration; deployment of Central Forces to aid the State Police Forces in areas prone to terrorist violence; heightened vigil and security arrangements in and around vital installations; strengthening of arrangements and mechanism for intelligence gathering; regular sharing of intelligence with the State Governments and among the agencies; assistance for raising of India Reserve Battalions in the States; upgradation and modernization of equipments and weapons, etc. of the Central Para-Military forces; and action at the international level, through bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation in the sphere of counter terrorism.

Village Education Committees

2600. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRAKUMAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Village Education Committees have been constituted all over the country to monitor the quality

and performance of schools in imparting education as envisaged in the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the States/Union Territories where Village Education Committees have not been constituted; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to constitute such Committees in these States/Union Territories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) to (d) The SSA framework for implementation emphasizes decentralization and delegation to the grass-root level in order to ensure community based implementation and ownership of schools. Through this community-based approach, planning at habitation level, monitoring of school activities and a number of interventions are to be carried out by the Village Education Committees (VECs) or its equivalent.

Almost all States/UTs have constituted VECs under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. However, the nomenclature for the community level structure varies from State to State including the size, tenure as well as its pattern.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Funds under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

2601. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Government including Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have failed to utilise the funds allocated by the Union Government under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) as reported in 'Dainik Jagran' dated February 24, 2008;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the extent to which education of children between the age of 6-14 has been affected by under-utilisation of funds, State and Union Territory-wise;

(e) whether the Government proposes to impose penalty on the State Governments which are not implementing SSA effectively; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) to (f) The overall utilization of funds under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in 35 States/UTs as on 31.12.2007 was 61% of funds available. The States of Bihar and UP utilized 46% and 76% of available funds, respectively. All the States/UTs have been advised to utilize the full amount by the end of the current financial year. The number of out of School Children which was reportedly 1.34 crores during 2005-06 has come down to 76 lakhs approximately in 2007. Funds released under the SSA to States/UTs by Government of India are based on performance and requirement.

[English]

Setting Up of Indian Institute of Science

2602. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any norms and criteria for selection of places to establish Indian Institute of Science in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Gujarat State falls under the norms;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government proposes to establish a number of Indian Institute of Science in the country during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(f) if so, the details alongwith the places where these are likely to be established, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (f) The Government of India has set up three Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) at Pune, Kolkata and Mohali and is establishing two more IISERs at Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram. These Institutes have been set up on the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, and in such a manner that they are distributed in all broad regions of the country. Gujarat falls in the western region for which an IISER has been established at Pune. At present, there is no proposal to set up more IISERs.

Revival Package for Tea Plantations

2603. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA :
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received proposals for revival/taking over of closed/abandoned tea plantations from various States including Kerala and West Bengal;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (c) With a view to revive the closed/abandoned tea gardens, 33 in number as on 1.4.2007, Government recently announced a

rehabilitation package. 17 of these gardens are in Kerala, 14 in West Bengal and 2 in Assam. The package provides for re-structuring of the outstanding bank loans, waiver of Tea Board loans and extension of fresh working capital from banks with interest subsidy from Government and other admissible assistance under various plan schemes of the Tea Board. So far 11 closed tea gardens have reopened.

The Government has decided to invoke Section 16 E of the Tea Act for change in management of the gardens that do not reopen. This process has already started and public notice has been issued in respect of four gardens as of now.

[Translation]

Inquiry on Ayodhya Attack

2604. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has completed the inquiry into the terrorist attack on Ayodhya;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the terrorist outfits found involved in the said attacks alongwith the steps taken against them by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) As per available information, charge sheets have been filed against the arrested accused in the Court of Addl. District Session Judge-2, Allahabad on 15.10.2005 and 24.3.2006 for the trial of the accused.

(c) Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) are suspected to be involved in the said attack. The action taken by the Government to counter terrorism and check the activities of terrorist groups inter-alia, include intensive patrolling and surveillance on the borders; checking infiltration; deployment of Central Forces to aid the State Police Forces in areas prone to terrorist violence,

heightened vigil and security arrangements in and around vital installations; strengthening of arrangements and mechanism for intelligence gathering; regular sharing of intelligence with the State Governments and among the agencies; assistance for raising of India Reserve Battalions in the States; upgradation and modernization of equipments and weapons, etc. of the Central Para-Military forces; and action at the international level, through bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation in the sphere of counter terrorism.

[English]

Minerals from Polymetallic Nodules

2605. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether many essential minerals including Gas Hydrates can be extracted from the polymetallic nodules found on the ocean floor;

(b) if so, whether preliminary assessment of geological condition has been done;

(c) if so, the results of this assessment;

(d) whether the assistance of any developed nation is likely to be taken at the initial stages of this exploration;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to explore the possibility of such extraction?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Important metals viz. copper, nickel, cobalt and manganese can be extracted from the polymetallic nodules found on the ocean floor. However, polymetallic nodules do not contain any gas hydrates.

(b) and (c) Comprehensive assessment of the potential resources of polymetallic nodules was carried out in the

Area allocated to India in Central Indian Ocean Basin. The polymetallic nodules are strewn on the ocean bed in this area, at a water depth ranging from 4 km to 6 km. On the basis of the exploration, 380.00 million tonnes of polymetallic nodules are estimated to be lying in this area measuring 75000 square km.

(d) No, Sir. India is one of the leading countries in this field and there is no plan to take assistance of any developed nation.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The Ministry of Earth Sciences has successfully commissioned a semi-continuous pilot plant with a capacity to process 500 kg per day of polymetallic nodules in 2002 and demonstrated extraction of Copper, Nickel and Cobalt from the nodules. The production of industry grade ferrosilico-manganese ore from the residue obtained from the HZL plant has also been demonstrated.

[Translation]

Violation of Guidelines by Private Schools

2606. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private schools in Delhi which were allotted land by Government agencies are not fulfilling the condition of providing reservation for children belonging to economically weaker sections;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of such schools;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether any direction has been given by the High Court of Delhi in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken to implement the directions of High Court in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) to (c) The list of private schools in Delhi violating the conditions for providing reservation for children belonging to economically weaker section during the academic year 2007-08 is yet to be prepared by the Government of NCT of Delhi.

(d) to (f) Following an interim order of the High Court of Delhi, the Education Department of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi had issued orders on 25-01-2007 regarding provision of free seats to the extent of not less than twenty per cent of total seats, for students belonging to economically weaker section in unaided recognized private schools imparting education in Delhi, which have been allotted land by the Government Agencies, such as Delhi Development Authority, Land and Development Office and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, etc. The High Court of Delhi in its interim order dated 30.5.2007 has directed that subject to an undertaking to be furnished to Court, the institutions "shall admit students of the weaker sections of the society as defined in the impugned notification dated 25th January 2007 to the extent of minimum 10% plus 5% less wards of teaching and non-teaching staff employed in the school for the academic session 2008-09". Schools which do not furnish the undertaking are governed in accordance with the notification dated 25.1.2007. The matter is presently subjudice.

[English]

Export of Medicines

2607. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of medicines has declined after the adoption of product patent system of drugs in the country;

(b) if so, the quantity and value of medicines exported during the last three years and in the current year till date;

(c) the percentage of increase/decrease registered during 2007-2008 as compared to previous year; and

(d) the names of the medicines affected due to introduction of product patent system in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (d) Except for a few medicines, the adoption of product patent system of drugs has not affected the export of medicines in the country as of now.

(b) and (c) The export of Drugs and Pharmaceuticals during the last three years and in the current year is as follows:—

(Amt. in Crores of Rupees)

2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	April 2007 — Oct. 07
17857.80	22115.72	24942.08	14751.28

(Source: DGCI and S)

As may be seen, the exports have shown an upward trend.

Out of School Children

2608. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study to find out the number of children between the age of 6 and 14 who are out of school;

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

(c) the number of such children at the beginning of the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(d) the allocation made during the Tenth Plan period for bringing all out of school children into mainstream; and

(e) the amount spent during the Tenth Plan for the purpose and the percentage of children covered during that period in each State/Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) to (c) The States/UTs on the basis of household surveys/update identify out of school children, on an annual basis, The number of out of school children has declined from 320 lakhs in 2002 to 75.97 lakhs as on March, 2007 in 6-14 years age group. The State-wise details of out of school children as on March, 2007 as per the State reports, is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(d) and (e) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a programme for Universalization of Elementary Education, wherein interalia, one of the goals of the SSA is to bring all children in school/Education Guarantee Centre/Alternative schooling system. State-wise details of total central Government releases under the SSA and expenditure incurred during 10th Plan Period is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Out of school children (OOSC)

Sl. No.	Name of State	March 2007
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	133
2.	Andhra Pradesh	264013
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	30565
4.	Assam	338834

1	2	3
5. Bihar		2119584
6. Chandigarh UT		5505
7. Chhattisgarh		123632
8. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		1614
9. Daman and Diu		201
10. Delhi		30001
11. Goa		7699
12. Gujarat		134643
13. Haryana		238847
14. Himachal Pradesh		5624
15. Jammu and Kashmir		108560
16. Jharkhand		209662
17. Karnataka		174533
18. Kerala		20790
19. Lakshadweep		168
20. Madhya Pradesh		296979
21. Maharashtra		136892
22. Manipur		54351
23. Meghalaya		37234
24. Mizoram		4913
25. Nagaland		35335
26. Orissa		537841
27. Pondicherry		326

1	2	3
28. Punjab		227645
29. Rajasthan		163894
30. Sikkim		3204
31. Tamilnadu		103261
32. Tripura		15376
33. Uttar Pradesh		785524
34. Uttarakhand		22230
35. West Bengal		1357601
Grand Total		7597214

Statement-II

(Rupees in lakhs)

10th Plan

Sl. No.	Name of State	Releases by Central Government	Expenditure (including State Share)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	130355.07	180674.69
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16682.6	18729.73
3.	Assam	108335.07	116514.21
4.	Bihar	199545.23	247948.75
5.	Chhattiegarh	111382.1	143982.53
6.	Goa	1452.24	1902.68
7.	Gujarat	69628.24	97274.77
8.	Haryana	58356.64	73295.78

1	2	3	4
9	Himachal Pradesh	27189.2	36649.75
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	55636.67	64723.06
11.	Jharkhand	111370.63	142956.30
12.	Karnataka	127488.59	170717.02
13.	Kerala	28476.78	39072.42
14.	Madhya Pradesh	278916.729	353458.63
15.	Maharashtra	169410.33	220564.60
16.	Manipur	4942.68	5206.67
17.	Meghalaya	10682.95	12950.74
18.	Mizoram	11386.74	14121.29
19.	Nagaland	7699.98	6986.45
20.	Orissa	114278.14	150665.46
21.	Punjab	41964.3	60266.38
22.	Rajasthan	185295.227	254085.09
23.	Sikkim	3159.76	2933.17
24.	Tamilnadu	123208.92	174208.17
25.	Tripura	21018.73	25273.04
26.	Uttar Pradesh	531502.7	683631.21
27.	Uttarakhand	41672.415	53394.60
28.	West Bengal	169576.79	205117.52
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	1139.16	1528.68
30.	Chandigarh	1322.49	1604.23
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	659.33	700.42

1	2	3	4
32.	Daman and Diu	123.91	96.19
33.	Delhi	7451.13	8891.31
34.	Lakshadweep	147.79	9.76
35.	Pondicherry	1012.45	1383.07
Total		2772471.711	3571518.37
36.	National Component	8118.179	0.00
Grand Total		2780589.89	3571518.37

[Translation]

Freedom Fighter Pension Scheme

2609. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amendment has been made in the freedom fighters pension scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the cases for sanction of the said pension are considered on the basis of the recommendations of State Governments;

(d) if so, the terms and conditions for sanctioning the said pension;

(e) whether some people were sanctioned pension on the basis of proof of Court records and in the light of recommendations of State Governments, whereas, others were deprived of pension though fulfilling the same criteria; and

(f) if so, the reasons for such anomaly in sanctioning of pension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT) : (a)

to (d) In 1969, the Government of India introduced a scheme known as the 'Ex-Andaman Political Prisoners Pension Scheme' to honour freedom fighters. In 1972, on the eve of the 25th Anniversary of India's Independence, a regular scheme called the "Freedom Fighters' Pension Scheme" was introduced for granting pension to freedom fighters. This Scheme was liberalized and renamed as the "Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme" with effect from 1st August, 1980. Salient features of the 'Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980' are given below :

(i) **Eligibility:** The following categories of freedom fighters are eligible for the Samman Pension under the Scheme:

- Eligible dependents of martyrs;
- A person who had suffered minimum imprisonment of six months on account of participation in freedom struggle;
- A person who, on account of his participation in freedom struggle, remained underground for more than six months;
- A person who, on account of participation in the freedom struggle, was interned in his home or exiled from his district for a minimum period of six months;
- A person whose property was confiscated or attached and due to participation in the freedom struggle;
- A person who, on account of participation in freedom struggle, became permanently incapacitated during firing of lathi charge;
- A person who lost his Government job for participation in freedom struggle; and
- A person who was awarded the punishment of 10 strokes of caning/ flogging/whipping due to his participation in freedom struggle.

(ii) **Dependents:** Spouses (widows/widowers), unmarried and unemployed daughters (up-to

maximum three) and parents of deceased freedom fighters (as also of martyrs) are eligible for grant of dependent family pension under the scheme.

(iii) **Special Dispensation For Women And Weaker Sections of the Society:**

The eligibility criteria for grant of pension on grounds of jail suffering specifies a minimum period of six months which the freedom fighters should have undergone in connection with the freedom movement. However, as a special dispensation for women freedom fighters and for the freedom fighters belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the minimum period has been kept at three months.

(iv) Freedom Fighters are required to apply on the prescribed application form for grant of pension under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980. Applications, supported by requisite evidence of claimed sufferings are required to be routed through the concerned State Government/Union Territory administration. Claims for grant of Central Samman pension are considered only when these are duly verified and recommended by the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration in accordance with the provisions of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980. Verification and recommendatory report of State Government/Union Territory Administration is mandatory in view of the fact that documents and evidence of claimed sufferings are in the possession of the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration. However, a positive recommendation of the State Government is not binding on the Central Government if the claimant does not satisfy the eligibility criteria and evidentiary requirements prescribed under the Scheme.

(e) and (f) Some freedom fighters have been sanctioned Samman pension in compliance with the directions of courts. However, the provisions prescribed under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme,

1980 were kept in view while taking a decision to sanction Samman pension in such cases. No freedom fighter who fulfills the prescribed eligibility conditions and evidentiary requirements and applies for grant of Samman pension as per procedure is deprived of the pension.

[English]

Opening of Engineering College for Girls

2610. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM :
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering to set up an Engineering College and a University exclusively for women;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the places selected for the purpose; and

(c) the time by when it is likely to be established and made functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Central Police Organisation

2611. SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the policy adopted by the Government to ensure wider representation of States in Central Police Organisation; and

(b) the steps taken by these Organisations to increase the representation of backward States such as Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Orissa etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) 60% of vacancies of Central Para Military Forces in constable (GD) rank are distributed among the States

and UTs on the basis of population ratio. 20% of vacancies in the border guarding forces are allotted to the border districts falling within their area of responsibility. The remaining 20% of vacancies in the border guarding forces and 40% in other CPMFs are allotted to the militancy and naxal affected districts as notified by the Government. Reservations and quotas are also provided to SC, ST and OBC candidates, ex-servicemen etc. as per the policy of the Government of India. Recruitment is carried out in different States as per the vacancies allocated.

Privately Managed Professional Institutions

2612. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of professional institutions in the country which are offering degrees and diplomas;

(b) the details of those institutions which are run by the Government wholly or partly and by private enterprises separately;

(c) whether the Government has any machinery to control the admission processes in the privately managed professional institutes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) and (b) The details of technical education institutions - Government and Private - approved by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) up to the academic year 2007-2008 are given in the enclosed Statement.

At present, there are 271 Medical Colleges in the country, of which 138 are Government and remaining 133 are private.

(c) to (e) Admissions to private technical institutions is regulated by the State level Admission Committee set up in accordance with relevant judgments of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Statement*State-wise distribution of approved Technical Institutions in India upto*

Region	States/Union Territory	BFA*/MFA*		MBA+/PGDM**		MCA #		B-Pharmacy	
		Government	Private	Government	Private	Government	Private	Government	Private
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Central	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	1	54	9	38	3	63
	Chhattisgarh	0	0	3	3	1	5	2	6
	Gujarat	0	0	5	41	5	19	4	62
	Total	0	0	9	98	15	62	9	131
Eastern	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
	Sikkim	0	0	1	34	0	27	0	1
	Orissa	0	0	7	16	8	13	1	16
	West Bengal	0	0	7	0	9	0	1	9
	Tripura	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Assam	0	0	5	0	3	0	1	1
	Manipur	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Nagaland	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	Jharkhand	0	0	1	5	2	0	1	0
Total	0	0	23	56	23	42	6	27	
Northern	Bihar	0	0	7	4	5	1	2	0
	Uttar Pradesh	0	1	22	130	10	76	2	90

the academic year 2007-08 (Degree and Diploma)

Engineering		B-HMCT\$		Architecture		D-Pharmacy		D-Architecture		D-HMCT	
Government	Private	Government	Private	Government	Private	Government	Private	Government	Private	Government	Private
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
13	115	0	4	3	1	4	38	0	0	0	1
5	15	0	0	1	0	2	10	1	0	0	0
18	28	0	1	3	3	10	16	0	0	0	2
36	158	0	5	7	4	16	64	1	0	0	3
0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0		
0	1	0	0	0	0			0	0		
5	43	0	2	1	1			0	0		
18	43	0	4	2	1			0	0		
3	0	0	0	0	0			0	0		
0	1	0	0	0	0			0	0		
1	0	0	0	0	0			0	0		
0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0		
3	2	0	0	0	0			0	0		
1	0	0	0	0	0			0	0		
1	0	0	0	0	0			0	0		
2	7	0	0	1	0			0	0		
34	97	0	6	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	4	0	0	0	1			0	0		
26	116	1	9	3	3			0	0		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Uttarakhand	0	0	5	13	1	12	2	9
	Total	0	1	34	147	16	89	6	99
North-	Chandigarh	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
West	Haryana	0	0	5	31	2	24	6	23
	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	6	3	3	0	1	0
	New Delhi	1	0	6	29	1	17	2	4
	Punjab	0	0	2	36	2	22	5	27
	Rajasthan	0	0	3	49	2	16	1	49
	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	1	4	0	1	1	6
	Total	2	0	23	152	11	80	17	109
Southern	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	5	209	2	296	3	219
	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	1
	Tamil Nadu	0	1	11	136	12	198	4	39
	Total	0	1	16	345	14	499	7	259
South-	Karnataka	0	0	11	98	8	64	1	78
West	Kerala	0	0	6	31	12	25	4	28
	Total	0	0	17	129	20	89	5	106
Western	Maharashtra	2	4	9	150	4	51	6	118
	Goa	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	1
	Daman and Diu Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	3	4	11	150	5	51	7	119
	Grand Total	5	6	133	1077	104	912	57	850

Abbreviations:— *Bachelor in Fine Art ©Master in Fine Arts + Master in Business Administration ** Post Graduation Diploma in Management # Master in Computer Application \$ Bachelor in Hotel Management and Catering Technology.

11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
5	9	3	4	0	1			0	0		
37	129	4	13	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	1	0						
7	55	0	3	2	0						
3	3	0	0	0	0						
8	10	0	1	2	2						
12	35	0	7	2	5						
12	52	0	5	2	1						
3	5	0	0	1	0						
50	161	0	16	10	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	322	0	1	2	5	14	49	0	0	5	1
2	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
9	264	0	2	2	7	1	14	0	0	1	17
17	591	0	3	4	12	16	63	0	0	7	18
18	126	0	20	5	9			5	6		
35	57	0	2	4	1			2	1		
53	183	0	22	9	10	0	0	7	7	0	0
15	169	1	9	3	29	25	181	1	0	2	21
1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	171	1	9	4	29	25	181	1	0	2	21
243	1490	5	74	41	70	57	308	9	7	9	42

[Translation]

Pending Electricity and Water Bills

2613. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any electricity and water bills are outstanding against any Government Offices/Colonies/Shops located under the jurisdiction of New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outstanding dues to be paid by the respective departments; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to recover the entire outstanding dues from the respective Departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The progressive amount of arrears of electricity and water bills outstanding against Government offices, Government colonies and shops and other establishments, located within the jurisdiction of the New Delhi Municipal Council during the last three years are as under:

Categories	Arrears at the end of March, 2005 (Rupees in crores)	Arrears at the end of March, 2006 (Rupees in crores)	Arrears at the end of March, 2007 (Rupees in crores)
Government Offices	50.75	50.53	54.99
Government Colonies	2.71	3.06	3.66
Private (Shops and Establishments)	42.74	48.27	51.02
Total	96.2	101.86	109.67

The dues outstanding against various departments are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The steps taken by the New Delhi Municipal Council to recover the entire outstanding dues include regular persuasion by issue of notices followed by disconnections, launching a scheme for settlement of old outstanding dues by affording certain relaxations, etc.

Statement

Arrears of Electricity and Water Charges as on July, 2007 billing cycle

Sl. No.	Name of the Government Department	Total (Rupees in crore)
1.	Central Public Works Department	18.00
2.	Northern Railways	9.00
3.	Garrison Engineer (GE)	17.35
4.	Central Government Offices (CGO)	3.13
5.	Delhi Development Authority (DDA)	0.40
6.	Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)	0.80
7.	Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB)	0.92
8.	Provident Fund	2.45
9.	Airport Authority	2.39
10.	Ministry of Defence	1.40
11.	Police	2.15
12.	Others	3.26
Total		61.25

[English]

Indo-Bangladesh Border Fencing

2614. SHRI RANEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has engaged NBCC Ltd. for survey and construction fencing in Barmanpara to Mahamayachar in Indo-Bangla border;

(b) if so, whether NBCC Ltd. has consulted with the State Government of these areas prior to such survey;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether NBCC Ltd. follow the rules and regulations as per the international norms;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) As intimated by NBCC, they have consulted the concerned District Administration, prior to drawing and survey of the area.

(e) to (g) NBCC has intimated that, wherever technically feasible, they follow the rules and regulations as per international norms, which allows construction of fence at a distance of 150 yards and above from the international border.

Police Research and Training Centres

2615. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :
SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any proposals from State Governments for setting up of specialized police research and training centres and National Police University in the country including in Rajasthan and Gujarat;

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

(c) the response of the Government thereon and the time by when these centres and universities are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) Suggestions have been received to set up institutes and universities for training policemen and forensic personnel.

(c) Such decisions are taken by the Government on the basis of an assessment of the gap in the overall training capacity existing in the country. No timeframe can be indicated in this regard.

Rajiv Gandhi Marine Products Research Centre

2616. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has set up Rajiv Gandhi Marine Products Research Centre in Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details alongwith its proposed functions thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to generate more products to meet the increasing domestic demand and exports;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The following steps have been taken to generate more products to meet the increasing domestic demand and exports:-

- (i) For overcoming the shortage of raw material in India, import procedures have been simplified so that the imported raw material can be processed and re-exported as value added products. Import of duty free ingredients which will go into the production of value added products to the extent of 1% of the F.O.B. of the preceding year's export has also been permitted.
- (ii) The Focus Markets Scheme had been introduced in 2006 which allows Duty Credit Facility at 2.5% of the F.O.B. value of exports to notified countries.
- (iii) A detailed action plan has been prepared for the development of export oriented aquaculture in the maritime States of India. This action plan envisages to increase shrimp and scampi production besides exploring avenues for production and export of new species.
- (iv) Various financial assistance schemes are being implemented to help establish modern infrastructural facilities resulting in an increase in the export of marine products.
- (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Mid-day Meal scheme

2617. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the target fixed for enrolment of children in schools is not being achieved in spite of extending the area covered under mid-day meal scheme;
- (b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the number of absentees from the school has not been checked according to the annual report 2008 of 'Pratham Sanstha';
- (d) if so, the details of States where the number of absentees from school has increased as per the report; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to develop the interest of the children for the schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) to (e) As a result of implementation of Sarva Shiksha abhiyan (SSA) programme since 2001-02 all children in the 6-14 years age group, have been enrolled in primary schools; Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) and Alternate and Innovative Education (AIE) Centres; except for 76 lakh out of school children, who represent "difficult to reach category", which is about 3.8% of children in 6-14 age group as per household reports of the States/UTs. The Annual Status of Education Report (Rural) 2007 released by the NGO, 'Pratham' in January 2008 show out school children at 4-2%. SSA is being run as a community owned programme in which Village Education Committees, Parent Teacher Association, Mother Teacher Association play important role in over-seeing the implementation of SSA programme including the attendance of children. Ministry of Human Resource Development had commissioned independent study in 20 States to track the attendance of students at elementary level in 2006-07. The details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement*[English]***Students' Attendance****Recommendations of TRAI on
FM Radio**

Sl. No.	Name of State	Students' attendance (% of enrolment)	
		Primary Level	Upper-Primary Level
1.	Bihar	42.03	36.8
2.	Uttar Pradesh	57.37	60.5
3.	Rajasthan	62.67	78.87
4.	Orissa	66.79	69.02
5.	Chhattisgarh	67.73	75
6.	Madhya Pradesh	72.1	69.82
7.	Andhra Pradesh	72.67	78.12
8.	Delhi	73.5	—
9.	West Bengal	74.2	70.2
10.	Gujarat	75	78.6
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	79.49	77.5
12.	Uttarakhand	80.03	83.16
13.	Assam	81.3	84.5
14.	Haryana	81.5	85.1
15.	Punjab	81.7	74.7
16.	Karnataka	86.19	86.9
17.	Tamil Nadu	88.3	87.8
18.	Maharashtra	89	89
19.	Kerala	91.4	92.00
20.	Himachal Pradesh	94.63	93.18

2618. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended issuance of more than one licence for FM Radio at district level in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the TRAI has also recommended increase in FDI in this sector from 20 per cent to 49 per cent;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on the said recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) and (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended that at least three channels excluding All India Radio (AIR) will be given to three different entities. Once this condition is met in any district, the existing operators/permission holder can bid for the remaining channels and may be declared successful for any channel where his bid is highest subject to the condition that maximum number of channels to a permission holder in the district will not be more than 50% of total channels in the district.

(c) and (d) TRAI has also recommended that FDI including Foreign Institutional Investment for FM Radio broadcasting permission holders may be enhanced to 26% from the present level of 20% for those who want to broadcast news and to 49% for those who do not opt for news broadcasting.

(e) Recommendations of TRAI have been received

in the Government on 22.02.2008. A view has not been taken on them.

[*Translation*]

Bills From Rajasthan

2619. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bills forwarded by the Government of Rajasthan to the Union Government for approval;

(b) the details of bills which are still pending with the Union Government for approval alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some similar bills passed by other State Legislatures have been received by the Union Government; and

(d) the time by when these bills are likely to be

approved by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI) : (a) and (b) Details of the Bills forwarded by the Government of Rajasthan to the Central Government, which are still pending, are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The State Legislations are examined from the three angles viz. (a) repugnancy with Central Laws, (b) deviation from National or Central Policy and (c) legal and constitutional validity. Whenever necessary, the State Government are advised to modify/amend provision of such legislations keeping the above in view. With a view to expeditiously arriving at a decision, discussions are also held with State Governments and Ministries/Departments of the Government of India. Hence no time-frame can be fixed in this behalf.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Legislation	Date of receipt in Ministry of Home Affairs	Present status/reasons for pendency
1	2	3	4
1.	The Rajasthan Control of Organised Crime Bill, 2006	10.3.2006	Pending for want of clarifications from the State Government on the observations of two Department of the Central Government.
2.	The Rajasthan Dharma Swatantrya, Bill, 2006	May, 2006	Disagreement on the definition of the term 'conversion' has prevented the finalization of the matter.
3.	The Rajasthan Co-operative Societies (Second (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	10.07.2007	A copy of the First Amendment referred to in this Ordinance has been sought from the State Government.
4.	The Rajasthan Apartment Ownership Bill, 2008	25.01.2008	Pending for want of comments from the Central Ministries.
5.	The Rajasthan Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2008	26.02.2008	Pending for want of comments from the Central Ministries.

Special Industrial Promotion Policy

2620. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to formulate a Special Industrial Promotion Policy for development of industrial infrastructure in the country particularly in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Government has placed a special focus on development of industrial infrastructure all over the country including Punjab and in line with its policies has sanctioned various projects to strengthen physical and social infrastructure in the State of Punjab.

(c) and (d) The primary responsibility for development of industrial infrastructure lies with the State Governments. However, the Government of India supplements their efforts through its various projects and Schemes such as Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme, Industrial Park Scheme, Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, etc.

[English]

Industrial Projects in Karnataka

2621. SHRI G. M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of projects and industrial units set up in Karnataka during the last three years;

(b) whether there has been any specific policy of the Government to set up industries in Karnataka;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the incentives meant for Karnataka State have been diverted to other States;

(e) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(f) the fresh initiative being taken by the Government for the industrial development of Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) : (a) A total of 788 Industrial Investment Intentions, in terms of Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda filed, Letters of Intent/Direct Industrial Licences issued have been recorded for Karnataka State with a proposed investment of Rs. 1,44,558 crore during the last three years. Sectorwise break up of investment intentions during January 2005 to December 2007 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The present Industrial Policy dated the 24th July 1991 is applicable for the entire country including the State of Karnataka.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

(f) Under the liberalized Industrial Policy, the decision to set up an industry is based on the techno economic considerations of the entrepreneurs which in turn depend on the initiatives of the State Governments in creating conducive environment by way of providing infrastructure facilities and other incentives. Central Government supplements their efforts to the extent possible. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion is implementing the Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme and Industrial Parks Scheme in this regard to promote industrial development. Two projects under Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme have been sanctioned by the Government. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has released Rs. 67.70 crore. 39 projects under Industrial Parks Scheme have been approved for Karnataka State with proposed investment of Rs. 4036.41 crore.

Statement

Sectorwise break up of Investment Intentions for the State of Karnataka during January 2005 to December 2007

Name of the Scheduled Industry	Industrial Investment Intentions	
	Numbers	Proposed Investment (Rs. Crore)
1	2	3
Metallurgical, Industries	122	37008
Fuels	6	29147
Prime Movers	10	153
Electrical Equipments	49	11617
Telecommunications	13	1543
Transportation	17	921
Industrial Machinery	25	195
Machine Tools	4	17
Agricultural machinery	1	2
Earth Moving Machinery	5	32
Misc. Mechanical and Engg. Industries	22	342
Medical and Surgical Instruments	2	9
Scientific Instruments	6	36
Chemicals (Except Fertilizers)	39	7429
Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	17	529
Textiles	84	955

	2	3
Paper and Pulp	11	1323
Sugar	103	9157
Fermentation Industries	41	1602
Food Processing Industry	19	159
Vegetable Oil and Vanaspathi	6	76
Soaps, Cosmetics and Toiletries	5	11
Rubber Goods	3	62
Glue and Gelatin	1	0
Glass	4	28
Ceramics	5	84
Cement and Gypsum	31	17303
Timber Products	1	37
Defence Industries	16	562
Miscellaneous Industry	20	87
Others	116	24132
Total	788	144558

Note : Investment Intentions are in terms of Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda filed and Letters of Intent/ Direct Industrial Licence issued.

Police Reforms

2622.SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court, in the month of December 2007 has directed all the State Governments to file status report on Police Reforms;

(b) if so, whether all the State Governments have filed the said reports;

(c) the details of those States who have/have not submitted their status reports; State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that status reports are submitted by the remaining States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) to (d) Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 14.12.2007 passed in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 310/1996 — Prakash Singh and others Vs Union of India and others has directed all the States to file the status report within six weeks. The Supreme Court is monitoring the same.

Installation of Transmitters

2623. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has fixed any target to install/set up High Power Transmitters/Low Power Transmitters/Very Low Power Transmitters (HPTs/LPTsA/VLPTs) during the Tenth Five Year Plan in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has achieved those targets;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the target fixed during the Eleventh Five Year Plan in this regard; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to achieve the target fixed?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND

MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) to (e) Doordarshan had targeted establishment of 160 new transmitters (HPTs/LPTs/VLPTs) under Tenth Five Year Plan. Out of these, 131 transmitters were set up during the Plan period. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(f) and (g) The 11th Five Year Plan has not yet been approved.

Statement

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of new Transmitters targeted to be set up under 10th Plan	No. of new Transmitters set up during 10th Plan
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	19	3
2.	Andhra Pradesh	10	9
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1
4.	Assam	2	1
5.	Bihar	6	5
6.	Chhattisgarh	3	2
7.	Gujarat	6	6
8.	Haryana	6	6
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5	4
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	31	31
11.	Jharkhand	2	2
12.	Karnataka	9	9

1	2	3	4
13.	Kerala	4	4
14.	Lakshadweep	6	—
15.	Madhya Pradesh	2	1
16.	Maharashtra	13	13
17.	Manipur	1	1
18.	Meghalaya	2	2
19.	Mizoram	1	1
20.	Nagaland	1	1
21.	Orissa	1	1
22.	Punjab	1	1
23.	Rajasthan	5	4
24.	Sikkim	2	2
25.	Tamil Nadu	9	9
26.	Tripura	1	1
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3	3
28.	Uttarakhand	6	6
29.	West Bengal	2	2
Total		160	131

Review of KVIC Projects

2624. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI : Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of ongoing projects approved by the

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof as per latest review by standard norms;

(c) the details, of investment made by KVIC during each of the past three years and the results achieved thereunder both in terms of production and employment generation; and

(d) the details of proposals received from the State Governments and cleared by the Union Government during the current year so far alongwith the tentative allocations made for this purpose State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Performance of various schemes/programmes for promoting and developing khadi and village industries (KVI) sector being implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is periodically monitored and evaluated by the Government from time to time. These schemes are also regularly reviewed in the monthly meetings of the KVIC, chaired by Chairperson, KVIC. Official reviews at national, zonal and State levels are also conducted periodically by KVIC in the meetings attended, *inter alia*, by the implementing banks and other implementing agencies. Further, KVIC has arranged evaluation of the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), through independent professional agencies, in two phases. In the first phase, evaluation of REGP projects established upto 31.03.2001 was conducted on a sample basis, by drawing a sample of 10,930 projects and in the second phase, evaluation was conducted on projects set up between 01.04.2001 to 31.03.2005, by drawing a sample of 6,364 projects.

(c) KVIC does not make direct investment in projects set up under REGP but provides financial assistance, in the form of margin money, to the entrepreneurs who in turn establish village industry projects, in combination with funds mobilized from banks

and own contribution. Details of margin money assistance provided by KVIC, estimated investment made by the entrepreneurs, value of production of village industries and estimated employment generated under REGP, during the last three years are given below:—

Year	Margin Money Assistance (Rs. crore)	Estimated Investment (Rs. crore)	Production (Rs. crore)	Estimated Employment Generated (lakh persons)
1	2	3	4	5
2004-05	292.40	1023.40	1328.74	5.30

1	2	3	4	5
2005-06	320.96	1123.35	1411.35	5.68
2006-07	349.79	1399.16	1614.50	5.95

(d) KVIC has taken *suo moto* action for implementation of projects under REGP by involving the State/Union Territory Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs), which are agencies of the respective State/Union Territory Government. KVIC allocates targets to various State/Union Territory KVIBs on yearly basis. State/Union Territory KVIB-wise details of allocation of margin money and projects under REGP for 2007-08 are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State/Union Territory KVIB-wise details of allocation of margin money and projects under REGP for 2007-08

Sr. No.	Name of the State/Union Territory KVIBs	Number of village industry units	Margin Money (Rs. lakh)
1	2	3	4
1.	Chandigarh Khadi and Village Industries Board	9	10.53
2.	Delhi Khadi and Village, Industries Board	9	10.53
3.	Haryana Khadi and Village Industries Board	770	879.87
4.	Himachal Pradesh Khadi and Village Industries Board	554	633.68
5.	Jammu and Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board	646	737.38
6.	Punjab Khadi and Village Industries Board	405	462.71
7.	Rajasthan Khadi and Village Industries Board	1664	1899.95
8.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands Khadi and Village Industries Board	46	52.67
9.	Jharkhand Khadi and Village Industries Board	157	180.00

1	2	3	4
10.	Orissa Khadi and Village Industries Board	542	619.01
11.	West Bengal Khadi and Village Industries Board	1849	2112.19
12.	Arunachal Pradesh Khadi and Village Industries Board	58	66.48
13.	Assam Khadi and Village Industries Board	1172	1339.19
14.	Manipur Khadi and Village Industries Board	104	119.27
15.	Meghalaya Khadi and Village Industries Board	171	195.53
16.	Mizoram Khadi and Village Industries Board	307	350.00
17.	Nagaland Khadi and Village Industries Board	283	322.90
18.	Sikkim Khadi and Village Industries Board	61	69.42
19.	Andhra Pradesh Khadi and Village Industries Board	1929	2203.59
20.	Karnataka Khadi and Village Industries Board	1132	1293.50
21.	Kerala Khadi and Village Industries Board	963	1100.00
22.	Lakshadweep Khadi and Village Industries Board	2	2.00
23.	Pondicherry Khadi and Village Industries Board	72	82.48
24.	Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries Board	578	645.13
25.	Goa Khadi and Village Industries Board	240	273.75
26.	Gujarat Khadi and Village Industries Board	272	310.42
27.	Maharashtra Khadi and Village Industries Board	1353	1546.05
28.	Chhattisgarh Khadi and Village Industries Board	619	771.22
29.	Madhya Pradesh Khadi and Village Industries Board	869	945.75
30.	Uttarakhand Khadi and Village Industries Board	342	391.07
31.	Uttar Pradesh Khadi and Village Industries Board	1426	1629.03
Total		18604	21255.30

**Rejection of Application for Deemed
University Status by UGC**

2625. SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the application of the National Council of Hotel Management and Catering Technology (NCHMCT) seeking deemed university status was rejected by UGC in 2005;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to reconsider this matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (e) According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), in December, 2004 the Commission had pointed out the deficiencies in the proposal submitted by the National Council of Hotel Management and Catering Technology (NCHMCT), New Delhi, seeking grant of status of 'deemed-to-be-university' under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956. Further, the issue of reconsideration of the proposal is open once a fresh proposal, removing the deficiencies pointed out by the UGC, is submitted by NCHMCT.

Credit for Small Scale Industries

2626. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the total credit made available by the Government for small scale industries in terms of percentage of production during 2006-07 and 2007-08;

(b) whether the credit provided to small scale industries is below their credit requirement;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of recommendations made by the Kapoor Committee in this regard; and

(e) the details of the recommendations implemented so far?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The advances to the micro and small enterprises (MSEs) from the Public Sector Banks were Rs. 82,492 crore and Rs. 1,04,703 crore at the end of March, 2006 and 2007 which in terms of percentage of production by the MSEs (at current prices) during 2005-06 and 2006-07 (latest available) were 16.6 per cent and 17.9 per cent respectively. In the context of target of growth of the MSE sector, the quantum of credit flow cannot be considered as adequate. The reasons for inadequate credit flow to the MSE sector are high cost of credit, collateral requirements, elaborate procedural requirements, etc. due to which large number of MSEs are unable to access the required credit facilities.

(d) and (e) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had appointed a One-Man Committee headed by Shri S. L. Kapur in December, 1997 to inter alia review the working of the system of credit delivery to the MSEs and make suggestions on simplification and improvements in systems and procedures. The Committee's report submitted in June, 1998 to the RBI contained 126 recommendations. The major recommendations of Kapur Committee have been accepted and implemented which, inter alia, include delegation of more powers to branch managers of banks; simplification of application forms; opening of more specialised MSE branches by banks; enhancement of the limit of composite loans; banks to pay more attention to the backward States; special programmes for training of branch managers; banks to make customer grievances machinery more transparent and simplify the procedures for handling complaints and monitoring thereof.

Export of Horticultural Products

2627. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the contribution of India in regard to export of horticultural products in the international market;

(b) the details of horticultural products exported alongwith the percentage of share in the international market till date;

(c) whether the Government proposes to give special emphasis on export of horticultural produces; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) Details of major horticultural items exported from Indian during the last three years are given below:—

(Quantity in metric tons; Value in Rupees in crore)

	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Grapes	39338.95	128.45	54049.87	214.61	65897.78	301.92
Mangoes	53480.02	89.61	69606.60	128.11	79060.88	141.94
Pomegranates	14039.99	29.89	19652.15	56.70	21670.43	79.57
Apples	23225.21	26.35	30043.88	38.13	25970.79	31.39
Bananas	12817.74	13.43	14411.13	23.36	11475.56	16.07
Papaya	3700.96	5.31	6434.01	6.65	10344.41	11.60
Sapota	951.14	1.05	1180.94	2.24	2089.43	7.44
Pineapple	1765.64	2.45	4407.07	5.15	3785.04	3.61
Onion	870216.85	644.12	960507.32	708.16	1378373.17	1163.13
Potatoes	65996.13	31.75	74534.42	38.83	89024.52	57.70
Frozen Peas	3576.10	8.65	2027.49	5.10	949.09	2.86
Beans	1258.80	1.46	1167.73	1.55	1661.21	6.47
Fresh cut flowers	3557.58	36.12	5176.36	74.13	11903.93	342.14

(Source: DGCIS)

Detailed export data for fruits for the year 2007-08 is not available. According to a World Bank report India's share in world exports of vegetables and fruits is 1.7% and 0.5% respectively.

(c) and (d) The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has been taking various measures to promote export of fruits. These include:

- (i) Setting up of centers for perishable cargo at International Airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore and Thiruvananthapuram, common pack houses, and other infrastructural facilities.
- (ii) Setting up and upgradation of testing laboratories and implementation of residue monitoring plans, development of packaging and preparation of pre and post harvest manuals for export of agri produce including fruits.
- (iii) Setting up of Agri Export Zones for agri produce including fruits.
- (iv) Participation in international trade fairs, organisation of promotional campaigns, buyer seller meets and training programmes for certification bodies and farmers.
- (v) Financial assistance to its registered exporters under its schemes for Financial assistance for Infrastructure Development, Market Development, Quality Development, Research and Development and Transport assistance.

Illegal Store of Diesel and Kerosene

2628. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether high rise buildings in Delhi are using diesel/kerosene oil run generators for uninterrupted power supply and illegally storing diesel and kerosene oil in huge quantity; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the guilty persons by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI) : (a) No such complaint has been received in this regard.

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

Theft of Explosives

2629. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware about the rampant theft and diversion of explosives meant for licensed firms in violation of its guidelines and its negative impact on Ordnance Factory Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government for preventing misuse of such explosives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI) : (a) No case of theft of explosives or diversion of explosives from Ordnance Factories has come to notice.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Knowledge Economy

2630. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country is building a knowledge economy;

(b) if so, the progress achieved so far; and

(c) the future programmes of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D.

PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (c) Since knowledge is increasingly playing an important role in all areas of economic activities in the country, as elsewhere, Central Government is supporting human capital formation through a massive expansion of Higher Education during the Xith Plan including the setting up of 30 new Central Universities (CU) including one CU in each of the 16 uncovered States, setting up of 8 IITs, 7 IIMs, 5 IISERs, 2 SPAs, 10 NITs, 20 IIITs, incentivising State Governments for establishing 370 new Degree Colleges in Districts with low Gross Enrolment Ratio and number of institutions less than 4 per lakh of population., 1000 new Polytechnics (300 in Government Sector, 300 in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode and 400 in Private Sector) and 6000 good quality secondary schools at Block level at the rate of one school in each Block, which will serve us benchmark of excellence for other schools in the area.

Identification of Iron Ore areas in North-Eastern Region

2631. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any iron-ore areas have been identified in the North-Eastern Region;
- (b) if so, the details of the estimated reserves thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any proposals, both in public and private sectors for exploring and exploiting these reserves;
- (d) if so, the details and status of these proposals; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to further explore and exploit these reserves in the North-Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) :
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on its surveys Geological

Survey of India (GSI) has located Iron Ore areas in the North Eastern Region. The extent of reserves have so far not been estimated. State-wise details of the survey work carried out by GSI for Iron Ore in the North Eastern Region and resources calculated on the basis of the survey are as under:—

State	District	Resource (Million Tonnes)
Assam	Goalpara	26.50
	Bongaigaon	2.20
	Kokrajhar	0.64
Nagaland	Tuensang	1.83

(c) and (d) As far as grant of mineral concessions of iron ore in North-Eastern States is concerned, during last three years i.e. since 01/01/2005 till 12/03/2008, Central Government's approval has been conveyed for one proposal from State Government of Assam for grant of prospecting licence for iron ore over an area of 25 sq. km. in Samchampi area under Duwardisa and Borjan Mouza in Karbi-Anglong district in favour of M/s. Plast India Trade and Industries Pvt. Ltd.

(e) As per National Mineral Policy, 1993 the exploration/exploitation of mineral deposits is open for Private Sector participation, both domestic and foreign

FDI in India

2632. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether as per the World Investment Report, 2007, India has emerged as the world's second hottest destination for FDI after China and beating the US;
- (b) if so, the details of flow of FDI in terms of percentage during each of the last three years; and
- (c) the further steps taken by the Government to attract more FDI into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) :
(a) Yes, Sir. The UNCTAD World Investment Report (WIR) 2007, in its analysis of the global trends and sustained growth of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows, has reported India as the second most attractive location for FDI for 2007-2009. India has also retained the second place in A.T. Kearney's 2007 Foreign Direct Investment Index, a position it has held since 2005.

(b) As per the WIR, percentage of growth in FDI inflows during the last three-years is as under:—

Year	Amount (US \$ billion)	Percentage growth
2004	5.7	32%
2005	6.7	17%
2006	16.8	150%

(c) The Government has a liberal FDI policy with FDI upto 100% permitted on the automatic route in most sectors. The FDI policy has been progressively liberalised since 1991 through a periodic review process. Focussed

Name of the Organisation	MMTC Limited	*STC Limited	PEC Limited	STCL Limited	ECGC Limited	*ITPO
As on 31.03.2005	2063	933	195	38	623	1190
As on 31.03.2006	2031	929	192	46	608	1179
As on 31.03.2007	1997	911	189	54	628	1152

*In respect of STC and ITPO, the information is as on 1st January of the following Year

[English]

Maoists' base in Historical Forts

2634. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

investment promotion activities are also being undertaken with a view to attract higher FDI inflows.

[Translation]

Decline in number of Employees in the Undertakings of Commerce and Industry

2633. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total number of employees in various public sector undertakings under the Commerce and Industry Ministry has declined during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) The details of employees during the last three years in the various Public Sector Undertakings under the Department of Commerce are as under:

(a) whether the grand forts associated with the Warrior-rulers in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh namely, Rohtas Fort and Kalinjar Fort respectively are in the grip of Maoists as reported in the 'Times of India' dated February 22,2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to vacate these forts from the clutches of Maoists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) According to available information, these forts are not in the grip of Maoists.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Innovative Methods in Universities

2635. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had asked the universities and educational institutions to adopt innovative methods to augment their infrastructure, teaching and research capabilities;

(b) if so, whether massive qualitative expansion of the country's educational system would put its infrastructure under stress and there could also be a shortage of teachers;

(c) whether the Government had also asked the authorities concerned to implement institutional reforms in universities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) and (b) While the University Grants Commission (UGC) provides assistance to eligible Universities for development of their infrastructure, teaching and research capabilities, development of such capabilities in State funded Institutions is primarily the responsibility of

the concerned State Government. The UGC has a scheme of Incentives for External Resource Mobilisation, under which UGC provides incentive grants upto the extent of 25 per cent of the contribution, (subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakh, per annum) received by the eligible universities, which mobilise external resources through participation/contribution/consultancy from individual Indians, Non- resident Indians, Alumni Associates, public and family trusts, industrial/business houses, etc. The universities may create a corpus with mobilised funds or may utilise the resources on certain specified items, including construction/renovation of buildings, purchase of equipments, purchase of books and journals, innovative and academic programmes including research and extension work.

(c) to (e) The UGC has written to the universities to adopt administrative and academic reforms such as semester system, credit based evaluation, continuous and internal evaluation, curriculum development, etc. It has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. A. Gnanam, former/Vice Chancellor of Pondicherry University, to prepare a white paper on administrative and academic reforms. A Committee has also been constituted by UGC under the Chairmanship of Prof. Yash Pal, former Chairman, UGC to prepare curricular framework for higher education.

Face Recognition System

2635. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scientists have evolved a face recognition system which looks at a face created by merging several photos with a view to capture the visual essence of an individual's face through various images; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL

SIBAL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The technology related to face recognition system is not mature enough as compared with biometrics or eye iris recognition system and currently it is considered as one of the areas for research and development activities world wide.

Facilities for Retail and Shopping Malls

2637.DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is providing any facilities and concessions for developing retail markets and shopping malls in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has carried out any study regarding the likely impact of such retail market and shopping malls on the small shopkeepers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) :

(a) and (b) Government does not provide any facilities/ concessions for developing retail malls. However, there is no restriction on the entry of big corporate houses and other domestic investors in to the retail sector.

(c) to (e) Government has instituted a study to assess the impact of organized retailing on unorganized retail trade through Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). The terms of reference of the study are enclosed as Statement. Government has also commissioned a study to the National Council of

Applied Economic Research (NCAER) on Growth linkages of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India which would focus on the impact of FDI on rural economy. The final reports are yet to be submitted by these organisations.

Statement

No. 12 (47)/2006-FC

Government of India

Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Deptt. of Industrial Policy and Promotion

(FC Section)

New Delhi, dated the 2nd March 2007

To

The Director and Chief Executive,
Indian Council for Research on
International Economic Relations (ICRIER)
Core 6A, 4th Floor,
India Habitat Centre,
Lodi Road, New Delhi — 110003

Subject : The Impact of Organized Retailing on the Unorganized Retail Sector-A Study by ICRIER.

Sir,

I am directed to convey the sanction of the Government of India to a Study to be assigned to the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) on the Impact of organized retailing on the unorganized retail sector.

Objective of the Study:

2. There has been considerable growth in organized retailing in the country in recent years and estimates show a much faster growth in the future. Major industrial houses have entered this area and have announced the future expansion plans. Transnational corporations are also seeking to come to India and set up retail chains in

collaboration with Indian big companies. Divergent views have been expressed on the impact of the growth in the organized retail in the country. Concerns have been raised that the growth of organized retailing may have an adverse impact on the retailers in the unorganized sector. It has also been argued that growth of organised retailing will yield efficiencies in intermediary stages enabling higher prices or access to markets to producers (including farmers or small producers) or lower prices to consumers. To reconcile such variations, an in-depth analytical study on the possible effects of organized retailing in india is essential.

Terms of Reference

3. In order to assess the impact of growing organized retail on different aspects of the economy, ICRIER is appointed to carry out a study on organized retail focused on the following:

- (i) Effect on small retailers and vendors in the unorganized sector keeping in mind the likely growth in the overall market
- (ii) Effect on employment
- (iii) Impact on consumers
- (iv) Impact on farmers and manufacturers
- (v) Impact on prices
- (vi) Overall impact on economic growth

ICRIER will analyse the above in the context of a growth scenario of 7-10 per cent per annum in the next 5 years and in the light of practice in other fast growing emerging market economies.

Methodology

4. The study by ICRIER will involve the following:

- Literature survey of existing studies
- 4-5 case studies of established retail chains

- Interviews of major players in the organized retailing, manufacturers, and of producers including associations of farmers.
- Questionnaire-based survey of unorganized retailers, including vendors especially around organized retail shops
- Questionnaire-based survey of consumers around the organized retail outlets

Timeline

5. The study is proposed to be time-phased as follows:—

1. Inception	1 March
2. Literature survey and Questionnaire design	30 March
3. Pilot Survey	1-15 April
4. Review Workshop-1	30 April
5. Survey	1 May — 15 June
6. Interim Report	30 June
7. Review Workshop-2	7 July
8. Final Report	15 July

Budget

6. Government has approved the budget for the above study is at Rs. 59.80 lakhs which would be met by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.

7. This issues with the concurrence of IF Wing vide their Diary No. 4160/AS and FA dt. 1-3-2007.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Pramila Raghavendran)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

Telefax: 23082327

*[Translation]***Import of food items**

2638. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain infested food items have been imported without any checks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the remedial steps taken by the Government to ensure that imported items are checked properly; and
- (d) the success achieved by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (d) The import of any food article is governed under Section 5 and 6 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954. Section 6(2) of the Act provides that such clearance of any imported food articles is the responsibility of the Customs Collectors or their authorized officers. For clearance of consignments of imported foods, the Central Board of Excise and Customs, Department of Revenue, has framed the procedure for 100% testing before clearance. In case where the samples are found to be conforming to the standards for first five consecutive consignments of each food items imported by individual importers, there is a provision for clearance of consignment of food articles on the basis of 5 to 20% random testing. Information relating to actual import of infested food items, if any, is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Allocation of Funds for Education Hub**

2639. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOP-

MENT be pleased to state the allocation made by the Government to make India Education Hub during the last three years and in the current year to develop world class infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : In order to expand the capacity, strengthen quality and increase access to education the central allocation of funds during the last three years and in the current financial year for the Ministry of Human Resource Development has been as under:—

(Rupees in Crores)

Year	Allocation
2004-05	11062.92
2005-06	18338.53
2006-07	24116.49
2007-08	32354.22

*[Translation]***Production and Export of Iron-Ore**

2640. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total production, demand and import and export of iron-ore in the country during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to put a ban on the export of iron-ore;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the prices of iron-ore are increasing rapidly; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) The details of total production, domestic demand, import and export of iron ore during the last three years are as under:-

(Qty. in million tonnes)

Year	Production	Domestic Demand	Import	Export
2004-05	145.94	54.76	0.49	78.14
2005-06 (Prov.)	154.44	63.43	0.61	89.27
2006-07 (Prov.)	180.66	Not Available	0.48	93.79

Source: Production/Domestic Demand; IBM, Nagpur,
Import: DGC&S, Kolkata

Export: Goa Mineral Ore Exporters Association (GMOEA),
Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL),
National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC),
MMTC Limited and Private Exporters

- (b) No, Sir.
(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes sir. Iron ore prices showed an upward trend during the last three years. In case of supplies to Japan and S. Korea against long term contracts, the benchmark iron ore prices increased by 9-50% in 2007-08 over the previous year. The iron ore supplies to China on spot basis also recorded some higher trend on transaction to transaction basis as compared to previous year.

[English]

Setting Up of Energy Bio-Sciences Centre

2641. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up India's first energy Biosciences Centre;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the time by when this Centre is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has established the first Energy Biosciences Centre at University Institute of Chemical Technology (UICIT), Mumbai which is primarily aimed at developing renewable energy resources for reducing India's rising dependence on petroleum fuels and cut down emission of greenhouse gases. The DBT-UICIT Centre of Energy Biosciences has the specific mandate of developing new cutting edge technologies and also integrating technology components developed elsewhere in the country under various research schemes, all with the aim of providing liquid biofuel for the country. The main focus of the institute is on:-

- Bioalcohol Biorefinery
- Biodiesel
- Biohydrogen
- Methane

- (c) The Centre is already functional.

Pulse Scam in State Trading Corporation

2642. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the CBI has recently detected Pulse Scam in State Trading Corporation (STC);

- (b) if so, the loss suffered by STC in the scam;
- (c) the action taken by the Government against the guilty officials; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check such scam in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) CBI has registered an RC on 11.12.2007 against three managers of STC and two private parties in the matter of import of and sale of 30,000 MT black Mapte (Urad whole) by STC during 2006-07 under the subsidy policy of Government of India.

(b) No Loss has been suffered by STC on overall import of pulses. No subsidy is being claimed under the Government scheme to provide 15% subsidy.

(c) and (d) The case is under investigation by CBI.

Check-Post along Borders

2643. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up integrated check-posts along India's border with various neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount envisaged for the Said project;

(d) whether the Government had entrusted the said project to any agency; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has taken a decision for setting up 13 Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) along India's border with various neighbouring countries.

(b) Details of 13 check-posts identified for development are enclosed as Statement.

(c) to (e) The construction of ICPs will be taken up as a plan scheme in the XI Five Plan. Rs. 35 crore has since been allotted in the budget of the next financial year i.e., 2008-09 for the purpose. The total assessment of the financial requirement, firming up of project cost and completion of procedural formalities are underway. M/s. Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) has been engaged for the initial consultation and for the preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and Detailed Engineering Report (DER).

Statement

Location of 13 Integrated Check Posts (ICPs)

Sl. No.	Location	State	Border
1.	Petrapole	West Bengal	India-Bangladesh
2.	Moreh	Manipur	India-Myanmar
3.	Raxaul	Bihar	India-Nepal
4.	Wagah	Punjab	India-Pakistan
5.	Hili	West Bengal	India-Bangladesh
6.	Chandrabangha	West Bengal	India-Bangladesh
7.	Sutarkhandi	Assam	India-Bangladesh
8.	Dawki	Meghalaya	India-Bangladesh
9.	Akhaura	Tripura	India-Bangladesh
10.	Kawarpuchiah	Mizoram	India-Bangladesh
11.	Jogbani	Bihar	India-Nepal
12.	Sunauli	Uttar Pradesh	India-Nepal
13.	Rupaidiha/ Nepalganj road	Uttar Pradesh	India-Nepal

Cricket Match on Doordarshan

2644. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to make arrangements for direct telecast of Cricket Match series to be organised in India or abroad in the future, on Delhi Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the funds likely to be invested for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) and (b) Doordarshan is already telecasting important cricket matches as per the Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Act, 2007. The matches are being telecast under revenue sharing basis and no separate funds for the purpose are required.

(c) Does not arise.

Smuggling of Cheap Items from China

2645. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether cheap items are being smuggled from China during each of the last three years into the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such smuggling from China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND

INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Vishesh Krishi Gram Udyog Yojana

2646. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any request for inclusion of unmanufactured tobacco under the Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana (VKGUY);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A representation dated 21.1.2008 has been received from the Indian Tobacco Association, requesting for including 'Tobacco' in Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana (VKGUY) scheme, due to the adverse effect of appreciation of the Indian Rupee. Further the representation states that tobacco is an agricultural commodity on which lakhs of farmers depend.

(c) The representation has been examined and it has been decided that the issue of inclusion of Tobacco for grant of VKGUY benefits would be examined during the finalisation of the Annual Foreign Trade Policy (RE: 2008), keeping in view the availability of financial resources.

Vocational Education Institutions

2647. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the steps taken to bring all vocational education schools and institutions, which are presently working under different Ministries under the Ministry of Human Resource

Development to achieve standardised technical and scientific training to the youth population and to meet the ever growing demands of trained manpower in different sectors of the economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. A. A. FATMI) : Presently, no such proposal is under consideration of this Ministry.

Defacement of Public Properties

2648. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of NCT of Delhi has formulated any legislation prescribing stringent punishment for defacement of public properties in the Capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various organizations including political parties in Delhi erect hoarding illegally on crossings and prominent places causing nuisance to pedestrians etc.;

(d) if so, measures taken to rein in such violators; and

(e) the details of persons who have been booked for defacing public property in Delhi during each of the last three years and the quantum of fine collected from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI) : (a) and (b) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has introduced a Bill in the Legislative Assembly of Delhi in this regard, namely "The Delhi Prevention of Defacement of Property Bill, 2007" on 27th December, 2007.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. However, as and when such illegal hoardings are noticed, action for removal and impounding is taken on the basis of existing laws.

(e) As per the information provided by Delhi Police, the details are as under:-

Year	Cases reported	Persons arrested	Fine (Rs.)
2005	79	69	25,000
2006	2555	2625	12,51,050
2007	1265	1230	5,10,350
2008 (upto 29.02.2008)	13	10	3600

Proposals for Transmitters

2649. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Low Power Transmitters/Very Low Power Transmitters (LPTs/VLPTs) converted into High Power Transmitters (HPTs) in the country including Karnataka and Maharashtra during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of viewers and listeners who have benefitted from them;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any request from various State Governments for the upgrading of VLPT/LPT/HPT;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) The number of LPTs replaced by HPTs in various States during the last three years is as under:—

Year	State	No. of LPTs replaced
2005-06	Gujarat	2
2006-07	Tamil Nadu	2
	Gujarat	1
	Madhya Pradesh	1
2007-08	Haryana	2
	Assam	1
	Rajasthan	1
	Himachal Pradesh	1

(b) TV coverage is available to all the viewers within a range of about 70 kms from each HPT.

(c) to (e) Requests for upgradation of transmitters are received from time to time from various quarters. Further expansion of terrestrial coverage is not envisaged in view of multi channel TV coverage having been provided in the country through Doordarshan's free to air DTH Service.

Terrorism in NE Region

2650. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of internationally active terrorist organisations including fundamentalist groups, which have or are planning to have operational base in the North Eastern Region (NER); and

(b) the details of activists of such organisations apprehended in the North East Region during the last three years alongwith nexus detected between them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI) : (a) and (b) There is no specific report to suggest that internationally

active terrorist organisations including fundamentalist groups are planning to have operational base in the North Eastern Region. However, there are reports that some insurgent groups from the North Eastern Region have links with Pakistan ISI and certain other fundamentalist/terrorist organizations from neighbouring Countries such as Bangladesh based Herkat-UL Jihad Islami (HUJI), which, in turn, is reported to have links with Pakistan based terrorist groups and Pakistani ISI.

[Translation]

Recognition of Degrees

2651. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recognised the degrees issued by the distance and correspondence educational institutions;

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

(c) if not, the reasons for not giving recognition by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (c) Government had issued a Gazette Notification No. 44 dated March 01, 1995 inter-alia stating that all the qualifications awarded through Distance Education by the Universities established by an Act of Parliament or State Legislature, Institutions Deemed to be Universities under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956 and Institutions of National Importance declared under an Act of Parliament stand recognized for the purpose of employment to posts, and services under the Central Government, provided it has been approved by Distance Education Council, Indira Gandhi National Open University and wherever

necessary, by the All India Council for Technical Education, New Delhi.

Revival of Sick Industries

2652. SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT :
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN :
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of SSI units sick and closed till 2007 and the total number of employees who have lost their job due to closure of SSI units, State-wise;

(b) the contribution of SSI units in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during each of the last three years;

(c) the measures being taken by the Government for revival of these sick small scale industries;

(d) the total number of sick small scale industries for revival for which funds have been allocated during each of the last three years separately;

(e) whether the Government also provides assistance for expansion, diversification and technical up gradation of certain sick small scale industries; and

(f) if so, the details of the action taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) Statistics on the year-wise and state-wise number of closed micro and small enterprises (MSEs) are not maintained centrally. However, according to the results of the Third All India Census of MSEs with reference year 2001-02, out of 22,62,401 MSEs registered upto 31.03.2001, 39 per cent (numbering 8,87,427) enterprises were found closed. The State/UT wise distribution of these closed enterprises is given in the enclosed statement-I. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) compiles data on the sick MSEs who have availed

loans from scheduled commercial banks. According to RBI, the number of sick MSEs during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 were 1,38,042, 1,26,824 and 1,14,132 respectively. statement-II gives a State/UT wise break-up of sick MSEs at the end of March, 2007.

(b) The estimated contribution of MSEs units in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 was 5.84%, 5.83% and 5.94% respectively.

(c) to (f) Various measures have been taken to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick MSEs. These include setting up of State Level Inter-Institutional Committee in each State under the convenorship of RBI. Further, the RBI has issued detailed guidelines to banks in January 2002 on detection of sickness at an early stage and taking remedial measures, and for rehabilitation of sick MSEs identified as potentially viable.

These guidelines include, inter alia, change in the definition of sick MSEs, norms for deciding their viability, concessional finance, etc., with a view to helping the banks in detecting sickness at an early stage and taking corrective action for revival of the potentially viable sick MSEs. In line with the 'Policy Package for Stepping up Credit to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)' announced by the Government in August 2005, the RBI has further issued guidelines in September 2005 to the banks regarding debt restructuring mechanism for SMEs to facilitate restructuring of debt of all eligible SMEs. The RBI has also constituted Empowered Committees at its Regional offices to review various issues relating to SME sector particularly, the progress in SME financing and rehabilitation of sick units.

The Central Government (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) does not provide direct financial assistance for the rehabilitation/nursing of sick MSEs. Financial assistance for rehabilitation of sick MSEs is provided by the concerned commercial banks/financial institutions. The RBI guidelines to the banks on debt

restructuring mechanism for SMEs, inter alia, include provision of additional finance to the SMEs. Upto 31st March 2007, 1,121 accounts amounting to Rs. 685.43 crore have been subjected to restructuring by the public sector banks under debt restructuring mechanism for SMEs, as per the date reported by the RBI.

Statement-I

*State/Union Territory-wise distribution of closed
Micro and Small Enterprises as per Third
All India Census, 2001-02*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Total No. of closed units
1	2	3
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	22,709
2.	Himachal Pradesh	6,509
3.	Punjab	82,731
4.	Chandigarh	1,405
5.	Uttaranchal	12,100
6.	Haryana	27,546
7.	Delhi	8,357
8.	Rajasthan	36,847
9.	Uttar Pradesh	1,22,282
10.	Bihar	20,525
11.	Sikkim	155
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	248
13.	Nagaland	129
14.	Manipur	1,226

1	2	3
15.	Mizoram	1,313
16.	Tripura	1,077
17.	Meghalaya	1,908
18.	Assam	10,338
19.	West Bengal	26,080
20.	Jharkhand	13,822
21.	Orissa	9,708
22.	Chhattisgarh	27,630
23.	Madhya Pradesh	65,649
24.	Gujarat	39,159
25.	Daman and Diu	454
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	423
27.	Maharashtra	54,243
28.	Andhra Pradesh	38,582
29.	Karnataka	46,611
30.	Goa	2,327
31.	Lakshadweep	16
32.	Kerala	74,832
33.	Tamil Nadu	1,27,185
34.	Pondicherry	2,586
35.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	515
All India		8,87,427

Source: Third All India Census of SSIs 2001-02.

Statement-II

*State/Union Territory-wise distribution of Sick
Micro and Small Enterprises as at the
end of March 2007*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Total No. of sick MSEs
1	2	3
01.	Jammu and Kashmir	588
02.	Himachal Pradesh	160
03.	Punjab	1146
04.	Chandigarh	21
05.	Uttarakhand	784
06.	Haryana	650
07.	Delhi	1252
08.	Rajasthan	4881
09.	Uttar Pradesh	1,3309
10.	Bihar	5964
11.	Sikkim	14
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	20
13.	Nagaland	41
14.	Manipur	362
15.	Mizoram	16
16.	Tripura	3169
17.	Meghalaya	44
18.	Assam	5459

1	2	3
19.	West Bengal	28592
20.	Jharkhand	2041
21.	Orissa	3602
22.	Chhattisgarh	1301
23.	Madhya Pradesh	8311
24.	Gujarat	3350
25.	Daman and Diu	31
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	50
27.	Maharashtra	7401
28.	Andhra Pradesh	3520
29.	Karnataka	3611
30.	Goa	84
31.	Lakshadweep	—
32.	Kerala	4426
33.	Tamil Nadu	9895
34.	Pondicherry	37
35.	Andman and Nicobar Islands	—
All-India		114132

Source : Reserve Bank of India

[English]

Subsidy to Spice Exporters

2653. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Spices Board of India have disbursed any subsidy to the spice exporters; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under a subsidy scheme, a sum of Rs. 987.74 lakh has been disbursed for export of Indian pepper and pepper products from 27.10.2005 till date.

[Translation]

Cyber Crimes

2654. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU :
SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cyber crimes are increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the total number of such accused persons arrested in this regard including software engineers and the action taken against them;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to make the net users give identity proof as reported in '*Dainik jagran*' dated February 24, 2008;

(d) the steps taken by the Government for imparting training to the police officials for preventing cyber crime in the country; and

(e) the financial assistance provided by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT) : (a) As per information compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 347, 481 and 453 cases of cyber crimes, which include cases under IT Act and IPC were

reported in the country during 2004-2006 respectively, thereby showing a mixed trend.

(b) The State/UT-wise number of cases reported and persons arrested under Cyber Crime in the country during 2004 to 2006, as compiled by NCRB, are enclosed at statement NCRB does not maintain information regarding number of software engineers arrested relating to cyber crimes.

(c) Presently there is no provision relating to cyber cafes in the Information Technology Act, 2000. Provision relating to regulation of cyber cafes has *inter alia* been included in the Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2006 introduced by the Government in the Parliament. An advisory has been issued to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to consider issuing rules/guidelines for regulation of activities at cyber cafes under the Police Act or Shop Establishment Act. Some State Governments have formulated their regulations relating to the activities of cyber cafes.

(d) and (e) Organizations like Police Academics, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), Controller of Certifying Authority (CCA) etc. conduct regular training programmes for imparting training to the police officials for preventing cyber crime in the country. The laboratories under the Directorate of Forensic Science (DFS) also conduct regular training programmes in the country for the benefit of law enforcement agencies and train them in search and seizure and handling of digital evidence. During the last three years, these laboratories under DFS have conducted 22 training programmes and has trained 749 officers in the field of cyber crime/computer forensics. During the year 2007 NCRB also conducted 7 courses, attended by 120 participants, to sensitize police personnel to cyber crimes. Regional Police Computer Training Centres (RPCTCs) conducted 6 such courses, attended by 215 participants during the same period. The Department of Information Technology has provided a financial assistance of Rs. 363 lakhs to CBI for setting up of "Cyber/Hi-Tech Crime Investigation and Training" Centre.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
19. Nagaland		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20. Orissa		1	6	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
21. Punjab		2	7	12	4	43	26	2	7	16	9	51	30
22. Rajasthan		0	18	4	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	0
23. Sikkim		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24. Tamil Nadu		14	22	8	36	0	0	16	21	7	31	0	0
25. Tripura		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26. Uttar Pradesh		2	4	0	3	0	0	10	25	0	7	0	0
27. Uttaranchal		0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0
28. West Bengal		0	0	6	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	2
Total (States)		63	167	135	264	294	293	58	178	146	300	373	400
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		0	0	0	5	0	11	0	0	0	8	0	4
30. Chandigarh		1	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32. Daman and Diu		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33. Delhi		4	10	5	10	8	7	2	12	7	21	4	7
34. Lakshadweep		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35. Pondicherry		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total (UTs)		5	12	7	15	8	18	2	14	8	29	4	11
Total (All India)		68	179	142	279	302	311	60	192	154	329	377	411

Source : Crime in India

Suicide Cases in PMF

2855. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of Suicides are increasing in Para Military Forces (PMF);

(b) if so, the total number of such cases reported by the Government during each of the last three years till date force-wise, rank-wise;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any investigation in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has any proposal to provide special package/financial assistance to those jawans deputed in stressful conditions at sensitive places in the country including North East Region;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to check such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) Force-wise details given in the following table do not indicate increasing tendency in suicide cases except in CRPE:-

Force	Suicide Cases during 2005-08 (till date)			
	2005	2006	2007	2008 (till date)
1	2	3	4	5
ITBP	2	5	4	—
BSF	31	37	35	7

1	2	3	4	5
ARs	16	18	13	1
CISF	13	8	11	1
NSG	—	—	—	—
CRPF	19	30	46	14
SSB	6	6	6	—

GOs — Nil

NGOs — 329

(c) and (d) Investigations indicate that family and domestic reasons are main causes of such incidents. However, other reasons that build stress include deployment of the forces in difficult and isolated areas, long and strenuous duty hours, high mobility, constant threat to life and prolonged separation from families.

(e) and (f) PMF personnel posted in remote locality, high altitude, North East Region etc. get Remote Locality Allowance, Special Duty Allowance for the North East, Hill Compensatory Allowance, Detachment Allowance, Special Compensatory Allowance, High Altitude Allowance, etc.

(g) Some of the steps taken to reduce stress level among PMF personnel, enable them to attend to personal problems and increase their satisfaction level, are - focus on more family, and separated family accommodation; basic amenities/facilities for the troops and their families; telephone facilities to troops on the border where feasible; transparent leave policy; regular interaction, both formal and informal with the officers; Yoga classes for better stress management; recreational and sports facilities; revamping of grievances redressal machinery; introduction of Composite Hospitals with specialized facilities; Central Police Canteen facilities for all the serving and ex-CPMF personnel and constitution of Welfare and Rehabilitation Board to look into the welfare and

rehabilitation requirements of 'Next of Kins' and ex-CPMF personnel.

[English]

Creation of Separate Force

2656. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to create a separate force to specifically deal with maoists and terrorist organisations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) Besides specialized forces of the affected States, specially trained and equipped units are to be raised in Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

"Krishi Darshan" Programme

2657. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the duration of "Krishi Darshan" programme from the existing half-an-hour to one hour daily at Rajkot Doordarshan, Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to broadcast fresh programmes of Krishi Darshan from one a week to thrice a week;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the mass media narrow casting facilities are going to be augmented in the near future for wider coverage of the programmes;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Prasar Bharati, Doordarshan has informed that the Krishi Darshan programme is a sponsored programme of Ministry of Agriculture and at present Prasar Bharati has no such proposal to augment narrow casting facilities in the near future.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Sex Racket

2658. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding promoting of sex racket by personnel of Para Military Forces (PMF) including Border Security Force (BSF);

(b) if so, the total number of such cases registered by the Government during each of the last three years, force-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the accused persons; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) On the basis of a complaint, a case was registered by CBI against a BSF officer in 2006.

(c) The officer has been suspended with effect from 07.06.2006. The case is subjudice in the Court of District and Sessions Judge, Chandigarh.

(d) Measures like setting up of vigilance branches, regular briefing of officers and personnel, surprise checks, and other preventive and surveillance measures, have been taken.

[English]

Setting Up of Indian Institute of Information Technology

2659. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recommended for setting up of Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) and Indian Institute of Information Technology Academy in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereon and the time by when these institutions are likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) The Planning Commission has not made any State-specific recommendation in regard to the location of the types of institutions mentioned.

(b) Does not arise.

Identification of Export Items

2660. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has identified some items in order to boost the foreign trade of the country;

(b) if so, the names of such items identified during each of the last three years and in the current year till date;

(c) the annual average export of those items in terms of value separately, as on date;

(d) the names of items deleted from the list for the current period;

(e) the assessment made by the Government in regard to boosting the export of such items; and

(f) the schemes formulated on the basis of the said assessment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) The Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09 identifies agriculture, handlooms handicrafts, gems and jewellery, leather and marine sectors for special promotion.

(c) Exports from these sectors during 2004-05 to 2007-08 (April-October) are given below.—

(Value in US \$ Million)

Products	Apr-March 2004-05	Apr-March 2005-06	Apr-March 2006-07	Apr-Oct. 2007-08 (P)
1	2	3	4	5
Agri and allied Products	6,293.34	7,218.85	8,548.36	6,094.44

1	2	3	4	5
Marine Products	1,439.80	1,589.19	1,742.27	927.15
Leather and Manufactures	2,421.59	2,697.65	2,930.80	1,882.51
Gems and Jewellery	13,761.77	15,529.08	15,573.50	11,524.56
Handicrafts	377.42	461.98	371.46	233.97
Textiles incl. Handlooms	12,918.49	15,545.04	16,104.80	9,675.83

Source: DGCI and S Kolkata

(d) None.

(e) and (f) It is the endeavour of the Government to promote exports and the efforts of the Government are announced in the Foreign Trade Policy from time to time.

Conservation of Iron Ore Reserves

2661. SHRI B. MAHTAB : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of iron-ore mines allocated during each of the last three years till-date. State and Union Territory-wise:

(b) whether merchant miners are acquiring large number of mines for export purposes without adding value;

(c) if so, the total quantity of iron-ore exported during the above period; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect and conserve iron-ore reserves in the country?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) :

(a) The State Governments are the owners of minerals and grant mineral concessions and prior approval of Central Government is required for grant of mineral concession for

minerals listed in First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, which also includes iron ore. The year-wise details of mineral concession proposals approved by Central Government including those approved for grant of mining lease for iron ore during last three years are available on website of Ministry of Mines (<http://www.mines.nic.in>).

(b) Under the National Mineral Policy in 1993, mining for non-fuel and non-atomic minerals has been thrown open for private sector investment and an Indian National or a Company as defined in sub-section 3(1) of the Companies Act, 1956 can undertake mining based on the economic viability of the project. Mining is a stand-alone activity. The Central Government, based on the State Government recommendations, accords prior approval for grant of mineral concessions in terms of the provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957 and Rules framed there under. The export of minerals including iron ore is as per the EXIM policy of the Government.

(c) The export figures of the iron ore as provided by Ministry of Commerce are as under:—

Year	Export (Quantity in Million Metric Tonnes)
1	2
2004-05	78.14

1	2
2005-06	89.27
2006-07 (Provisional)	93.79
2007-08 (Apr-Dec)	63.58

(d) The Government is of the view that management of mineral resources is closely integrated with the overall strategy of development of minerals whereby exploitation of minerals is to be guided by long-term national goals and perspectives. The country has sufficient resources of iron ore at 25.25 billion tonnes, and these are increasing with further exploitation.

Report of Indian National Science Academy

2692. SHRI HITEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian National Science Academy has submitted any report to the Principal Scientific Advisor on development of instrumentation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce the offset clause in case of imported machineries, systems and plants as in case of defence procurements;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for implementation of the recommendations of this report?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The key recommendations made in the Report of Indian National Science Academy

on development of instrumentation in the country are as follows:—

- (i) In all instrument related projects, industry-academia partnership should be ensured right at the proposal formation. IP rights will then have to be shared.
- (ii) Sharing IP rights by funding agencies with the developers of instruments will help marketing of instruments. Funding agencies should put in place a practical mechanism to serve this purpose.
- (iii) Government should create a separate fund that would provide an incentive or tax credits to the industry that purchases indigenous instrumentation technology and brings it to the market. It can also be used to help companies in creating a brand for their instruments by enabling them to exhibit their instruments abroad etc.
- (iv) Some of the innovators are turning entrepreneurs in some of our S and T institutions like IISc, Bangalore and IIT's. The above fund should provide venture capital to spin off companies formed by these scientist entrepreneurs.
- (v) For a technology transfer to be successful, there should be continued association between the technology developer and technology buyer till the latter has successfully absorbed the technology.
- (vi) While recommending procurement of the instrument it should be ensured that specs are drawn-up to include those of the locally made ones. Companies and the institutions, which buy locally produced instruments, may be given tax credits.
- (vii) A website containing a list of instruments being manufactured in India and a data-base of

professors and scientists with expertise in instrumentation, who will interact with the instrument industry, should be maintained.

- (viii) Technology Parks; and 'Incubation Centres' in proximity to R and D institutions to exploit the S and T strength of the R and D institutes may be created.
- (ix) The Government may set up a few component and subsystem development technology parks.
- (x) Accreditation Centres should be setup/augmented for certification of instruments conforming international norms like ISO, CE, UL, and QS etc.
- (xi) Government should establish some Centres of excellence in electronics and encourage the industry to use them.
- (xii) Academics and science administrators should give due credit to instrumentation scientists in promotions, awards and election to Fellowships.
- (xiii) The S and T institutions may help to upgrade the skills, knowledge and technical manpower in industry by organizing short-term course, seminars etc.
- (xiv) Some Indian universities may start multidisciplinary course involving S and T and business management and also take steps to produce manpower required for particular skills needed by the industry. Similarly, the industry may do more for training of students at their plants, as hands-on training will be an important step to develop entrepreneurial skills in them.
- (xv) Some instrumentation linkage companies should

provide rapid prototyping services for converting innovations into products.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) The Department under the overall guidance of the National Instrumentation Development Board (NIDB) has been supporting development of Analytical, Industrial, Medical and Health Care Instruments including various types of Sensors in the country. The industry participation is ensured right from the beginning in all such projects. The conditions for intellectual property rights, technology transfer etc. are covered by the general guidelines framed in this regard. A database of all the scientific instruments and components manufactured in India has been compiled and published by Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO), Chandigarh. The Department has set up various Science and Technology Parks, Technology Business Incubation Centres and Centres of Excellence in different academic institutions as a general facility to back up commercialization of technologies developed in various institutes.

Standard of Government Schools

2663. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the condition of the Government schools and the standard of its teachers is far below as compared to private schools;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and remedial steps taken in this regard; and

(c) the details of the improvement under taken by the Government to bridge the gap in the quality of education between Government schools and private public schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) Education being a concurrent subject, school education primarily comes under the purview of the State Governments. So far as the schools under this Ministry are concerned, there is no evidence to suggest that condition of these schools or standard of teachers is below that of private schools. On the contrary, pass percentages of schools under Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, both at class X and class XII were consistently above the pass percentages of independent private schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) during the last five years (2003-2007).

(b) and (c) Improvement of quality of education is a continuous process. Central Government has been implementing Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) at the elementary level since 2001-02, inter-alia, with the objective to focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality. It has also been decided to implement a centrally sponsored scheme for universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of education at secondary stage during the 11th Five Year Plan.

Opening of Foreign Language Centres in the States

2664. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering to establish an Education Centre in each State for Chinese, French and German language;

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

(c) the time by when these centres are likely to be made functional; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) There is no proposal to establish an education Centre in each State for Chinese, French and German languages. However, the Government of India had established The English and Foreign Languages University (EFL-University), which is a Central University, for promotion of English and Foreign Languages in the country. EFL-University has two Regional Centres, one in Shillong and the other at Lucknow, which are offering courses in German and French languages.

[Translation]

Affiliation of Colleges

2665. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the colleges located in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Maharashtra have applied for permanent affiliation to the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details of such colleges; and

(c) the total number of seats likely to be increased this year in case permission is granted by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (c) Affiliation to Colleges, whether temporary or permanent, is accorded by the Universities under whose territorial jurisdiction the said Colleges fall. As such, no record in respect of such applications is maintained by the Central Government.

[English]

**Industrial Infrastructure and
Upgradation Scheme**

2666. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of projects, implemented under the Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS) during the 10th Five Year Plan period;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to extend the Scheme during 11th Plan period also; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) :

(a) The details of projects sanctioned under Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS) during 10th Five Year Plan are given in the enclosed Statement. The projects are at various stages of implementation.

(b) and (c) The continuation or otherwise of the Scheme during the 11th Plan is dependent on the outcome of evaluation of the Scheme, which is being undertaken by an independent agency.

Statement

(Rs. in crores)

S. No	State	Cluster/Project	Project Cost	GOI Grant approved	GOI Grant released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Pharma Cluster, Hyderabad	66.16	49.62	16.54
2.		Auto Cluster, Vijayawada	30.67	23.01	15.60
3.	Chhattisgarh	Steel and Metallurgical Cluster, Raipur	65.55	31.76	21.07
4.	Gujarat	Chemical Cluster, Ahmedabad	69.86	41.39	27.58
5.		Chemical Cluster, Ankleshwar	152.83	50.00	48.50
6.		Gem and Jewellery Cluster, Surat	75.00	50.00	16.70
7.		Chemical Cluster, Vapi	54.31	40.49	39.28
8.	Haryana	Textile Cluster, Panipat	54.53	40.90	13.63*
9.	Karnataka	Machine Tools Cluster, Bangalore	135.50	49.12	47.65
10.		Foundry Cluster, Belgaum	24.78	18.58	18.02
11.	Kerala	Coir Cluster, Alapuzha	56.80	42.60	14.20

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Auto Cluster, Pithampur	73.29	44.94	33.30
13.	Maharashtra	Textile Cluster, Ichalkaranji	65.07	32.70	21.80
14.		Auto Cluster, Pune	59.99	49.99	43.64
15.	Orissa	Metallurgical Cluster, Jajpur	80.60	47.00	31.32
16.	Punjab	Textile Cluster, Ludhiana	17.19	12.69	8.42
17.	Rajasthan	Marble Cluster, Kishangarh	36.80	27.60	9.20
18.	Tamil Nadu	Auto Cluster, Chennai	47.49	27.74	18.50
19.		Leather Cluster, Ambur	67.34	43.94	42.62
20.		Food Grain, Cereal and Staple Cluster, Madurai	39.96	29.97	20.00
21.		Pump, Motor and Foundry Cluster, Coimbatore	56.90	39.59	38.40
22.		Textile Cluster, Tirupur	150.00	50.00	46.24
23.	Uttar Pradesh	Leather Cluster, Kanpur	16.46	9.75	6.50
24.	West Bengal	Multi Industry Cluster, Haldia	67.25	36.97	24.64
25.		Foundry Cluster, Howrah	126.74	40.40	13.47
26.		Rubber Cluster, Kolkata	29.74	15.72	5.24

*Sanction withdrawn.

[Translation]

Basic Facilities In Schools

2667. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of basic facilities being provided in the schools in the country;

(b) whether the Government has received some complaints about the non-availability of basic facilities like

drinking water, toilet and food in the schools;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) As per the 7th All India School Education Survey conducted by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) (with reference date 30.9.2002), basic facilities in schools, such as, type of school building, drinking water facilities, urinal/lavatory etc. are as under:

Type of schools	No. of schools	Type of building					Schools having drinking water facility	Urinals	Lavatory
		Pucca	Partly Pucca	Kuchcha	Tents	Open space			
Primary	651,064	525,500	77,932	27,959	1,629	18,044	499,218	220,583	191,831
Upper primary	245,322	201,996	30,961	7,390	211	4,764	203,511	146,204	120,218
Secondary	90,741	76,598	10,499	3,090	156	398	82,327	74,095	60,410
Higher secondary	43,869	40,397	3,011	362	32	67	42,628	41,414	38,078

(b) to (d) Education being a concurrent subject, school education primarily comes under the purview of State Governments. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the flagship programme of Government of India for universalisation of elementary education provides for a room for every grade/class or every teacher, which ever is lower in primary and upper primary stage, with the provision that there would be 2 classrooms with veranda in every primary school with at least 2 teachers and including Teaching Learning Equipments for new primary and upper primary schools. The scheme also provides for toilets and drinking water facilities in convergence with schemes of Ministry of Rural Development. Under SSA, 138550 primary school buildings, 72869 upper primary school buildings, 815517 additional classrooms, 188832 drinking water facilities and 244297 toilets have been provided to the elementary schools up to the year 2007.

[English]

**Research and Development
Activities**

2668. SHRI RANEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether less number of research and development activities are being undertaken in Government scientific labs in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide more incentives to improve the working conditions for scientists in Government labs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (d) No Sir. The Government has provided several incentives to the active scientists from time to time in the form of increasing their research fellowships. The Government has also made provisions for sharing royalty earned from the commercialized patents with the scientists. In addition, keeping in view the recent economic atmosphere in the country the Government through its Scientific Departments and agencies has initiated programmes like Swarnajayanti Fellowships, Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Fellowships, KS Krishnan Fellowships and J.C. Bose and Ramanujam Fellowships for bright and

active scientists and technologists with a provision for monetary incentives in addition to the salary.

Posts in AIR and Doordarshan

2669. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of vacant posts in various cadres of AIR and Doordarshan under direct recruitment quota;

(b) whether instead of recruiting fresh candidates, the department is engaging retired personnel in Programme/ Administrative cadres;

(c) if so, the reason therefore;

(d) the extent to which these arrangements will be helpful; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to fill up these vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) The Screening Committee of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has cleared 1616 (1184 for AIR and 432 for Doordarshan) vacancies for direct recruitment under Annual Direct Recruitment Plan (ARDP) till now.

(b) to (d) There is a shortage of specialized manpower in AIR and Doordarshan as no recruitment is taking place because the status of Prasar Bharati employees is under consideration of GOM. A few retired personnel have been engaged on contract basis for a limited period to ensure that important and specialized works of Prasar Bharati does not suffer.

(e) After clearance of the vacancies for direct recruitment by the Screening Committee under ADRP, Prasar Bharati has initiated action to fill up these vacancies at the earliest.

Expenditure on Literacy Campaign

2670. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount spent on literacy campaign during the year 2004-05 till date;

(b) the number of educationally backward districts in the country where this campaign was launched during the last three years, State-wise, particularly in Gujarat;

(c) the details and the number of National Literacy Mission projects sanctioned for Non-Governmental Organisations by the Union Government in urban and rural areas of the various States during the last three years till date;

(d) whether the Union Government has reviewed the performance of the Non-Governmental Organisations;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the Non-Governmental Organisations whose performance is not satisfactory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) The expenditure incurred on various literacy programmes since 2004-05 is given below:—

Year	Expenditure (Rs. in crores)
2004-05	236.47
2005-06	249.30
2006-07	213.48
2007-08	213.57
	(Till 12.3.08)

(b) 150 low literacy districts have been identified in the country for special focus. So far, 120 districts, out of these 150 low literacy districts, have been covered under various literacy programmes. A statement showing State-wise number of these districts including those of Gujarat is enclosed at Statement-I.

(c) Under National Literacy Mission, grants are sanctioned to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for the following purposes:

- (i) To conduct vocational training programmes in various trades for the benefit of the neo-literates, unskilled and unemployed youths and other weaker sections of the society belonging to rural and urban areas through district level institutions called Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs). 221 JSSs have so far been set up in various districts of the country. A statement showing the number of JSS sanctioned State-wise and district-wise during the last three years till date may be seen at Statement-II.
- (ii) To take up innovative literacy projects for compact and limited areas of the district, publication of neo-literate magazines for circulation to various districts, undertaking research studies, conducting conferences/seminars etc. A statement showing number of NGO projects sanctioned, State-wise and district-wise, during the last three years, till date is at Statement-III.
- (iii) To provide academic and technical resource support to the literacy programme being implemented in the States including rural areas through State level institutions called State Resource Centres (SRCs). 26 SRCs have been set up in various States for this purpose. One SRC was sanctioned for the State of Chhattisgarh during 2006-07.

(d) and (e) Performance of these organisations is

reviewed periodically through their Quarterly and Annual Progress Reports. Performance of SRCs and JSSs is also reviewed through Annual Action Plan Meetings.

(f) During the last 3 years complaints have been received in respect of Jan Shikshan Sansthan in Kushinagar (Bihar), Ramanathapuram (Tamil Nadu), Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh) and Lakhimpur Khiri (Uttar Pradesh). The grants to these JSSs have been stopped until the completion of the inquiry into the complaints.

Statement-I

Expenditure on Literacy Campaign

Sl. No.	State	No. of low literacy districts	No. of districts covered under literacy programmes TLC/PLP/PRI*
1	2	3	4
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	7	7
2.	Andhra Pradesh	8	8
3.	Assam	3	—
4.	Bihar	31	21
5.	Chhattisgarh	4	2
6.	Gujarat	2	2
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	8	8
8.	Jharkhand	13	11
9.	Karnataka	4	2
10.	Madhya Pradesh	9	9
11.	Meghalaya	3	3

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
12.	Nagaland	2	2	17.	West Bengal	4	4
13.	Orissa	10	8	Total			
14.	Punjab	1	1	150 120			
15.	Rajasthan	11	10	*TLC — Total Literacy Campaign			
16.	Uttar Pradesh	30	22	PLP — Post Literacy Programme			
				PRI — Projects for Residual Illiteracy			

Statement-II

S. Name of the		Number of JSSs Sanctioned and Name of the District			
No.	State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
		No of JSS	No of JSS	No of JSS	No of JSS
		sanctioned/ Name	sanctioned/ Name	sanctioned/ Name	sanctioned/ Name
		of the districts	of the districts	of the districts	of the districts
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh		01/West Godavari	—	02/Warangal Mahboobnagar
2.	Bihar	01/Saran	—	01/Aurangabad	02/Hajipur (Vaishali) Buxar
3.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	01/Rajnandgaon	01/Bilaspur
4.	Gujarat	—	—	01/Patan	01/Sabarkantha
5.	Haryana	01/Panipat	—	—	01/Gurgaon
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	01/Tangdar	—
7.	Karnataka	01/Davangere	—	—	—
8.	Kerala	01/Emakulam	01/Mallapuram	—	02/Kannur Palakkad

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Madhya Pradesh	04/Hoshangabad Dhar Sehore Sidhi	03/Rewa Chattarpur Sagar	07/Katni Jabhua Betul Mandia Dewas Umaria Shajapur	03/Raisen Narsinghpur Damoh
10.	Maharashtra	02/Gondia Ahmadnagar	01/Jalgaon	01/Yavatmal	02/Buldana Dhule
11.	Manipur	01/Senapati	01/Imphal West	—	—
12.	Orissa	01/Bhadrak	—	03/Sambhalpur Jagatsinghpur Naupada	03/Jajpur Balasore Bolangir
13.	Tamil Nadu	—	01/Namakkal	—	01/Kanchipuram
14.	Uttar Pradesh	04/Bhadoi Hardoi Fatehpur Rai Bareilly	05 Gorakhpur Siddharthnagar Sitapur Kheri and Sahajanpur	08/Aligarh Etawah Jalaun Kaushambi Sonbhadra Azamgarh Agra Brareilly	03/Lucknow Chandoli Shrawasti
15.	Uttarakhand	01/Bageshwar	01/Tehri Garhwal	01/Almora	01/Chamoli
16.	West Bengal	01/West Midnapore	—	01/Bankura	01/Birbhum
17.	Delhi	—	—	01/West Delhi	—
Total		18	14	26	23

Statement-III

S. No.	Name of the State	Number of NGO Sanctioned and Name of the District			
		2004-05 No of NGO projects sanctioned/name of the districts	2005-06 No of NGO projects sanctioned/name of the districts	2006-07 No of NGO projects sanctioned/name of the districts	2007-08 No of NGO projects sanctioned/name of the districts
1.	Assam	—	01/Guwahati	—	—
2.	Bihar	—	01/Patna	—	—
3.	Gujarat	—	01/Banaskantha	—	01/Ahmedabad
4.	Haryana	—	01/Panipat	—	—
5.	Karnataka	—	04/Hassan Tumkur Bellary Mysore	—	—
6.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	02/Bhopal	—
7.	Orissa	—	—	01/Mayurbhanj	—
8.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	01/Dindigul	—
9.	Uttar Pradesh	03/Allahabad Lucknow Gazipur	03/Etah Allahabad	01/Lucknow	—
10.	Uttarakhand	02/Dehradun Udham Singh Nagar	01/Dehradun	—	—
11.	Delhi	01/West Delhi	05/South Delhi	02/South Delhi	—
Total		06	17	07	01

Central Agency for Federal Crimes

(a) whether most of the States and Union Territories

2671. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

have opposed the Central Agency to investigate federal crimes; and

(b) if so, the details and reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT) : (a) and (b) There is no definition of 'federal crime' in the Indian Penal Code. 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. It is open to the State Governments/Union Territories to entrust criminal cases having inter-State ramifications to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) as per the provisions of section 6 of Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

Grants to Khadi and Village Industries

2672. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has stopped the Budgetary support, grants, interests free loans and rebate to Khadi and Village Industries;

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

(c) whether Khadi and Village Industries is now facing a serious crisis resulting in closure of units and massive unemployment;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is considering any new policy to revive and revitalise the Khadi and Village Industries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir. The khadi and village industries sector has continued to receive priority as can be judged from the fact that budgetary allocation has increased from Rs. 340.55 crore (actual) in 2002-03 to Rs. 653.15 crore in 2007-08 (Revised

Estimates). Government continues to provide budgetary support in the form of grants, rebate on sale of khadi and polyvastra, and khadi loan to the khadi and village industries (KVI) through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). Loans to the village industry sector earlier available have however, been discontinued and were replaced by a credit linked subsidy scheme called "Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP)" which was introduced for implementation with effect from 1st April, 1995.

(b) The High Power Committee on Khadi and Village Industries in its report submitted in 1994 had observed that KVIC has not been conceived as a financial institution and had accordingly recommended that the Commission should devote more time to the development of infrastructure, policy planning, training, etc., rather than financing new institutions. Accordingly, in order to improve the quality of the project proposals for establishing rural industries, REGP was introduced, under which the loan proposals are appraised by the Banks which are responsible for the recovery of credit extended by them.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Government has formulated some proposals for introducing new schemes to further strengthen and revitalize the KVI sector. The details and expected benefits of these new schemes under consideration in KVI sector are given as Statement.

Statement

1. **Workshed Scheme for Khadi Artisans** : It has been proposed to provide financial assistance upto Rs. 25,000 for construction of Worksheds for khadi spinners/artisans.
2. **Scheme for enhancement of productivity and competitiveness of Khadi Industry and Artisans** : This aims to provide financial assistance

on a pilot basis to the Khadi institutions for replacement of charkhas/looms to increase value addition to khadi products, readymade garments, muslin khadi, setting up of common facility centre, need based dyeing and printing facilities besides ensuring better wages to artisans along with skill upgradation.

3. **Package for developing infrastructure of Khadi institutions including nursing fund for weak institutions :** This proposed scheme envisages replacement of looms and charkhas for increasing production of khadi and to expand employment base. The scheme involves renovation of sales outlets also.
4. **Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme :** This scheme is going to be a comprehensive proposal which seeks to merge the two existing major employment generation schemes, viz., Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana and Rural Employment Generation Programme.

Award of BBA/MBA Degrees to Hotel Management Graduates ,

2673. SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indira Gandhi National Open University proposes to award the degrees of BBA and MBA in place of BSc and MSc in Hotel Management degrees to graduates and post-graduates, passing out from the Institutes of Hotel Management run by the Ministry of Tourism in view of the predominance of the management content in their curriculum, and some University like Tilak Maharashtra University also award BBA/MBA in Hotel Management,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Patenting of Ancient Heritage

2674. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ancient heritage of India has been patented in various foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details of our heritage and traditional items patented in various foreign countries, country-wise;

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

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Patents are granted under the sovereign prerogative of countries according to their respective patent laws and have territorial effect, that is, they are effective only in the country of grant. In order to qualify for grant of patent in any country an invention, whether process or product has to meet the criteria of patentability, namely, novelty, inventiveness and industrial applicability. Indian goods/items, which are already in public knowledge/domain, cannot be patented. Data on goods/items patented worldwide is not maintained.

As patents are essentially private rights they are normally challenged, in accordance with the patent laws of the country concerned, by the person(s) whose interests are affected/jeopardized. As and when information is

received about patents being obtained on certain items which are not considered patentable and which affect Indian interests, steps are taken to assess whether the grant of such patent can be challenged under the patent laws of the country concerned. Earlier a patent granted in the United States of America on the use of turmeric in wound healing was successfully challenged and was also cancelled by the Patent Office of the country concerned. Similarly, a patent on the fungicidal property of neem, granted in Europe, was successfully challenged. The claims of the patent on Basmati Rice lines and grains granted in the United States of America which had the potential of affecting India's commercial interest were also challenged. The said claims were subsequently cancelled by the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the title of the patent was also amended.

In order to protect traditional knowledge from being patented, provision have been made in the Patents Act, 1970. Section 3 (p) of the said Act provides that an invention, which, in effect, is traditional knowledge or which is an aggregation or duplication of known properties of traditionally known component or components is not patentable. Section 3 (j) of the said Act further provides that plant in whole or any part thereof other than micro-organisms but including seeds, varieties and species and essentially biological processes for production or propagation of plants are not patentable. As per Section 3 (c) of the said Act, the mere discovery of any living or non-living substance occurring in nature is also not patentable. Sections 25 and 64 of the said Act include anticipation of invention by available local knowledge, including oral knowledge, as one of the grounds for opposition as also for revocation.

The Government has developed a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) database which includes codified knowledge of traditional medicine, including Ayurveda and Unani, in five international languages, namely, English, German, French, Spanish and Japanese to prevent patenting of inventions which are mere traditional knowledge.

Assistance for Higher Education

2675. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total funds provided by the Government for higher education during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether allocated the funds have not been able to meet the demand of higher education in the country;

(c) the total funds required and available at present with the Government for this purpose;

(d) whether to meet the gap between the demand and supply, the Government proposes to seek private sector assistance for promotion of higher education in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and strategy chalked out by the Government during Eleventh Plan period to meet the demand of higher education in the country.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (e) A statement indicating the grants paid by University Grants Commission (UGC) to Central/State and Deemed universities during the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 under non-plan and plan schemes is enclosed. The funds are released based on demand and eligibility. For 2008-09 the allocation for UGC is Rs. 3439.95 crore. The National Policy on Education 1986 (as modified in 1992) encourages Non Governmental and voluntary effort in education while preventing the establishment of institutions intending to commercialise education. In the XI plan emphasis is being laid on improving access, equity and quality in higher education. Accordingly Government is setting up central universities in uncovered States, colleges in district having Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) lower than the national average in higher education, giving incentives to States to increase outlay on higher education etc.

Statement**CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES**

(Rs. In lakh)

S.No	Name of the University	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad University, Allahabad	374.84	6002.65	9771.26
2.	Aligarh University, Aligarh	17356.30	20554.94	23321.13
3.	Assam University, Silchar	3362.83	1193.25	1033.66
4.	Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi	18527.61	23708.42	30940.38
5.	Delhi University, Delhi	14551.65	15737.17	17739.05
6.	Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar University, Lucknow	221.67	248.68	790.82
7.	Hyderabad University, Hyderabad	4279.62	4570.64	9250.70
8.	Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi	709.40	3.94	0.84
9.	Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi	7158.53	7356.43	8497.82
10.	Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi	8942.30	10728.98	13165.91
11.	Manipur University, Manipur	1082.36	1759.68	4733.75
12.	Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi V.V., Hyderabad	315.42	1043.20	1656.72
13.	Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad	1320.72	1384.39	1883.37
14.	Mizoram University, Mizoram	2851.03	2547.96	2566.57
15.	N.E.H.U. Shillong	7217.36	5082.79	7353.36
16.	Nagaland University, Kohima	2441.43	2089.06	2134.61
17.	Pondicherry University, Pondicherry	1682.70	2494.52	5562.68
18.	Tezpur University, Tezpur	2109.45	750.26	2039.50
19.	Visva Bharati Shantiniketan	4023.31	4940.46	6649.43
Total		98528.53	112197.42	149091.56

1	2	3	4	5
DEEMED UNIVERSITIES				
1.	Avinash Institute of Home Science for and Higher Education Women's Coimbatore	952.70	1081.77	1263.18
2.	Banasthali Vidyapith, Banasthali	439.68	424.11	357.08
3.	Birla Institute Technology and Science, Pilani	250.34	61.56	550.85
4.	Bharti Vidyapith, Pune	110.46	7.92	9.09
5.	Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi	290.58	129.02	90.35
6.	Bhatkhande Music Institute, Lucknow	0.00	1.50	0.44
7.	C.I.E.F.L, Hyderabad	1112.71	1305.31	1444.44
8.	Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Varanasi	1.32	41.50	40.00
9.	Dayal Bagh Educational Institute Agra	477.09	556.21	772.32
10.	Deccan College PG and Research Institute, Pune	107.31	77.00	7.92
11.	Gandhigram Rural Institute.	1111.27	1196.95	1268.85
12.	Gokhale Institute of Pol. Economics, Pune	40.54	992.54	11.53
13.	Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Ahmedabad	808.39	120.63	1059.02
14.	Gurukul Kangri V.V., Haridwar	634.99	893.21	824.67
15.	Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	398.31	301.44	379.45
16.	Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad	2.91	6.16	35.89
17.	Institute of Advance Studies in Education	0.00	0.00	0.40
18.	Indian Law Institute, New Delhi	0.00	300.00	4.44
19.	Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi	607.39	704.55	672.23
20.	Jain V. Bharti Institute, Ladnun	9.86	15.56	95.48
21.	National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra	0.00	1.67	2.39

1	2	3	4	5
22.	National Institute of Technology, Hamirpur	3.67	2.88	3.44
23.	National Institute of Technology Rourkela	9.97	0.00	0.00
24.	National Institute of Technology, Waragal	0.62	4.68	8.71
25.	JRN Rajasthan Vidyapeeth, Udaipur	41.70	16.01	3.45
26.	Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati	539.45	670.79	603.79
27.	Ramakrishana Mission Vivekanand Educational Research Institute, Hawrah	0.00	100.00	280.00
28.	Shri Chandrasekharandra Saraswati Vish. Vidya, Kancheepuram	60.50	61.52	46.00
29.	Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapith, New Delhi	554.05	897.67	852.05
30.	Sri Satya Sai Institute of higher Learning, Prasanthinilayam	123.25	115.76	64.50
31.	Sri Ram Chandra Medical College and Research Institute, Chennai	0.00	2.80	3.94
32.	Tata Institute of Social Science, Deonar Mumbai	1231.18	1259.60	1184.54
33.	Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapith Bhavan, Pune	4.38	69.20	56.25
34.	Thapar Institute of Engg. and Technology Patiala	252.37	160.15	143.85
35.	Vellore Institute of Technology Vellore (T.N.)	3.99	0.00	0.00
36.	Visvasaraya National Institute and Technology Nagpur	1.11	0.00	1.96
37.	International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad	0.00	5.45	6.64
38.	National Institute of Technology, Silcher	0.00	0.00	2.25
39.	National Institute of Technology, Karnataka	0.00	0.00	0.75
40.	Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi	25.01	33.00	40.22
41.	National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Musicology, New Delhi	11.55	15.00	17.00

1	2	3	4	5
42.	TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi	17.19	14.00	0.00
43.	Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi	3.27	7.17	2.47
44.	National Brain Research Centre, Gurgaon	4.44	3.83	7.50
45.	National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal	0.00	1.11	0.00
46.	Jawaharlal Nehru Centre For Advance Scientific Research, Bangalore	0.00	1.11	6.92
47.	Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal (Karnataka)	3.20	0.00	0.00
48.	National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Science, Bangalore	0.00	7.12	20.00
49.	Lakshmbai National Institute of Physical Education, Gwalior	34.00	33.00	0.00
50.	C.I.F.E., Versova, Mumbai	0.00	43.00	0.00
51.	Padamshri Dr. Dy. Patil Vidyapith, Mumbai	0.00	0.00	0.75
52.	Malvia National Institute of Technology Jaipur	0.00	0.94	0.75
53.	National Institute of Technology Trichurapalli	6.83	0.00	0.46
54.	Satya Bham Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai	0.00	3.00	0.00
55.	Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar	3.33	2.22	3.29
56.	Motilal Nehru National Institute, Allahabad	2.38	3.08	0.00
57.	J.R. Handicapped University, Chitrakoot	5.46	1.14	130.85
58.	Forest Research Institute, Dehradun	0.00	1.25	1.13
59.	Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad	0.00	1.16	0.00
Total		10298.75	11717.58	12383.48

1	2	3	4	5
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STATE UNIVERSITIES (STATE-WISE)**ANDHRA PRADESH**

1. Andhra University Visakhapatnam	216.34	612.78	1229.50
2. C.E.C.R.I., Hyderabad	0.19	0.00	0.00
3. Jawaharlal Nehru Technology, Hyderabad	336.71	37.55	311.66
4. Kakatiya University, Warangal	70.42	156.91	228.69
5. Nagarjuna University, Guntur	50.74	119.11	24.13
6. National Institute of Technology, Hyderabad	1.42	0.00	0.00
7. Osmania University, Hyderabad	496.15	454.15	1295.87
8. Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University, Hyderabad	106.13	48.75	78.97
9. Sri Krishna Devaraya University, Anantapur	195.35	51.01	221.59
10. Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati	415.64	301.46	456.64
11. Sri Padmawathis Mahila Vish Vidyalaya, Tirupati	200.07	138.61	130.63
12. A.N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad	0.00	49.45	163.14
13. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad	0.00	3.00	0.00
14. National Academy of legal Studies and Res. University	0.00	174.63	130.46
15. M.G. Narain Institute Res. and Social, Hyderabad	0.00	0.00	8.20
16. Dravidian University	0.00	0.00	105.60
Total	2089.16	2147.41	4385.08

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

1. Arunachal University, Itanagar	1082.86	180.61	164.50
Total	1082.86	180.61	164.50

1	2	3	4	5
ASSAM				
1.	Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh	401.15	62.80	193.15
2.	Gauhati University, Guwahati	387.10	158.86	100.42
3.	Assam Agricultural University	0.00	0.00	60.75
Total		788.25	221.66	354.32

BIHAR

1.	T.M. Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur	116.47	42.18	209.50
2.	Babasaheb BRA Bihar University, Muzaffarpur	78.80	183.02	91.51
3.	B.N. Mandal University Madhepura	7.15	95.72	95.48
4.	K.S. Dharbhanga Sanskrit V.V., Darbhanga	44.36	12.00	65.59
5.	Magadh University, Bodh Gaya	20.87	62.38	62.97
6.	L.N. Mithila University, Darbhanga	109.30	158.32	77.63
7.	Patna University, Patna	129.41	159.76	168.70
8.	Rajendra Agricultural University, Samastipur	0.00	1.11	0.00
9.	Jai Prakash V.V., Chapra	0.00	0.00	64.43
10.	Veer Kunwar Sing University, Arrah	0.00	0.00	131.10
Total		506.38	714.49	966.91

CHHATTISGARH

1.	Guru Ghasidas University, Bilaspur	207.94	34.43	98.99
2.	Indira Kala Sangeet V.V., Khairagarh	10.73	4.96	205.32
3.	Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Raipur	151.28	55.88	247.07
4.	Indira Gandhi Krishi V.V., Raipur	0.00	0.00	4.75

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur	0.00	0.00	116.50
Total		369.95	95.27	670.63

DELHI

1.	Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi	54.52	54.49	135.87
Total		54.52	54.49	135.87

GUJARAT

1.	Bhavnagar University, Bhavnagar	146.24	15.11	137.30
2.	Gujarat University, Ahmedabad	162.28	172.72	164.64
3.	M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara	229.62	597.69	368.55
4.	North Gujarat University, Patan	153.73	67.00	114.47
5.	Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar	393.46	187.81	195.07
6.	Saurashtra University, Rajkot	115.30	145.69	150.67
7.	South Gujarat University, Surat	20.24	48.74	204.58
8.	B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Ahmedabad	0.00	0.00	5.95
Total		1220.87	1234.76	1341.23

GOA

1.	Goa University, Goa	174.17	23.70	277.04
Total		174.17	23.70	277.04

HARYANA

1.	C.C.S. Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar	2.31	1.55	2.32
2.	Guru Jambheswar University, Hisar	172.14	88.88	108.33
3.	Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra	131.78	218.32	325.11

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak	127.36	147.53	304.67
Total		433.59	456.28	740.43

HIMACHAL PRADESH

1.	Himachal Pradesh University, Simla	313.24	805.79	131.55
2.	Himachal Pradesh Krishi University, Palampur	0.00	3.44	0.00
3.	Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticultural and Forestry, Solan	0.00	2.40	0.00
4.	Chaudhary Swaran Kuvar H.P. Agricultural V.V.,	0.00	0.00	7.60
Total		313.24	811.63	139.15

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

1.	Jammu University, Jammu	243.21	231.21	229.21
2.	Kashmir University, Srinagar	331.09	184.20	352.07
3.	Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology Srinagar	0.00	1.84	20.00
Total		574.30	417.25	601.28

JHARKHAND

1.	Ranchi University, Ranchi	124.35	59.23	89.66
2.	Vinoba Bhava University, Hazaribag	110.31	57.27	229.84
Total		234.66	116.50	319.50

KARNATAKA

1.	Bangalore University, Bangalore	232.47	237.45	277.64
2.	Gulbarga University, Gulbarga	168.90	26.64	197.61
3.	Kannada University, Hampi	124.18	84.01	141.20

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Karnataka University, Dharwad	232.64	131.44	357.92
5.	Kovempu University, Shimoga	110.07	240.00	120.41
6.	Mangalore University, Mangalore	176.89	103.26	222.38
7.	Mysore University, Mysore	278.11	360.58	380.70
8.	National Law Institute of India, Bangalore	50.00	75.50	106.75
9.	Karnataka State Open University, Mysore	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	University of Agricultural Science, Bangalore	0.00	1.11	1.11
11.	University of Agricultural Science, Dharwad	0.00	0.00	2.70
12.	Karnataka State Women's University, Bijapur	0.00	0.00	149.65
Total		1373.26	1259.99	1958.07

KERALA

1.	Calicut University, Kozhikode	94.44	180.93	212.73
2.	Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi	232.64	169.26	1460.03
3.	Kerala University, Thiruvananthapuram	395.64	256.18	290.49
4.	Mahatama Gandhi University, Kottayam	196.19	75.41	115.12
5.	Kerala Agricultural University, Trichur	2.92	0.00	0.00
6.	Kannur University, Kannur	206.60	69.00	293.96
7.	Shri Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady	2.37	127.24	41.01
Total		1130.80	878.02	2413.34

MADHYA PRADESH

1.	Avdesh P. Singh University, Rewa	150.56	73.86	159.36
2.	Barkatullah V.V., Bhopal	249.11	63.35	79.62
3.	M.G. Chitrakoot Gramodyog V.V., Chitrakoot	166.23	76.98	121.60

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Devi Ahilya V.V., Indore	162.22	208.91	308.03
5.	Dr. H.S. Gour V.V., Sagar	141.51	133.44	193.06
6.	Jiwaji University, Gwalior	68.62	106.36	98.88
7.	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapith, Prabhani	0.00	0.00	0.75
8.	MP. Bhoj University, Bhopal	0.00	0.00	1.65
9.	National Law Institute, Bhopal	1.50	86.00	172.16
10.	Rani Durgavati V. V., Jabalpur	48.62	299.71	129.21
11.	Vikram university, Ujjain	41.63	195.60	176.25
Total		1030.00	1244.21	1440.57

MAHARASHTRA

1.	Amravati University, Amravati	191.53	141.77	135.27
2.	International Institute For Population Studies, Bombay	0.00	3.12	18.85
3.	Institute of Science, Bombay	1.28	0.00	0.00
4.	Mumbai University, Mumbai	1286.34	1475.14	722.00
5.	Dr. B.A. Marathwada University, Aurangabad	268.64	71.01	151.57
6.	Nagpur University, Nagpur	292.33	94.06	343.88
7.	North Maharashtra, Jalgaon	159.51	65.85	151.95
8.	Poona University, Pune	1430.86	1010.86	528.54
9.	S.N.D.T Women's University, Mumbai	274.95	113.64	163.59
10.	Shivaji University, Kolhapur	122.49	233.27	404.82
11.	Yashwant Rao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik	0.00	0.00	0.48
12.	S.R.T. Marathwada University, Nanded	4.22	179.28	65.31

1	2	3	4	5
13. Kavi Kulguru Kalidas Sanskrit V.V., Nagpur		0.00	1.15	0.97
14. Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Prabhani		0.00	12.50	0.00
Total		4012.15	3401.65	2687.01

ORISSA

1. Berhampur University, Berhampur		121.98	43.09	231.21
2. Sambalpur University, Sambalpur		160.82	80.44	328.81
3. Shri Jagannath Sanskrit Vidyapith, Puri		4.67	94.90	92.25
4. Utkal University, Bhubaneswar		142.96	290.87	376.17
5. North Orissa University Baripada		1.74	7.44	85.00
6. Institute of Science and Technology Bhubaneswar		0.00	0.00	5.75
7. Fakir Mohan University, Balasore		0.00	0.00	197.94
8. Orissa University of Agricultural and Technology, Bhubaneswar		0.00	0.00	3.00
Total		432.17	516.74	1320.13

PUNJAB

1. Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar		310.36	276.02	158.05
2. Punjab University, Chandigarh		353.06	790.94	379.76
3. Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana		53.90	25.84	203.63
4. Punjabi University, Patiala		152.08	124.92	350.05
Total		869.40	1217.72	1091.49

RAJASTHAN

1. Kota Open University, Kota		0.91	0.00	0.00
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1	2	3	4	5
2.	J.N. Vyas University, Jodhpur	198.84	104.23	315.15
3.	M.D.S. University, Ajmer	16.76	191.93	134.25
4.	M.L. Sukhadia V. Vidyalyaya, Udaipur	114.09	168.18	107.08
5.	Rajasthan University, Jaipur	319.37	629.45	885.51
6.	Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner	0.00	0.00	2.99
Total		649.97	1093.79	1444.98

TAMILNADU

1.	Alagappa University, Karaikudi	124.07	106.43	182.29
2.	Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar	204.21	434.61	348.98
3.	Anna University, Chennai	358.37	413.44	609.36
4.	Bharthiar University, Coimbatore	164.34	149.66	166.71
5.	Bharthidesan University, Tiruchirapalli	173.71	127.81	296.34
7.	Madras University, Chennai	1007.98	3470.53	383.46
8.	Madurai Kamraj University, Maduari	290.14	1160.03	407.84
9.	Mother Teresa University for Women, Kodaikanal	17.34	35.53	52.93
10.	M. Sundarnar University, Tirunelveli	36.10	107.81	123.06
11.	Tamil University, Thanjavur	25.99	1080.38	121.31
12.	Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	14.52	1.01	6.41
13.	Periyar University, Salem	0.00	28.57	194.10
14.	Institute of Technology and Science, Coimbatore	0.00	0.00	2.00
Total		2416.77	7115.81	2894.79

TRIPURA

1.	Tripura University, Agartala	1001.74	235.02	63.03
Total		1001.74	235.02	63.03

1	2	3	4	5
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UTTAR PRADESH

1. Allahabad Agricultural Institute, Allahabad		4.91	3.63	4.23
2. Bundelkhand University, Jhansi		278.16	34.01	90.65
3. Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut		156.70	70.87	139.31
4. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, Agra		27.49	0.72	51.47
5. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia (Avadh) University, Faizabad		20.05	211.93	66.52
6. D.D.U. Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur		148.18	235.45	215.51
7. Ch. Shahuji Maharaj Kanpur University, Kanpur		38.14	8.55	32.82
8. Lucknow University, Lucknow		373.61	203.77	555.45
9. Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi		68.72	130.26	54.73
10. M.J.P. Rohilkhand University, Bareilly		19.30	5.05	59.73
11. V.V.S.Purvanchal University, Jaunpur		53.16	35.62	46.68
12. Sampurnanand Sanskrit V. Vidyalaya, Varanasi		75.96	0.20	97.17
Total		1264.38	940.06	1414.27

UTTARANCHAL

1. G.B. Pant University of Agricultural and Technology Pant Nagar		17.05	12.25	2.60
2. H.N.B. (Garwal) University, Srinagar		57.48	14.95	290.04
3. Kumaon University, Nainital		170.90	38.24	306.98
Total		245.43	65.44	599.62

WEST BENGAL

1. Burdwan University, Burdwan		172.34	172.93	191.13
2. Calcutta University, Kolkata		1076.98	3477.58	670.58

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Jadavpur University, Kolkata	1205.38	1214.07	2620.85
4.	Kalyani University, Kalyani	85.56	106.85	103.23
5.	North Bengal University, Kolkata	245.94	81.69	319.05
6.	Rabindra Bharti University, Kolkata	28.12	48.89	321.93
7.	Vidya Sagar University, Midnapore	168.65	97.50	99.46
8.	Bengal Engg. College, Howrah	72.28	169.46	1093.83
9.	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Nadia	0.00	0.55	1.15
10.	West Bengal University of Technology, Kolkata	0.00	0.00	6.13
Total		3055.25	5369.52	5427.34

Anti-Dumping Duty on Raw Silk

2676. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request from any of the State Governments especially, Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received for extending the anti-dumping duty on raw silk for five more years to safeguard the interests of sericulture farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (c) Requests were received from the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal for extending the anti-dumping duty on mulberry raw silk for a further period of five years to safeguard the interests of the sericulture farmers. The Designated

Authority has already initiated the review investigation to examine the need for continued imposition of anti-dumping duty as per Section 9A (5) of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975. In this context, it is to inform that the anti-dumping duty on mulberry raw silk has been extended till 1st January, 2009, vide Customs Notification No. 01/2008-Customs dated 1st January, 2008, consequent upon initiation of a sunset review investigation of the antidumping duty by the Designated Authority, vide notification No. 15/12/2007-DGAD dated the 14th December, 2007.

Threats from SIMI

2677. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the members of the banned Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) are planning to attack important installations with sophisticated methods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate security arrangements to these installations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) According to available information, there are no present inputs indicating any specific plans of Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) to attack important installations with sophisticated methods. However, one arrested person disclosed that he along with his SIMI associates were planning to commit serial blasts and other serious offences.

(c) The Government assists the State Governments concerned by providing Central Para Military Forces as also by sharing intelligence inputs with the State Governments. Financial assistance as and when requested by the States/Union Territories, to the extent possible, is also provided.

High Tech Security System at Wagah Border

2678. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to install a high tech security system in view of the rising security threats and heavy inflow of visitors at the Attari-Wagah Border and the International Attari Railway station; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI) : (a) The Government has decided to improve and upgrade the security related and other infrastructure facilities at Attari Border and at Attari Railway station.

(b) Details of proposed instruments are as follows:-

Development of a separate corridor for traffic of goods trucks with security fencing and sentry post.

(i) 100% scanning of cargo.

- (ii) Introduction of Computerised single entry system.
- (iii) Rummaging system for trucks.
- (iv) Upgradation and modernization of platforms at Attari railway station.

[Translation]

Non-Registration of FIRS

2679. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL :
SHRI RANEN BARMAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding non-registration of F.I.Rs by Delhi Police including rape cases, dowry demand and dowry death in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the rules laid down for registering F.I.R. in the country;

(c) the number of police personnel found guilty alongwith the action taken against them during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the Delhi Police register all the F.I.R.s in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Serving of Contaminated food in JNVs

2680. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints relating to serving of contaminated food to the children of JNVs where by the children fell sick during the last three years;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to check the same: and

(c) the action taken so far by the Government against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) Two complaints relating to serving of contaminated food to the children of JNVs have been reported during the last three years.

(b) The Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) has issued instructions to the Principals of all Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalays (JNV) to ensure effective supervision in managing the Vidyalaya mess. The staff nurses of the Vidyalayas have also been directed to check the health, hygiene and sanitation of the mess and dining hall of the Vidyalaya and also to check the quality of food.

(c) In JNV, Raipur (Chhattisgarh), disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against the catering assistant. In JNV, Nagaur (Rajasthan), the drinking water being supplied to the school through a 8 km long pipeline was contaminated. Moreover, the school children had visited a local fair and had consumed contaminated food. Memorandum has been issued to the erring Vidyalaya staff.

[English]

Rise in Cement Price

2681. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether domestic cement manufacturers have formed cartels to bring up the prices artificially as reported by the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC);

(b) if so, whether MRTPC has ordered the manufacturers to stop rigging the prices of cement;

(c) if so, whether compliance reports have been submitted to the MRTPC by the cement manufacturers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) : (a) to (e) The MRTP Commission has recently passed two orders against domestic cement companies and found that the cement manufacturers have formed cartels to raise the prices artificially. The details of these cases are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

S. No.	Case No.	Parties — Details
1	2	3
1	RTPE 99/1990	The Director General (Investigation and Registration) Versus M/s. Cement Manufacturers' Association and 44 other cement companies. The MRTPC issued an order against CMA and 41 other cement companies not to indulge any arrangement directly or indirectly through the instrumentality of CMA or otherwise in fixing the price of their produce in concert or in follow up of a concert. The Commission further directed to file an affidavit of compliance to this effect within eight weeks of the pronouncement of the order.

1	2	3
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Aggrieved by this order the cement companies filed an appeal before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Apex Court on 8-2-2008 issued notice on the Civil Appeal and passed interim orders and stayed the Commission's directions with respect to filing of the affidavit of compliance.

2 RTPE 21/2001 Shri Sarabjit S. Mokha and another Versus M/s. Cement Manufacturers' Association and other cement companies.

The MRTPC on 29-2-2008 issued a 'Cease and desist' order against CMA and nine cement companies as they acted in concert to raise the price of cement bags in Jabalpur during the month July, December, 2000 and January, 2001. The Commission directed the cement companies to refrain from indulging in any sort of arrangement through the instrumentality of CMA or otherwise for fixing selling price of the cement in the market. The Commission further directed the cement companies to file affidavit of compliance within eight weeks from the date of order.

Protest for "Jodhaa Akbar" Film

2682. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the protest

against recently released Hindi film 'Jodhaa Akbar' in some parts of the country;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate any norms to ensure the accurate portrayal of history in such films;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) and (b) A number of caste based organisations organized protests against the Hindi film 'Jodhaa Akbar' in the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. As per guideline 2(xviii) for certification of films for public exhibition, "visuals or words involving defamation of an individual or a body of individuals or contempt of court are not presented". As per guideline 3, CBFC has to ensure that the film (i) is judged in its entirety from the point of view of its overall impacts and (ii) is examined in the light of the period depicted in the film and the contemporary standards of the country and the people to which the film relates, provided that the film does not deprave the morality of the audience. Further, as per Rule 41(4)(c) of the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983, in cases where the members of the Examining Committee after the examination of the film submit to the Chairman a provisional report indicating that expert opinion on subjects depicted in the film such as subjects relating to defence or foreign relations or any particular religion or law or medicine or any other subject, should be sought before the final report is submitted, the Chairman may after taking into consideration the circumstances of the case specify a time limit for obtaining, the expert opinion and for the submission of the final report of the Examining Committee thereafter.

Education in Militancy Affected Areas

2683. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is providing education to children in militancy and naxalism affected areas; and

(b) if so, the initiatives being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) and (b) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) programmes are being implemented in all districts of the country including militancy and naxalite affected areas. The instructions have been issued to concerned State Governments to give priority to 33 naxal affected districts in the Annual Works Plan and Budget (AWP and B) 2008-09 of SSA. As far as Secondary Education is concerned, so far twenty such districts are having Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and in 31 districts Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) have been sanctioned.

Effects of Mining Operations

2684. SHRI K.S. RAO :

SHRI AMITAVA NANDY :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals received from foreign companies and approved by the Government under the Foreign Direct Investment policy in the mining sector during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of such companies involved in mining of bauxite reserves and other minerals alongwith its domestic consumption and exports made during the said period;

(c) the number of people, including tribals to be

displaced or likely to be affected by liberalized mining of bauxite and other minerals;

(d) whether the Government proposes to make provisions in the mining policy for addressing the issues of environmental degradation, resettlement and rehabilitation of affected and displaced people, especially the tribals to ensure effective implementation of our mineral policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) :

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

(c) The data is not centrally maintained. However, the Government has enunciated the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy to protect the interest of the people including tribals through comprehensive relief and rehabilitation packages.

(d) and (e) The new National Mineral Policy provides for a framework of sustainable development to take care of bio-diversity issues, restoration of ecological balance, protection of interest of tribal population by providing for stake holders interest and comprehensive relief and rehabilitation in line with the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007.

Naxalites' Nexus with Militant Outfits

2685. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Maoist, AANLA, Birsra Commando Force and the Naxalite groups have joined hands with the insurgent outfits of the North East region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) There is no specific evidence to suggest this.

(b) and (c) Do not arise. The Government, however, keeps a close watch on the situation.

Collaboration of India and China in Science and Technology

2686. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and China have made any collaboration in the field of nanotechnology and biotechnology;

(b) if so, the details and the salient features thereof;

(c) the details of achievements made therefrom so far; and

(d) the other areas in which both countries are working jointly in the sector of Science and Technology?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (c) Cooperation in the fields of Nanotechnology with focus on Advanced Materials, and Biotechnology and Medicine with focus on bio-nano is under discussion with China.

(d) Other areas for bilateral S and T cooperation between India and China under discussion are: Earthquake Engineering, and Climate Change and Weather Forecasting.

Appointment of Teachers

2687. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to revise the norms for the appointment of teachers in schools

and colleges in the Union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the areas in which higher emphasis is being given by the UGC in the appointment of teachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) UGC, through its letter dated 14.6.2006 has circulated amendment to its regulations for minimum qualifications for appointment and career advancement of teachers in Universities and colleges.

Police Reforms

2688. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a three day colloquium organized by the Bureau of Police Research and Development had stressed the need for police reforms to make the police force more effective;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions and recommendations made; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) A three day colloquium was organized by the Bureau of Police Research and Development from 18th December 2007 to 20th December 2007 at New Delhi. 'Police Reforms' was discussed as an item and the conclusion of the discussion was as under:-

(i) There is need to insulate the police from political pressure and interference.

- (ii) Mobilization of public opinion, media and NGOs is important for positive image of police.
- (iii) Marginalization of corrupt/politicized officers.
- (iv) Changes have to be institutionalized for stability.

(c) In order to have a re-look at the role and functions of the Police, Soli Sorabjee Committee was constituted to draft a New Police Act to replace the Police Act of 1861. Accordingly, Model Police Act has since been drafted which provides for well defined duties of the police, the role of Superintendence of the State Governments over the police, responsiveness and sensitivity of the Police towards public especially the weaker and vulnerable Sections and accountability to the rule of law. The various recommendations made in the said colloquium are got more or less covered in the Draft Model Police Act. The copy of the draft Model Police Act as framed by the Committee has already been sent to all the States for consideration and appropriate action as per Seventh Schedule of the Constitution 'Police' and 'Law and Order' are State subjects.

Manufacture of Patented Drugs

2689. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to allow drug companies to manufacture patented medicines for export to underdeveloped countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) :
(a) to (c) Section 92 A of the Patents Act, 1970 contains enabling provisions for issue of compulsory licence for manufacture and export of patented pharmaceutical products to any country having insufficient or no manufacturing capacity in the pharmaceutical sector for the concerned product to address public health problems, provided compulsory licence has been granted by such country or such country has, by notification or otherwise, allowed importation of the patented pharmaceutical products from India. Each proposal is to be decided on merits.

Private Participation in School Education

2690. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Corporate Sector has suggested for adopting voucher systems and greater private participation in school education;
- (b) if so, the details and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the deficiencies in basic education can only be met by the expansion of private schools; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remove these deficiencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) and (b) In a meeting of Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry, a suggestion emerged that private sector may be given a role in primary education. The framework for implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme, being implemented at elemen-

tary level, provides for participation of private sectors within the broad parameters of State policy. SSA and centrally sponsored schemes like 'Integrated Education for Disabled Children' (IEDC) and 'Strengthening of Boarding and Hostel facilities for Girl Students of Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools' envisage a vibrant partnership with non Governmental organisations.

(c) and (d) The role of the private sector is to supplement the effort of the Government. In addition to expansion of private schools, there is need to improve quality in Government schools. Central Government has been implementing Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) at the elementary level since 2001-02, inter-alia, with the objective to focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality. It has also been decided to implement a centrally sponsored scheme for universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of education at secondary stage during the 11th Five Year Plan. These schemes primarily focus on improving access and quality of Government schools.

Lifting of Foodgrains

2691. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the lifting of foodgrains has been declining continuously under Mid-Day Meal Scheme due to which the scheme has suffered heavily during each of the last three years in various States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken to ensure proper and timely lifting of foodgrains by the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) to (c) The details of foodgrains lifted, children and school covered during the year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 is given as under:—

Year	Foodgrains lifted (in MTs)	Number of children covered	Number of school covered
2004-05	2189188.00	108922164	903778
2005-06	1792069.23	119381379	953661
2006-07	1705792.68	106856483	991867

Though the number of schools covered under Mid-day Meal Scheme has been increasing continuously, the number of children covered in 2006-07 has come down as compared to 2005-06 on account of a reverse demographic trend in the child population in the 6-10 age group. Prior to September, 2004, States and Union Territories were providing foodgrains (dry ration) at the rate of 3 kg. per child per month. Cooked mid day meal was in operation only in a few States/UTs including inter alia Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. The Scheme was revised in September 2004 to uniformly provide cooked mid-day meal of 300 calories and 8-12 gms. of protein and foodgrains was provided at the rate of 100 gms. per child/school day. On an average, there are 25-26 school days in a month. Therefore, the consumption of foodgrains has reduced from 3 kg. per child per month to approx. 2.5 kg. per child per month. With effect from September, 2006, the scheme has been further revised to provide nutrition of 450 calories and 12 gms. of protein.

Allocation of Funds to Colleges and Universities

2692. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total funds allocated and released to different colleges and Universities in Gujarat for starting vocational courses during each of the last three years; and

(b) the time by when the balance amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) and (b) According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), the vocational courses programme has been redesigned in the year 2003-04 and is now termed as Career Orientation to Education/Career Orientation Programme. As per the Xth Plan scheme of Career Oriented Programme, the assistance from the University Grants Commission was available to the tune of Rs. 5 lakhs per course as one time "Seed Money" for five years in the Humanities and Commerce Streams and one time 'Seed Money' of Rs. 7 lakhs per course for five years for the Science stream. Accordingly, UGC allocated and released grants for add-on courses under the Scheme of Career Oriented Programme for the last three years to the Colleges and Universities of Gujarat State as under:—

2004-05	—	Rs. 1.58 crore
2005-06	—	Rs. 0.14 crore
2006-07	—	Rs. 0.17 crore
<hr/>		
Total		Rs. 1.89 crore

Industries in Backward Reserved Areas

2693. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that the backward reserved areas in the country are zero industry areas;

(b) if so, the extent to which this has increased the unemployment in the region;

(c) the schemes of the Government for such areas;

(d) whether the Government is likely to consider setting up industries at such places;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by when these industries are likely to be set up; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Various studies in the past have sought to identify industrially backward regions in the country. More recently, with a view to focus on district specific cases of industrial backwardness, inter-departmental meetings have been held and the relevant data available is being analyzed to finalize and implement concrete policy decisions to address purposively the causes of industrial backwardness in various districts in a calibrated manner.

(c) to (f) After the announcement of New Industrial Policy in 1991, decisions of investment have been left to the commercial judgment of the entrepreneurs. The role played by the Government has changed from that of exercising control to providing help and guidance by making essential procedures fully transparent and by eliminating delays. The initiative for development of backward areas primarily rests with the State Governments. The Union Government supplements their effort through various Schemes. These Schemes play an important role in stimulating flow of capital to the backward areas. Currently, the following Schemes for the development of industries, with some of them focusing on specific areas, are under implementation by this Department:

- (i) Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme.
- (ii) Growth Centre Scheme.
- (iii) Transport Subsidy Scheme.
- (iv) North Eastern Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy, 2007 (NEIIPP); and
- (v) New Industrial Policy and other concession for Special Category States.

Employment Opportunities for Women

2694. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has created employment opportunities for women in rural and tribal areas by implementing various rural development schemes through the small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the achievements made during 2006-07 and 2007-08 in this regard;

(c) the details of incentives provided/targets fixed and achieved in regard to new industrial units for creating job opportunities for women in rural and tribal areas in Orissa during the said period; and

(d) the target set for setting up of such new units in the current financial year, State-wise and UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The Central Government has been supplementing the efforts of the State/UT Governments for establishment of small scale industries now known as micro and small enterprises (MSEs) thereby assisting in creation of employment opportunities including for women in rural and tribal areas, through specific schemes like Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI), Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development (TREAD) etc. In addition, the Government has announced a package for the Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in Lok Sabha on 27 Feb, 2007, which inter-alia provides for "Empowerment of Women Owned Enterprises" wherein 80% credit guarantee cover is provided under the Credit Guarantee fund Scheme and financial assistance upto 90

per cent subject to ceiling of Rs. 9 crore under MSE Cluster Development Scheme, etc., is provided. The package also provides for conduct of exclusive skill development/ Entrepreneurial Development/Managerial Programmes for women and other disadvantaged sections, free of cost, with a provision of stipend of Rs. 500/- per month per trainee. With a view to encouraging women entrepreneurs, the Scheme for National Awards also has a provision for a Special National Award to an outstanding Women Entrepreneur. As per the available information for the year 2006-07, more than 24 lakh women are estimated to have got employment in MSEs in rural areas.

(c) and (d) Setting up of enterprise is an individual entrepreneurial effort. Central/State Government, however, provide support up for setting up enterprises and for enhancing their competitiveness through the schemes which, inter alia, include assistance for easy availability of credit, training and capacity building of entrepreneurs, technological upgradation, accessing markets, improved infrastructure, etc. The Central schemes/incentives are not state specific and are implemented uniformly all over the country including in the State of Orissa. No State specific targets could hence be fixed for setting up of enterprises/generation of employment in individual States. However, as per Third All India Census of Small Scale Industries (2001-02), 224846 women were employed in such units in Orissa out of which 209039 are in rural areas.

Allocation to Madarasas

2695. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Human Resource Development has sought around Rs. 600 crores from the Planning Commission for the revised madarsa modernisation programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) whether the Planning Commission is willing to give a much smaller amount of around Rs. 250 crores;
- (d) if so, the final decision taken in this regard;
- (e) the extent to which the Ministry has considered the implementation of the revised scheme; and
- (f) if not, the reaction of the Planning Commission thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) to (f) Allocations for education sector as a whole have been considerably enhanced for the 11th five year Plan period, including the allocation for the madarsa modernization programme. The scheme of Modernization of Madarsa is under revision and any further enhancement of allocation for this scheme will be subject to its finalization.

Setting Up of Kendriya Vidyalayas

2696. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL :
SHRI MITRASEN YADAV :
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether about 95 KV's have been started by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan in the country without approval from the Ministry of Human Resource Development,
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor,
- (c) whether the Government has cut down the number of new Kendriya Vidyalayas determined in the past; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) and (b) 95 Kendriya Vidyalayas (KV's) were sanctioned in the civil sector during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 without any proposal from the sponsoring authorities. Considering the educational needs of the students admitted to those KV's, ex-post facto approval of the Government has been accorded afterwards.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Setting Up of Primary Schools

2697. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the primary schools set up or proposed to be set up with the assistance of World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other foreign agencies in the country, particularly in Karnataka, State-wise; and
- (b) the amount allocated for the purpose during each of the last three years, State-wise particularly to Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) and (b) Department for International Development (DFID) of United Kingdom, World Bank (WB) and European Commission (EC) have provided partial financial assistance for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) on reimbursement basis, to the Government of India amounting to a total of Rs. 4710 crore for the period 2004-05 to 2007-08.

Central Government funds are released on the basis of Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP and B) submitted by State/UTs to the Government of India every year. Amounts released to States/UTs including Karnataka during each of the last three years; alongwith new schools opened under SSA upto 31.03.2007, are given as Statement.

Statement*Central funds released and New Primary School opened under SSA*

Sl. No.	Name of State	Total Central funds released (Rs. in lakh)			New Primary Schools opened under SSA upto 31.03.2007
		2004 05	2005-06	2006-07	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	28000	37999	46245.56	2989
2	Arunachal Pradesh	3009	4442.51	7143.74	574
3	Assam	20654	13850	51464.72	0
4	Bihar	31970.56	32399.56	107744.39	15521
5	Chhattisgarh	20786.76	30184.39	50182.2	8868
6	Goa	0	728.12	724.12	5
7	Gujarat	14072	15084.84	14806.97	101
8	Haryana	12881.55	10196.55	25647.12	821
9	Himachal Pradesh	6144	7614.66	6250.75	0
10	Jammu and Kashmir	7747.18	18530.65	22083.37	3542
11	Jharkhand	16568.5	28568.5	51515	16854
12	Karnataka	26280.7	28303.78	54206.98	1301
13	Kerala	8939	5939	6382	0
14	Madhya Pradesh	44608.919	77173.12	110879.68	25968
15	Maharashtra	35489.79	50235.31	52158.56	590
16	Manipur	1225	3208.44	9.24	0
17	Meghalaya	2930.81	1921	4294	1337
18	Mizoram	3300.24	2559.15	3441.69	167
19	Nagaland	2088.49	2323.01	2315.2	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
20	Orissa	21807.27	32792.5	44010.95	3030
21	Punjab	3040	14683.89	12879.92	1093
22	Rajasthan	23549.397	60313.43	75809.82	4162
23	Sikkim	1000.25	1062.5	402.14	5
24	Tamil Nadu	26517	35329.53	37329.65	1400
25	Tripura	4703.96	7070.19	5330.01	674
26	Uttar Pradesh	87761	182799	206654	11677
27.	Uttarakhand	9144.705	10004	16934	611
28.	West Bengal	46024.36	34199.79	61736.8	0
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	272.58	163	419.62	4
30.	Chandigarh	447.95	350	300	6
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	111.91.	0	100	42
32.	Daman and Diu	0	111.91		0
33.	Delhi	0	1100	4230.24	2
34.	Lakshadweep	12.03	0	87.47	0
35.	Pondicherry	225.53	529.4	0	0
Total		511314.441	751770.73	1083719.91	101344

Malpractice by Cable Operators

2698. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :

SHRI UDAY SINGH :

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received a number of complaints regarding violation of the norms by the cable operators showing undesirable contents on television at the Local level;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, till date, State and Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to empower the local grass-root mechanism to

monitor the broadcasting codes under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act;

(d) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to set up State Level Monitoring Committee to monitor the programmes released and regulate the cable TV network;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the extent to which such steps of the Government is likely to regulate the cable television network?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) and (b) As per Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, complaints against the local cable operators are dealt with by the authorised officer i.e. DM, SDM or Commissioner of Police who can take action against local TV channels or Cable operators violations under the Act. As such, the Government does not keep a record of such complaints, which are dealt with the State level.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. As it was found that the enforcement of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 in many parts of the country was not satisfactory, detailed guidelines indicating the specific roles and functions of District and State level committees have been issued vide order dated 19.2.2008, which is available on the website of the Ministry www.mib.nic.in. The enforcement of this Order will regulate the cable television network in the country to a great extent.

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas

2699. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to open more

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas especially in minority dominated areas during 2007-08;

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

(c) the criteria adopted for selection of areas for setting up of such vidyalayas in the country;

(d) the details of funds allocated for the purpose during 2006-07 and 2007-08;

(e) the number of new vidyalayas so far opened during the said period;

(f) whether the Government proposes to include linguistic minorities under the said scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) to (g) The Government of India has so far sanctioned 2180 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) for setting up residential schools at upper primary level for girls belonging predominantly to the Schedule Castes (SC), Schedule Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC) and minorities in difficult areas in the country. The scheme, since its inception in 2004, was applicable in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) where the rural female literacy was below the national average (46.13%: Census 2001) and the gender gap in literacy was more than the national average (21.59%: Census 2001).

The criteria of eligible blocks has been revised with effect from 1st April, 2008 to include 410 new KGBVs i.e. 316 additional educationally backward blocks with rural female literacy below 30%; and 94 towns/cities having minority concentration with female literacy rate below the national average (53.67%).

Sanskriti Schools

2700. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sanskriti Schools are funded by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria laid down for admission of children in Sanskriti Schools, Delhi;

(d) whether the wards of CSS Cadre are denied admission in Sanskriti Schools;

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

(f) the steps taken by the Government to get all categories of children admitted in Sanskriti Schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has informed that the Union Government has provided funds for Sanskriti School, Delhi to meet a portion of capital expenditure.

(b) Details of funds released to Sanskriti School by various Ministries/Departments of Government of India from 1994-95 to 2007-08 are given below:—

Rs. (in lakh)		
Sl No.	Ministry's	Amount released
1	2	3
1.	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	650
2	Ministry of Defence	500

1	2	3
3.	Ministry of Human Resource Development	500
4.	Ministry of Railways	20
5.	Ministry of Finance	300
6.	Ministry of Environment and Forests	1.5

(c) Students are admitted through the entrance test in the ratios of (i) 60% for wards of Government servants, (ii) 20% for wards of General Public and (iii) 20% for wards of economically weaker sections.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Selling of Land on Indo-Pak Border

2701. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN :

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR :

SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Governments that tracts of land in high security zone including the firing range at the Pokharan nuclear testing site, and stretches across the border fencing in "No Man's Land" in Rajasthan have been sold out as reported in 'Hindustan Times' dated January 25, 2008;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted a probe into such deals;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such activities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI) : (a) It has come to the notice of the Government that the large scale land transactions have taken place in the border areas of Rajasthan.

(b) to (d) The State Government of Rajasthan has been directed to conduct a detailed inquiry covering all aspects of this issue and to initiate suitable administrative, legal and criminal actions, accordingly. The detailed report from State Government of Rajasthan is still awaited.

Trade with China

*2702. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a study has revealed a steep growth in major manufactured goods imported from China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) China's share in imports to India from 2001-02 and 2006-07;

(d) India's share in exports to China during the above period;

(e) the steps taken by the Central Government to increase India's share in exports to China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) As per the Joint Task Force report on examining feasibility of Indo-China RTA, the average growth rate for India's imports from China is reported at 43.97% p.a. during 2001-2006, which is twice the corresponding average growth rate of India's imports from the world reported at 21.89% p.a. during

2001-2006. Further the report has brought out that the Chinese exports mainly comprise of manufactured and value-added items.

(c) The table shows India's share of exports to China:—

Year	Percentage share of exports to China to India's total exports
2001	2.14
2002	2.50
2003	4.32
2004	5.31
2005	7.13
2006	6.78
2007	6.56

Source: World Trade Atlas

(d) The table below shows India's share in overall Chinese imports:—

Year	Percentage share of imports from India to China's total imports
2001	0.79
2002	0.75
2003	0.94
2004	1.56
2005	1.74
2006	1.32
2007	1.55

Source: World Trade Atlas

(e) Various seminars/commodity fairs are being organised to boost the trade between both the countries. Besides, in the Joint Economic Group and in the Joint Working Group meetings, India is raising issues regarding market access in specific sectors. The JTF negotiations to examine feasibility of Indo-China RTA, which were concluded in October 2007, are also a step in that direction.

Registration of Newspapers

2703.SHR' G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the newspapers from Karnataka and other States registered with the Registrar of Newspaper, for India (RNI) till date, State-wise including Karnataka State;

(b) the details of newspapers which are getting advertisements from the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) till date, State-wise, newspaper-wise;

(c) whether the requests of some newspapers for getting registration from Karnataka and other States are still pending with RNI;

(d) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years till date, State-wise including Karnataka State; and

(e) the time by when these newspapers are likely to be registered?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) The total number of newspapers registered with the office of Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) is 88763, which includes 3447 newspapers registered from Karnataka. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) There are 3697 newspapers/periodicals currently

empowered with the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) for advertisements. The State-wise, newspaper-wise details are available at DAVP's website www.davp.nic.in.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. However no request for registration remains pending for more than two months in RNI generally. State-wise details of total pending requests for registration are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) RNI issues Certificate of Registration generally within two months, provided documents are complete in all respects.

Statement-I

Details of Registered Newspapers as on 01/03/2008

Sl. No.	State	Total
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	65
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4484
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	12
4.	Assam	671
5.	Bihar	1818
6.	Chandigarh	363
7.	Chhattisgarh	222
8.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	3
9.	Daman Diu	7
10.	Delhi	12307
11.	Goa	120
12.	Gujarat	3966

1	2	3
13.	Haryana	1695
14.	Himachal Pradesh	265
15.	Jammu Kashmir	631
16.	Jharkhand	282
17.	Karnataka	4267
18.	Kerala	3447
19.	Lakshadweep	5
20.	Madhya Pradesh	5854
21.	Maharashtra	10855
22.	Manipur	199
23.	Meghalaya	53
24.	Mizoram	147
25.	Nagaland	20
26.	Orissa	1722
27.	Pondicherry	115
28.	Punjab	2563
29.	Rajasthan	5066
30.	Sikkim	81
31.	Tamil Nadu	6003
32.	Tripura	112
33.	Uttar Pradesh	13600
34.	Uttaranchal	1368
35.	West Bengal	6375
Total		88763

Statement-II

Details of State-wise pending requests for registration of Newspapers as on 01/03/2008

Sl. No.	State	Total
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil
2.	Andhra Pradesh	08
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	01
4.	Assam	08
5.	Bihar	01
6.	Chandigarh	02
7.	Chhattisgarh	01
8.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	Nil
9.	Daman Diu	Nil
10.	Delhi	09
11.	Goa	02
12.	Gujarat	Nil
13.	Haryana	08
14.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil
15.	Jammu Kashmir	Nil
16.	Jharkhand	04
17.	Karnataka	58
18.	Kerala	25
19.	Lakshadweep	Nil
20.	Madhya Pradesh	03

1	2	3
21.	Maharashtra	01
22.	Manipur	Nil
23.	Meghalaya	01
24.	Mizoram	02
25.	Nagaland	Nil
26.	Orissa	03
27.	Pondicherry	02
28.	Punjab	10
29.	Rajasthan	18
30.	Sikkim	02
31.	Tamil Nadu	Nil
32.	Tripura	01
33.	Uttar Pradesh	40
34.	Uttaranchal	07
35.	West Bengal	14
Total		231

Development of Languages

2704. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the details and the names of the schemes in force for the development of languages recognized under the Eighth Schedule, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : The following schemes are being

run all over the country for the development of languages:—

1. **Central Hindi Directorate (CHD)**, is a subordinate office responsible to promote and propagate Hindi and to develop it as a link language throughout India in pursuance of Article 351 of the Constitution of India. The Directorate implements the schemes of publication of bilingual/trilingual dictionaries, correspondence courses, awards to Hindi writers, extension services and programmes, Hindi through cassettes etc.
2. **Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT)**, is a subordinate office established as per the recommendation of a Committee constituted under the provisions of Clause (4) of Article 344 of the Constitution. The Commission is engaged in the task of evolving technical terms in Hindi and Indian languages, producing of University level books, definitional dictionaries and various reference literatures.
3. **Kendriya Hindi Sansthan (KHS)**, a fully funded autonomous organization responsible for the propagation and expansion of the use of Hindi and its teaching in non-Hindi States through training of in-service Hindi teachers.
4. **National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL)**, a fully funded autonomous organization to promote Urdu Language.
5. **National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language (NCPSL)**, to develop, promote and propagate the Sindhi language.
6. **Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL)**, a subordinate office to help evolve/implement the Language Policy of Government of India and coordinate the development of Indian languages

by conducting research in the areas of language analysis, language pedagogy, language technique and language use in society.

7. **Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (RSKS)**, a Deemed University (with 10 Campuses) with the objectives of preserving, propagating and modernizing traditional learning and research in Sanskrit.

8. **Maharishi Sandipani Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratishthan (MSRVVP)**, Ujjain an autonomous organization established for the preservation, conservation and development of Vedic Studies through establishing and supporting Ved Pathshalas

9. The Scheme of "Appointment of Language Teachers" provides 100% grant to State Governments for three distinct components i.e.

- (a) Salaries for Hindi Teachers in schools in non-Hindi speaking States.
- (b) Salaries of Urdu Teachers in State Government schools in those blocks/districts that have a significant educationally backward minority/population.
- (c) Under the Modern Indian Language component, salaries are born for any teacher of any of the languages listed in the 8th schedule of the Constitution (other than the mother tongue/official language/first language of the State) that is taught as the third language.

This is a demand driven scheme and funds are released on the basis, of requirements projected by the State Governments.

10. **Development of Classical Tamil Language.** The scheme includes the following components:

- (a) Certificate of honour to distinguished scholars of Classical Tamil Language.
- (b) Tamil Language Promotion Board.
- (c) Centre of Excellence for Development of Classical Tamil Language at Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore.
- (d) Fellowships for study of Tamil as a Classical Language.

National Bio-Tech Policy

2705. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI :

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

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

- (a) whether the Government has implemented the National Bio-Tech Policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which the country has been benefited by the said policy; and
- (d) the details of the areas benefited so far?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) A National Biotechnology Development Strategy having been approved by the Government of India, action has been taken for implementation of some major decisions such as Establishment of an independent National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority, Increased Public Private Partnership programmes, improved quality of Human Resource, creation of Centers of Excellence and other infrastructural facilities, new legislation for protection of IP in public funded R and D.

(c) and (d) A number of major new initiatives have been launched:—

- (i) Under the Public Private Partnership-SBIRI Scheme a total of 35 projects have been supported so far and 8 Centers of Excellence projects have been supported across the country.
- (ii) Two new centers—Centre for translational research in health science and technology and UNESCO regional centre for science, education and innovation have been approved.
- (iii) Special human resource initiative for quality improvement have been taken, such as setting up of Star colleges, teachers training programmes, etc.

District Primary Education Programme

2706. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from various State Governments for expansion of the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP);
- (b) if so, the details and status of these proposals, particularly from Karnataka, State-wise; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to clear these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) to (c) The District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) is now operational only in the States of Orissa and Rajasthan in 17 districts. All districts in the country are eligible under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Programme. As the District Primary Education Programme ends, the concerned districts are covered under SSA.

NGOs under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

2707. SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) participating in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in the country including Andhra Pradesh, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the details of funds released to these Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) under the said scheme during each of the last three years, State and Union Territory-wise;

(c) the details of activities undertaken by these NGOs under SSA;

(d) whether any complaints have been received by the Government regarding diversion/misutilization of funds granted to these NGOs for the purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(f) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that funds are utilized for the purpose earmarked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) and (b) The names of NGOs and details of funds released during the last three years to these NGOs State-wise and Union Territory-wise under the scheme "Innovative and Experimental Education" of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan by Government of India are enclosed as Statement.

(c) Centers for Innovative and Experimental (I and E) projects were run by NGOs for covering hard to reach children in the age group 6 to 14 years for achievement of goals of Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE).

(d) No complaints regarding diversion/misutilization of funds by NGOs have been received during the last 3 years.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Statement

*Grant released under I and E scheme
in 2004-05*

Sl. No.	Name of Voluntary Agency	Amount Released
1	2	3

ANDHRA PRADESH

1 Rashtriya Sewa Samithi, Andhra Pradesh 4,17,264

DELHI

2 Jan Jagriti Education Society 4,22,500

3 Lady Irwin College, New Delhi 9,16,889

4 DISHA, New Delhi 2,61,250

5 PRAYAS, New Delhi 27,00,000

MADHYA PRADESH

6 Deen Dayal Research Institute, Satna, Madhya Pradesh 2,94,211

7 Ekavya Foundation, Bhopal 22,27,684

MANIPUR

8 Uripok Education. Self Service Association, Imphal 86,905

ORISSA

9 Shree Ramakrishna Ashram, Orissa 12,48,000

10 SANKALP, Orissa 7,50,000

11 Chatra Vikas Parishad, Orissa 2,11,250

12 Art Work for Awareness and Zeal Awas, Orissa 2,11,250

1	2	3
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TAMIL NADU

13 Krishnamurthy Foundation, Chennai 32,36,784

UTTAR PRADESH

14 Sarva Daliya Manav Vikas Kendra, Bahjoi 12,00,000

15 Bhoomiheen Sewa Samithi, Allahabad 42,489

16 Bareilly Diocesan Social Service Centre Bareilly 2,46,000

17 Seeking Modern Application for Real Transformation (SMART), Lucknow 1,47,875

WEST BENGAL

18 Vikramshila Education Res. Society, Kolkata 7,13,491

19 Institute of Psychological and Educational Research, Kolkata 16,54,065

Grant Total 1,69,87,907

*Grant released under I and E scheme in
2005-06*

Sl. No.	Name of Voluntary Agency	Amount Released
1	2	3

ANDHRA PRADESH

1 Rishi Valley, Krishnamurthy Foundation 15,39,483

2 Deccan Development Society, Hyderabad 6,00,000

3 Bhagavatula Charitable Trust, Andhra Pradesh 1,49,47,500

1	2	3
4	M.V. Foundation, Secunderabad	7,40,836
	BIHAR	
5	Alok, Bihar	17,30,083
6	PRATHAM, Mumbai for Bihar project	51,52,000
7	Aparajita, Bihar	1,72,500
	DELHI	
8	Jan Jagariti Educational Society, M-186, Mangolpuri, Delhi — 110083	2,11,250
9	The Enabling Centre, Lady Irwin, N.D.	3,72,666
10	PRAYAS, Delhi	27,00,000
11	Nav Jyoti Delhi Police Foundation.	18,33,400
12	Katha, Delhi	42,250
	JAMMU and KASHMIR	
13	Centre for Dialogue and Reconciliation, Haryana for Jammu and Kashmir State	10,33,840
	JHARKHAND	
14	Badiao Foundation, Jamtara, Jharkhand	15,96,240
	HARYANA	
15	SMART, Lucknow for Mewat, Haryana	10,50,000
	KARNATAKA	
16	Rashtrathan Parishat, 'Keshava Shilpa', K.G. Nagar, Bangalore — 560019 (Karnataka),	44,85,074
	NAGALAND	
17	Konyak Women Child Development Society,	1,25,000

1	2	3
	ORISSA	
18	AWAZ, Orissa	1,05,625
19	Bharat Sewa Parishad, Puri, Orissa	3,91,540
20	SANKALAP, Orissa	7,50,000
21	Sri Ramkrishan Ashram, Kalahandi	5,65,500
	RAJASTHAN	
22	Bodh Shiksha Samiti, Jaipur	7,66,832
	UTTARANCHAL	
23	Bareilly Diocesan Social Service Centre, Suchetna Social Service Centre, Fonseca Estate, Kathgodam — 263126, Distt. Nainital (Uttaranchal).	2,13,830
	UTTAR PRADESH	
24	Sarva Daliya Manav Vikas Kendra, Bahjoi — 202410, Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh)	12,00,000
25	PRATHAM, Mumbai for Uttar Pradesh	1,56,80,600
26	Bhoomiheen Sewa Samiti, Allahabad	48,383
	WEST BENGAL	
27	R.K. Mission, Narendrapur	24,37,372
28	Indian Mime Theatre, Kolkata	6,00,000
29	IPER, Kolkata	8,27,384
30	Science Communicators Forum, Kolkata	6,00,000
	Grand Total	6,25,19,188

Grant released under I and E scheme in 2006-07

Sl. No.	Name of Voluntary Agency	Amount Released
1	2	3
ANDHRA PRADESH		
1.	Deccan Development Society, Hyderabad	3,00,000
2.	Bhagavatula Charitable Trust, Andhra Pradesh	1,56,54,110
BIHAR		
3.	PRATHAM, Mumbai for Bihar project	1,55,93,000
4.	Aprajita, Katihar	1,72,500
CHHATTISGARH		
5.	Rupantar, Chhattisgarh	6,07,500
DELHI		
6.	Jan Jagariti Educational Society, M-186, Mangolpuri, Delhi-110083.	2,11,250
HARYANA		
7.	SMART, Lucknow for Mewat, Haryana	5,25,000
MADHYA PRADESH		
8.	Ekalavya, Bhopal	32,72,538
9.	Utthan, Bhopal	37,20,000
ORISSA		
10.	Gajapathy Samaj Kalyan Samiti,	2,90,800
11.	AWAZ, Orissa	05,588
12.	Chhatra Vikas Parishad, Orissa	1,23,229

1	2	3
UTTARANCHAL		
13	Bareilly Diocesan Social Service Centre, Suchetna Social Service Centre, Foriseca Estate, Kathgodam - 263126, Distt. Nainital (Uttaranchal).	1,14,030
UTTAR PRADESH		
14	PRATHAM, Mumbai for Uttar Pradesh	1,86,08,872
WEST BENGAL		
15	Indian Mime Theatre, Kolkata	3,00,000
Grand Total		5,95,98,417/-

Indian Science Congress

2708. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Science Congress, started to stimulate scientific research has been progressively losing its substance;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage and revive Science Congress to fulfil its objectives and promote research and development in science and technology ?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (c) Holding of annual session of Indian Science Congress was started in 1914 with the main objectives of imparting scientific temper to common man and bringing the attention of the Government and policy-makers to immediate needs of the societal development

using science and technology. With the passage of time, the number of participants and number of topics have tremendously increased and thereby making it impossible for any organizer to hold meaningful discussions. However, the recommendations made by each annual session are forwarded to concerned departments of the Government as necessary inputs in their activities. The annual session of the Science Congress are organized by various academic institutions and national laboratories under the guidance of General President and Sectional Presidents.

The Government of India is contemplating to evolve perhaps more effective, alternative mechanism for such a science conclave. The Science Congress and its organizers are free to restructure their Association in a manner best suits their interests.

Closure of NCTE

2709. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to shut down the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to streamline NCTE and address the numerous complaints about its functioning instead of wrapping it up; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) to (d) NCTE came into existence as a statutory body in 1995 in pursuance of NCTE Act, 1993 to achieve planned and coordinated development of Teacher Education across the country as also to determine, maintain and coordinate standards in teacher education and curb the proliferation of sub standard institutions.

A Review Committee was constituted by this Department under the Chairmanship of Shri Sudeep Banerjee, the then Adviser to MHRD to conduct an indepth study of the functioning of NCTE and its Regional Committees. The Committee has, inter-alia recommended that the NCTE Act, 1993 should be repealed. The Government is taking further action on the recommendations of the Committee.

[Translation]

Export of Minerals

2710. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and the rate at which different types of minerals are exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise and mineral-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to review the export and price fixing policy in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) The details of total quantity exported and the foreign exchange earned in respect of major minerals during each of the last three years, country-wise and mineral-wise is enclosed as statement.

(b) to (d) There is no proposal under consideration at present to review the export policy in respect of iron ore. The export policy in respect of chrome ore and manganese ore is reviewed annually by the Government. Government has no role to play in controlling the iron ore prices after deregulation of steel industry. It is market demand and supply situation which determines prices of iron ore.

Statement*India : Country-wise Iron Ore Export*

(Quantity in Million Tonnes; Value Rs. Crores)

Country	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07 (Prov.)	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
China	59.40	11,132.89	74.13	15,186.31	80.16	16,609.22
Japan	11.13	1,128.00	10.33	1,506.18	8.63	1,492.42
S. Korea	2.18	397.80	1.32	158.18	1.91	280.64
Taiwan	0.61	111.25	0.14	15.88	—	0.02
Europe	2.89	527.09	2.10	350.28	2.07	303.22
Others	1.94	353.83	1.25	158.17	1.02	150.57
Total	78.15	13,650.46	89.27	17,375.00	93.79	18,836.09

Source : (1) Export – Quantity : Goa Mineral Ore Exporters Association (GMOEA), Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL), National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), MMTC Limited and Private Exporters.

(2) Value : Values are only estimates based on the quantities and price trend during the years and information by GMOEA, KIOCL and MMTC.

(3) Exchange rate : US dollar 1 = Rs. 44.03 (As per Min of Finance Aug. 07 Report)

India : Country-wise Manganese Ore Export

Source : MMTC Limited

(Quantity in Million Tonnes; Value Rs. Crores)

Country	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07 (Prov.)	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
China	0.26	49.52	0.15	22.58	0.08	18.27
Japan	0.04	7.46	0.05	14.31	0.06	14.43
S. Korea	0.03	5.31	0.03	9.08	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Pakistan	—	—	—	—	0.03	8.18
Bangladesh	0.01	3.78	0.00	0.90	—	—
Total	0.33	66.07	0.24	46.87	0.17	40.88

India : Country-wise Chrome Ore/Concentrate Export

Source : MMTC Limited

(Quantity in Million Tonnes; Value Rs. Crores)

Country	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
China	1.17	885.00	1.33	905.00	1.35	990.00
Total	1.17	885.00	1.33	905.00	1.35	990.00

[English]

Trade between India and China

2711. SHRI MILIND DEORA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the bilateral trade between India and China has risen in 2007 as compared to 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether China has suggested to buy vegetables and fruits in large quantities from India in order to bridge the trade gap between the two countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, as per the trade statistics of Chinese Customs the bilateral

trade between India and China has risen from US\$ 25 billion in 2006 to US\$ 38.6 billion in 2007.

(c) to (e) During the Prime Minister's visit to China in January 2008, the Commerce and Industry Minister raised the issue of growing trade deficit with China. The Chinese Commerce Minister stated that he will take action to send buying mission to India to explore the possibilities of buying more and more goods from India. India is trying to seek Market access for Fruits and Vegetables, Meat, Pharmaceuticals, Electronic items, Automobile parts etc.

Manufacturing of Health Hazardous Products in SEZ

2712. SHRI UDAY SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government intends to permit manufacturing of health hazardous products like Cigarette and other tobacco related items in Special Economic Zones (SEZ) areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (c) As of present, no new units for manufacturing of cigarettes in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being approved.

(Translation)

Industrial Units in SEZ

2713. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of industrial units set up in Special Economic Zones during each of the last three years alongwith the dates on which these started operation, State-wise and SEZ-wise;

(b) the details of items produced alongwith its value and the exports made from these units, during the above period, State-wise and SEZ-wise; and

(c) the value of goods imported by these units during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (c) Since the coming into force of the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005, 439 formal approvals have been granted for setting up of SEZs, out of which 205 Zones have so far been notified, state-wise details of which is enclosed as Statement. These Special Economic Zones have been approved for setting up of multiproduct and sector specific SEZs, for manufacture/services in the areas of IT/ITES/Electronic Hardware/Semiconductor; Textiles, Apparel Wool, Pharma and chemicals; Bio-technology; Engineering; Multi-Services/Services; Electronic industries; Aviation, Aerospace and

Auto related; Energy related, including Power and Non-Conventional Energy; Footwear and Leather; Gems and Jewellery; Free Trade Warehousing Zones; Metals; Food Processing; Handicrafts; Agro products; etc. In the SEZs approved and notified under the SEZ Act, 2005 which have come into existence only after February, 2006, 177 Letters of Permissions have been granted. These SEZs are in the process of setting up of their units and are in various stages of implementation. As per information available, imports in the SEZs in the year 2006-07 was Rs. 26942.37 including capital goods, as against physical exports of over Rs. 34615 crore made by these Zones during the same period. The value of imports includes the value of raw material and components imported for manufacture of products covered under Information Technology Agreement - 1 (ITA 1), supply of which into domestic area are counted towards fulfillment of net foreign exchange earnings as per the provisions of the SEZ Rules 2006. However, the value of such supplies into domestic tariff area is not included in the export figures.

Statement

State	Formal approvals	No. of SEZs notified out of the formal Approvals
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	70	54
Chandigarh	2	2
Chhattisgarh	1	—
Delhi	2	—
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4	—
Goa	7	3
Gujarat	38	18
Haryana	35	16

1	2	3
Himachal Pradesh	—	—
Jharkhand	1	1
Karnataka	40	20
Kerala	11	8
Madhya Pradesh	12	3
Maharashtra	88	24
Nagaland	2	—
Orissa	9	3
Pondicherry	1	—
Punjab	7	2
Rajasthan	6	4
Tamil Nadu	57	32
Uttar Pradesh	23	8
Uttaranchal	3	1
West Bengal	20	6
Grand Total	439	205

[English]

Export of Tobacco to China

2714. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether China has shown interest to import Indian Tobacco;

(b) if so, whether China has put a pre-condition in

this regard and both the countries are close to finalise a protocol on tobacco;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto and time by when this protocol is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) :

(a) to (d) Yes, Sir, a protocol of Phytosanitary requirements for the export of Tobacco leaves from India to China between the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) of the Republic of India and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of the People's Republic of China has been signed on 14th January 2008.

The export of tobacco leaves to China will be subject to following pre-conditions as stipulated in the Protocol:—

1. The tobacco leaves exported to China, which must be produced in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka of India and have been cured and re-dried, must comply with the relevant phytosanitary and sanitary laws and regulations of China, and meet the requirements as stipulated in the Protocol.
2. The importers of tobacco must obtain the import quarantine permit from AQSIQ before trade contracts are signed.
3. MOA will take effective monitoring measures in the field to ensure that the tobacco producing area is free of tobacco blue mold. If tobacco blue mold is found, MOA shall inform AQSIQ immediately and the tobacco trade will be temporarily suspended accordingly.
4. The tobacco leaves must be securely packaged in airproof way to prevent the contamination of

tobacco blue mold and other quarantine pests. During the processing and transportation, MOA should take necessary measures to prevent the contamination from the other production areas' tobacco leaves. The packing material for tobacco must be clean, sanitary, unused and comply with the phytosanitary requirements of China. Each carton should be labeled to include the following information: type of tobacco, production place, harvesting year and processing plant. The containers to be loaded for tobacco must be clean and free of soil and other foreign material.

5. The tobacco must be free of any other quarantine concern to China and plant debris and soil. If live insects such as tobacco beetle (*Lasioderma serricornis*) are found, fumigation or other measures must be conducted for the consignment.
6. MOA shall conduct export quarantine inspection for tobacco leaves. For the consignment of tobacco leaves which meets the requirements stipulated in this protocol, MOA shall issue a Phytosanitary Certificate according to the standard of IPPC and with the following statements as an additional declaration: "The consignment is in compliance with requirements described in the Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for the Export of tobacco leaves from India to China signed at Beijing on 14 January, 2008 and is free from tobacco blue mold and other quarantine pest".
7. When the shipment of tobacco leaves arrives at the entry ports, AQSIQ will examine relevant certificate, labels and conduct inspection and quarantine. If the tobacco blue mold is found in arrival, the consignment will be returned or destroyed. AQSIQ will immediately inform MOA

that the importation of tobacco leaves from India is temporarily suspended. Both parties shall conduct investigations to find causes and take relevant effective corrective measures. If any live insects are found on arrival, the consignment will be subject to fumigation. If other inconformity is found, the consignment will be treated in accordance with the relevant articles of the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine and its regulations for implementation.

8. In order to review and assess the implementation of this protocol, AQSIQ will dispatch experts to conduct on-site inspection every two years.

Natural Rubber

2715. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian rubber industry depends on the indigenous natural rubber for its existence and expansion, whereas the world has switched over to synthetics and newer polymers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to develop technology for indigenous production of synthetics polymers and chemicals at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (c) The domestic rubber industry depends more on natural rubber (NR) whereas in the world consumption, the share of synthetic rubber is higher than that of natural rubber. The share of NR in indigenous and world consumption are as under:—

Share of NR in consumption (%)

Year	India	World
2004	77	42
2005	77	43
2006	75	43

Synthetic Rubber (SR) supplements and substitutes natural rubber and their application. The manufacture of SR is delicensed and deregulated. Domestic industry manufacture different types of synthetic rubbers like Styrene Butadiene Rubber (SBR), Poly Butadiene Rubber (PBR), Nitrile Butadiene Rubber (NBR), etc. The import of SR is under Open General License in the current Foreign Trade Policy.

Trade with Sri Lanka

2716. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of items exported to and imported from Sri Lanka during each of the last three years alongwith its value and in the current year, till date;

(b) whether the Government proposes to review such trade agreement;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the bilateral trade between both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) The details of trade between the two countries are given below:—

(Figures in US \$ Million)

Year	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08 (April-Oct., 07)	
	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import
	1413.18	378.40	2024.67	577.70	2254.11	470.52	1390.21	277.25

The details of commodities are available on the website of Department of Commerce: <http://docnic/>

(b) to (d) Both India and Sri Lanka have signed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) for trade in goods, which is operational from March, 2000. Now, both countries are negotiating a comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). This agreement will deepen and widen the ambit of present free Trade Agreement by including Trade in Services, Investment and Economic Cooperation.

Amendment in Custodial Death

2717. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV :

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has suggested the Government to amend the law to deal with custodial deaths as reported in the Hindu dated March 7, 2008;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Law Commission has also recommended the Government to amend the Evidence Act to allow the trial court to presume the policeman guilty of causing injuries to the accused under his custody; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI) : (a) to (d) The news item dated 07th March, 2008 appearing in The Hindu, Delhi Edition refers to the judgement of the Delhi High Court regarding death sentence of one Shri Mahender Kumar. In the said Judgement, a reference has been made to an observation of Supreme Court in the State of Uttar Pradesh Vs. Ram Sagar and others' case, that there is a need to amend the law appropriately so that policemen who commit atrocities on person who are in their custody are not allowed to escape.

The Law Commission of India in its 152nd Report on 'Custodial Crimes' recommended, inter alia, to make consequential amendments to Indian Evidence Act, 1872 to provide that in case of custodial death the onus of proving of innocence may be fixed on the police. However, in its 154th Report which is a comprehensive review of all its earlier reports including the 152nd Report, the Commission did not recommend the above said amendment.

Aside Scheme

*2718. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has provided any central assistance to the States for developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme;

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

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Governments for allocation of funds under the said scheme during each of the last three years and the current year, till date;

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

(e) the total funds provided to the States during the said period, State-wise; sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) Department of Commerce is operating Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) scheme with the objective to involve the States in their export effort by providing incentive-linked assistance to the State Governments for creating appropriate infrastructure for the development and growth of exports. The outlay of this scheme has two components. 80% of the funds (State Component) are earmarked for allocation to the States on the basis of their share in total exports from the country and the growth in exports over the previous year. The balance 20% (Central Component), and amounts equivalent to un-utilised portion of the funds allocated to the States in the past year(s), if any, is retained at the central level for meeting the requirements of inter-State projects, capital outlays of SEZs, activities relating to promotion of exports from the North Eastern Region etc. State Level Export Promotion Committee (SLEPC) under Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary of the State approves the project to be taken under State Component of the Scheme as per approved purposes of the scheme.

(c) to (e) Under the scheme, allocation to States is made by Department of Commerce on the basis of an allocation criteria and funds are not released sector-wise. Details of funds allocated and released State-wise is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

(Rs. in lac)

S. No.	State	Amount Allocated 04-05	Amount Released 04-05	Amount Allocated 05-06	Amount Released 05-06	Amount Allocated 06-07	Amount Released 06-07	Amount Allocated 07-08	Amount Released 07-08 (as on 12.03.08)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,385.00	1,385.00	1,545.00	1,545.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	2,120.00	2,120.00
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	220.00	0.00	220	0.00
3.	Bihar	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	220.00	0.00	220.00	0.00
4.	Chandigarh	200.00	0.00	320.00	320.00	350.00	175.00	350.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	550.00	550.00	550.00	180.00
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	220.00	0.00	220.00	0.00
7.	Daman and Diu	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	220.00	0.00	220.00	0.00
8.	Delhi	265.00	0.00	265.00	265.00	290.00	145.00	290.00	0.00
9.	Goa	373.00	373.00	609.00	609.00	670.00	0	670.00	670.00
10.	Gujarat	3,578.00	3,578.00	4,338.00	4,338.00	4,770.00	4,770.00	6,035.00	3,017.50
11.	Haryana	849.00	849.00	1,405.00	1,405.00	1,545.00	772.50	1,545.00	1,545.00
12.	Himachal Pradesh	500.00	500.00	553.00	553.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	500.00	500.00	525.00	525.00	580.00	580.00	580.00	580.00
14.	Jharkhand	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	550.00	275.00	550.00	275.00
15.	Karnataka	2,414.00	2,414.00	3,399.00	3,399.00	3,740.00	3,740.00	4,292.00	4,282.00
16.	Kerala	930.00	930.00	1,069.00	1,069.00	1,175.00	1,175.00	1,175.00	1,175.00
17.	Lakshadweep	200.00	0	200	0.00	220.00	0	220.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
18.	Madhya Pradesh	1,435.00	1,435.00	1,435.00	1,435.00	1,580.00	790.00	1,580.00	1,580.00
19.	Maharashtra	5,709.00	5,709.00	6,552.00	6,552.00	7,210.00	720.00	8,200.00	8,200.00
20.	Orissa	605.00	605.00	693	693.00	765.00	765.00	89200	892.00
21.	Pondicherry	200.00	0.00	200	0	220.00	0	220.00	0.00
22.	Punjab	968.00	968.00	1,217.00	1,217.00	1,340.00	670.00	1,340.00	670.00
23.	Rajasthan	1,320.00	1,320.00	1,320.00	1,320.00	1,453.00	726.50	1,453.00	1,453.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	3,919.00	3,919.00	3,919.00	3,919.00	4,312.00	4,312.00	4,988.00	4,988.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	1,259.00	1,259.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,310.00	1,155.00	2,310.00	2,310.00
26.	Uttaranchal	500.00	500.00	527.00	527.00	580.00	0.00	580.00	0.00
27.	West Bengal	1,491.00	1,491.00	2,009.00	2,009.00	2,210.00	2,210.00	2,210.00	1,101.00
Total		30,400.00	28,235.00	36,000.00	34,300.00	39,600.00	32,321.00	43,600.00	35,598.50

North Eastern Region

1.	Arunachal Pradesh	251.00	0.00	251.00	251.00	276.00	138.00	276.00	138.00
2.	Assam	1,149.00	1,149.00	1,257.00	1,257.00	1,383.00	691.50	1,383.00	691.50
3.	Manipur	200.00	200.00	206.00	206.00	227.00	227.00	227.00	227.00
4.	Mizoram	200.00	200.00	324.00	324.00	356.00	356.00	356.00	356.00
5.	Meghalaya	572.00	572.00	834.00	834.00	917.00	917.00	917.00	0.00
6.	Nagaland	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	220.00	220.00	220.00	220.00
7.	Sikkim	200	0.00	200.00	200.00	220.00	220.00	220.00	110.00
8.	Tripura	828.00	828.00	728.00	728.00	801.00	801.00	801.00	400.50
Total		3600.00	3,149.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,400.00	3,570.50	4,400.00	2,143.00
Grand Total		34,000	31,384.00	40,000.00	38,300.00	44,000.00	3,5891.50	48,000.00	37,741.50

Production of Rubber

2719. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of natural rubber and rubber products exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years and the current year, till-date, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government has formulated any policy to increase the production of natural rubber and for the welfare of rubber growers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the further 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 (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) The total quantity of natural rubber and rubber products exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years and the current year, country-wise is as under:-

Country-wise Export of Natural Rubber

(Tonnes)

Country	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (Apr-Jan)
1	2	3	4	5
Belgium	212	2501	2324	1552
China	16485	26521	16592	7033
Germany	2779	5680	2658	1352
Malaysia	4388	6363	10412	7751
Sri Lanka	10246	7556	4760	2426

	1	2	3	4	5
USA		—	1954	1567	2141
Others		12040	23255	18232	9825
Total Quantity (In Tonnes)		46150	73830	56545	32080
Total Value (US\$ in million)		50.08	104.16	113.51	65.10

Export of Rubber Products

Year	Qty (in kgs)*	Value (in US\$ million)
2004-05	187647642	712.33
2005-06	226710545	942.41
2006-07	250012692	1086.20
007-08 (April-May)	33178093	168.09

*Quantity of export of items of tyres and tubes are in numbers (79323 318 for 2004-05, 69891218 for 2005-06, 79523755 for 2006-07, 23025178 for 2007-08 (Apr-May) whereas quantity of export of other items of rubber products are in kgs.

Country-wise data on export of rubber products are available on the websites of Department of Commerce (<http://commerce.nic.in>).

(b) to (d) In order to increase production of natural rubber, Government of India has formulated the Rubber Plantation Development Scheme and the Scheme for Rubber Development in the North East Region under which new planting, replanting of old and uneconomic holdings, productivity enhancement through adoption of scientific agro-management practices, generation of good quality planting materials, training of growers/workers in scientific

harvesting of rubber trees, primary processing of latex into good quality sheet rubber etc. are envisaged.

For the benefit of the small growers, scientific agromanagement practices will be demonstrated in farmer's fields. Assistance will also be given for adopting soil protection and water conservation measures, setting up of latex/sheet/scrap collection centres, Group Processing Centres (GPCs), apiculture units etc. will be supported through farmers' organisations like Rubber Producers' Societies (RPSs) and other Self Help Groups (SHGs). In addition to the existing 2200 RPSs, 750 RPSs/SHGs are to be formed during the XI plan period. 15,000 bee-keeping units are to be established in rubber plantations as an additional income generation activity during XI plan period.

Tax Concessions for SEZ

2720. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a recently conducted study commissioned by the Government reveals that the projected losses over incentives given to units and also tax concessions for SEZ based units, are exaggerated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the study also reveals that such incentives to SEZ units will spur growth in productivity and employment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (d) The objectives of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Act, 2005 are generation of additional economic activity; promotion of exports of goods and services; promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources; and development of infrastructure facilities. The SEZs notified under the SEZ

Act has, as per available information, have generated investment of Rs. 67347 crore and have provided employment to 61015 persons. Exports from the SEZs grew by 52% in the year 2006-07 and in the current financial year (2007-08). SEZs have already effected exports to the tune of Rs. 40,000 crore upto December 2007. The benefits derived from multiplier effect of the investments and additional economic activity in the SEZs and the employment generated thus will far outweigh the losses on account of revenue foregone.

Bilateral Trade with Pakistan and China

2721. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

SHRI GANESH SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to expand bilateral trade with Pakistan and China;

(b) if so, the details of items which have been shortlisted and agreed upon for export and import;

(c) whether India proposes to impose some import restrictions on Pakistan and China;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the balance of trade between India and Pakistan during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) India and Pakistan have no formal trade agreement. In so far as imports from Pakistan is concerned, India has granted Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan. For exports from India to Pakistan, Pakistan maintains a list of importable items from India called Positive List which presently consists of 1802 items. India and Pakistan are currently in negotiations to address the issues concerning bilateral trade through Joint Study Group and within the framework of Composite

Dialogue. India and Pakistan are also signatories of the Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) which came into force from 1st January 2006.

As regards China, during the Prime Minister's visit to China in January 2008, both sides decided to increase the bilateral trade target from US\$ 40 billion to US\$ 60 billion by 2010.

(b) No short-listing for export and import in respect of Pakistan and China has been done.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise

(e) The figures of bilateral trade between India and Pakistan for the last three years and during April-October 2007 showing the trade balance are given below:—

(Value: In US\$ Million)

Year	Exports	Imports	Total Trade	Trade Balance
2004-205	521.05	94.97	616.02	426.08
2005-06	689.23	179.56	868.79	509.67
2006-07	134832	323.19	1671.51	1025.13
2007-08	980.92	149.37	1130.29	31.55
April-Oct 2007				

Source: DGCI and S Kolkata through NIC, DOC

Indo-US Trade

2722. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to increase Indo-U.S. bilateral trade;

(b) if so, the new areas in which Indo-U.S. bilateral trade is proposed to be expanded in the coming years;

(c) the details of areas in which trade relation has already been established between both the countries during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the bilateral trade between both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During the visit of President Bush in March 2006 to India the two Governments decided to double bilateral trade within three years. There is progress towards achieving the target.

(Value in US\$ million)

Year	Exports	Growth (%)	Imports	Growth (%)	Balance of Trade
2004-05	13,765.75	19.81	7,001.35	39.08	(+) 6764.40
2005-06	17,353.06	26.06	9,454.74	35.04	(+) 7898.32
2006-07	18,851.42	8.63	11,726.96	24.03	(+) 7124.46

(Source: DGCI and S, Calcutta)

The areas identified for enhancing bilateral trade which are being promoted through dialogue under the Indo-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF) and Commercial Dialogue include agriculture, services, investment, innovation and creativity and removal/reduction of tariffs and non-tariff barriers. Cooperation between small and medium enterprises of the two countries in manufacturing/service sectors is also being fostered.

Major items of Indian exports to the USA include gems and jewellery, ready made garments cotton including accessories, machinery and instruments, manufactures of metals, drugs, pharmaceuticals, fine chemicals. Major import items from the USA to India include transport equipments, electronic goods, machinery items, fertilizers manufactured and professional instruments.

(d) To increase and diversify Indo-US bilateral trade, the Government holds regular dialogue with the US Government, including under the Trade Policy Forum and Commercial Dialogue. The Embassy of India and the four Indian Consulates (in the United States) undertake regular market promotion activities to increase Indian exports, including assisting visiting business delegations from India, conducting market surveys and responding to the trade enquiries.

Exports of Cash Crops

2723. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of export and import of cash crops particularly, cashew nut and cashew kernels during 2006-07 and 2007-08, item-wise and country-wise; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the export of cash crops and to modernise the industry by introducing new technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) The Country-wise and year-wise details of exports and imports (Quantity and value wise) for various commodities including cash crops are available at the website of the Department of Commerce. However a statement on Country-wise exports and import of Cashew kernels and Cashew nuts respectively (Quantity and value-wise) for 2006-07 and 2007-08 (April, 07-Feb. 08) is enclosed as Statement.

(b) Department of Commerce through the relevant Export Promotion Councils and Commodity Boards has been operating Five Year Plan Scheme of the Government of India for extending assistance to concerned commodity exporters for modernizing their plant/factories, for acquiring latest packaging facilities and for acquiring internationally accepted quality certification like ISO/HACCP etc. The

implemented schemes have benefited in empowering the exporters to improve their productivity, quality standards and preparedness to face the emerging challenges in the international marketing.

The Councils and Boards also undertake various export promotion programmes like participation in International food fairs. International conventions and Seminars, sponsoring trade delegations, market surveys, disseminating trade enquiries, market information, publishing statistics, journals, etc., organising Buyer Seller Meets and implementing various schemes like Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme, Market Assistance Initiative (MAI) Scheme, and ASIDE for assisting exporters.

Statement

Export of Cashew Kernels from India
(Source: Various Custom Houses)

Countries	2006-2007		2007-08 (Apr-Feb)	
	Qty (MT)	Value Rs. (Cr.)	Qty (MT)	Value Rs. (Cr.)
1	2	3	4	5
U.S.A	46245	969.51	38021	736.39
Netherlands	19360	385.07	12458	229.80
U.A.E	9523	207.63	11510	246.91
Japan	4279	91.26	4591	93.80
France	3558	73.17	3606	66.62
U.K	4715	95.50	3399	69.81
Saudi Arabia	3357	66.55	3226	65.13
Spain	2457	52.42	2607	53.26
Australia	1344	25.85	2494	44.34

1	2	3	4	5
Belgium	2380	48.99	2286	44.07
Greece	1870	40.83	1740	37.08
Germany	1770	32.79	1593	29.63
Canada	1308	26.04	595	11.18
Italy	1208	26.18	540	10.44
Russia	1163	19.20	873	14.34
Norway	1105	22.72	921	17.49
Israel	995	22.74	615	13.45
Kuwait	964	21.17	646	14.58
Hong Kong	659	16.66	587	14.48
Lebanon	483	10.35	312	7.16
Bahrain	477	9.42	395	7.93
Korea Rep.	397	8.50	673	14.16
Singapore	318	6.90	379	8.13
New Zealand	212	4.23	386	7.13
Malaysia	161	3.11	296	6.08
Others	8230	168.38	8390	1.70
Total	118540	2455.15	103139	2033.18

*Import of Raw Cashewnut into India
(Source : Various Custom Houses)*

Countries	2006-2007		2007-08 (Apr-Feb)	
	Qty (MT)	Value Rs. (Cr.)	Qty (MT)	Value Rs. (Cr.)
1	2	3	4	5
Ivory Coast	187613	547.72	203871	478.69

1	2	3	4	5
Guinea Bissau	76126	240.91	98056	256.66
Tanzania	66600	225.52	62177	268.36
Benin	65420	205.16	57725	164.19
Indonesia	60959	213.81	35335	139.74
Ghana	39804	118.35	30430	74.36
Mozambique	26367	77.26	19764	74.58
Ghambia	22508	70.21	21653	53.99
Nigeria	21154	55.73	18991	39.91
Senegal	10084	31.47	10064	24.71
Guinea	4388	11.89	8937	20.90
Madagascar	2243	4.79	171	0.56
Kenya	1719	5.44	4139	10.49
Togo	403	1.18	122	0.36
El Salvador	259	0.90	183	0.61
Philippines	249	0.81	0	0.00
Panama	149	0.48	100	0.24
Others	0	0.00	1374	4.00
Total	586044	1811.62	573092	1612.37

Forensic Science Services

2724. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether inadequacies in the Forensic Science Services have affected the administration of criminal justice system;

(b) if so, whether a core Group of Experts for State of the Art Forensic Sciences constituted by the National Human Right Commission (NHRC) has submitted its recommendations;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether all the State Governments have implemented recommendations;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to implement the recommendations in all the States and to improve the Forensic Science Services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) National Human Rights Commission constituted a Core Group of Experts in the year 1998 to make a study of the existing forensic science set up of the country and recommended measures to strengthen the same.

(c) The Core Group recommended a number of measures, including creation of a Central Forensic Science Organisation at the Central Level, establishment of State Forensic Directorate under the Department of Home Affairs of the concerned States, Establishment of State Forensic Science Development Board in every State, Establishment of one Range Forensic Science Laboratory at every Police Headquarters etc.

(d) As per Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, 'Police' and 'law and order' are State subjects and therefore, it is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to implement the recommendations made by Core Group of experts constituted by National Human Rights Commission.

(e) As per reports made available by the States, the Forensic set up in the State of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, NCT. of Delhi, Assam,

Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tripura are under respective Home Departments, the State Governments of Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh; Assam and Tripura have constituted Forensic Science Development Boards.

(f) and (g) To implement the recommendations of the Core Group report, it is the responsibility of the State Governments as 'Police' and 'law and order' are State subjects. However, the Central Government has been sending advisory notes to all States from time to time to implement the recommendations of the Core Group. The Directorate of Forensic Science provides the required guidance to the upgradation/modernization of the Forensic set up in the States. Further, under the Scheme of modernization of the State Police Forces (MPF Scheme) funds are provided for procurement of equipments and construction of laboratory buildings including, setting up of new laboratories on receipt of proposals from State Governments.

Educational Schemes

2725. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the schemes and programmes, that are proposed to be implemented in the country including in Andhra Pradesh during the 11th plan; and

(b) the allocation earmarked for the same; State and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) and (b) The details of the schemes and programmes proposed to be implemented by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education and Literacy and Department of Higher Education) during XI Five Year Plan alongwith their allocations is enclosed as Statement. Prior States/union territories-wise allocations are not made.

Statement**Schemes/Programmes alongwith allocations during XIth Plan**

S. No.	Name of the Schemes/ Programmes	XI Plan Allocation (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3

Department of School Education and Literacy**A Elementary Education**

1	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan	71000
2	District Primary Education Programme	130
3	Mid Day Meal	48000
4	Teacher Education	4000
5	Mahila Samakhyia	210
6	Bal Bhawan	35
7	National Council for Teacher Education	5
Total Ongoing Schemes		123380

1	Early Childhood Care Education (New Scheme)	2000
Total (Elementary Education)		125380

B Adult Education

1	Directorate of Adult Education	50
2	National Literacy Mission Authority	20
3	Lifelong Education and Awareness Programme	3800

1	2	3
4	Grants to NGO (including Jan Shikshan Sansthan+State Resource Centre+Skill Development Mission)	673
5	Project for Removal of Illiteracy	1000
6	Literacy Programme for 35+ age group illiterates	400
7	Support to North Eastern Region	27
8	Adult Education studies by University	30
Total Adult Education		6000

C Secondary Education**Ongoing Schemes**

1	National Council of Education Research and Training	254
2	National Open Schools	100
3	Navodaya Vidyalayas	4800
4	Kendriya Vidyalayas	1500
5	Central Tibetan School Administration	41
6	Joint Indo-Mongolian School at Mongolia	5
7	Vocational Education	2000
8	Information and Communication Technology in Schools	6000
9	Integrated Education for Disabled Children	1000
Total Ongoing Schemes		15500

1	2	3
1	Scheme for Universal Access and Quality at Secondary Stage	
	(a) New Model schools	12750
	(b) Infrastructure for Secondary Schools	18250
	(c) In service training to teachers	870
2	Support for science Labs and Libraries	1000
3	Upgrading Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya's residential Schools	2000
4	Oversight Committee (OSC) Merit scholarships	1680
5	Girl child incentives	1500
Total New Schemes		38050
Total (Secondary Education)		53550
Total Department of School Education and Literacy		184930
Department of Higher Education		
A University and Higher Education		
	Ongoing Schemes	14130
	New Schemes	
1	16 new Central universities in uncovered States	2000
2	5 Medical and Engineering Colleges in new CUs	1000
3	14 World Class Central Universities (WCCUs)	2800

1	2	3
4	5 Medical and Engineering Colleges in new WCCUs	1700
5	Setting up of 370 new degree colleges	782
6	Incentivising State Governments for expansion, inclusion and excellence.	6200
7	Supporting 150 uncovered State Universities and 6000 colleges	7000
8	Additional assistance to about 160 already covered Universities and about 5500 colleges	3000
9	Strengthening Science based Higher Education and Research in Universities (MM Sharma Committee) excluding Fellowships	1200
11	Inter University Research Institute for Policy and Evaluation	100
12	Increase research Fellowships for NET qualified and Non -NET qualified PhD students	2300
13	Educational loan Interest Subsidy	4000
14	Construction of Girls' Hostels	1000
15	Reduction in Regional imbalances/social gaps and promotion of inclusiveness Higher Education	2141
16	Upgradation of 7 technical institutes to the level of IITs	700
Total New Schemes		35923
Total (University and Higher Education)		50053

1	2	3
B	Distance Learning, Scholarship and Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	
	Ongoing Schemes	659
	New Schemes	
1	National Mission in Education through ICT	5000
2	Scholarship for 2% of the total students	1000
3	IGNOU-Skill Development	50
4	210-New community colleges-Skill Development through ICT	100
Total New Schemes		6150
Total Distance Learning, Scholarship and ICT including OSC		6809
C	Book Promotion and Copy Right	70
D	Language Development	599
E	Planning and Administration	78
F	Technical Education	
	Ongoing Schemes	12884
	New Schemes	
1	Expansion and upgradation of 200 State Engineering Institutions	910
2	Setting up of 3 Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (Mohali, Thiruvananthapuram and Bhopal)	1700
3	Establishment of 50 centers for Training and Research in Frontier Areas	150

1	2	3
4	Faculty Development	950
5	Setting up of New 20 Indian Institute of Information Technology	940
6	Setting up of 2 new Schools of Planning and Architecture (SPAs)	240
7	Setting up of new 8 Indian Institute of Technology	2000
8	Setting up of new 20 National Institutes of Technology (NITs)	500
9	Setting up of New 6 Indian Institute of Management	660
10	Increase of Fellowship amount for M. Technology students	1000
11	Setting up of Worker's Technical University	
12	Setting up of New Polytechnics	1320
13	Strengthening of 400 Polytechnics	1000
14	580 New Community Polytechnics	580
15	Support to Engineering Colleges for Diploma courses	1000
16	Women's hostel in 500 Polytechnics	500
17	Reduction of Regional imbalances/social gaps and promotion of inclusiveness	1000
Total New Schemes		14450
Total (Technical Education)		27334
Total (Department of Higher Education)		84943
Grand Total (Ministry of Human Resource Development)		269873

**Recruitment of Women in
BSF and CISF**

2726. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM :
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Border Security Force (BSF) including Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has any proposal to recruit women constables;

(b) if so, the details and reasons behind this move;

(c) the details of the duties likely to be assigned to such women alongwith the border areas where the services of these women constables are likely to be utilised/ deployed;

(d) whether these women constables will be able to withstand the strains and stresses of the job; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) to (c) CISF inducts women constables in the normal course. BSF has also been authorized to raise women companies (coys). The tasks of search/frisking of women at integrated check posts, immigration points, Airports, installations, etc. are assigned to women constables.

(d) and (e) Deployment is done according to the capabilities of the personnel.

Trade Relations with Neighbouring Countries

2727. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of trade structure with neighbouring countries and import/export figures during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(b) the details of major findings and recommendations of the study conducted by Indian Council for Research in International Economic Relations on these countries;

(c) whether the Government proposes to reach out to these countries and liberalise trade practices to further strengthen the bilateral trade relations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) The details are given below:—

1. India has free trade agreements with Bhutan and Sri Lanka. India has also Treaty of Trade with Nepal under which India provides duty-free market access to Nepalese goods. With Bangladesh India has signed a Trade Agreement. With Pakistan, India has no formal trade agreement. While India has granted Most Favoured Nation Status to Pakistan, Pakistan maintains a list of importable items from India called Positive List which presently consists of 1802 items.
2. India and China have not signed any bilateral trade agreement. However, as per Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) signed as Bangkok Agreement in July 1975 and revised on 2.11.2005, China offered tariff preferences to India on 1697 items including food items, chemical products, drugs, textile products and machinery products. India in return offered tariff concessions on 570 items including primarily chemical, paper, steel, rubber, electric machinery, railway products and toys.
3. India's export and import figures country-wise for the last three years are given below:—

(Figures in US\$ million)

Country	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08 (Apr-Oct 07)	
	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import
Bangladesh	1631.12	59.37	1664.36	127.03	1628.58	228.3	1221.35	147.96
Bhutan	84.58	71	99.17	88.77	58.68	141.44	45.76	116.87
Nepal	743.14	345.83	859.97	379.85	931.45	306.02	688.03	220.29
Pakistan	521.05	94.97	689.23	179.56	1348.32	323.19	980.92	149.37
Sri Lanka	1413.18	378.4	2024.67	577.7	2254.11	470.52	1390.21	277.25
China	5615.87	7097.98	6759.10	10868	8284.19	17406	4577.70	15309.56

Source: DGCI and S Kolkata through NIC DOC

(b) Indian Council for Research in International Economic Relations (ICRIER) conducted a study on "Non-Tariff Barriers on India's Trade with Pakistan" which addresses issues of bilateral trade of India with Pakistan.

(c) and (d) India is also a signatory of the Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) and the member countries of SAFTA are currently deliberating the issues related to providing greater market access and trade facilitation measures, including non-tariff and para-tariff measures.

Visit of NHRC to Jails

2728. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) regularly undertakes visits to various jails to monitor the protection of human rights of prisoners in the country?

(b) if so, the details of jails visited by NHRC during 2006-07 and 2007-08 so far, jail-wise and State-wise;

(c) the details of the recommendations made by the NHRC to the State Governments on the basis of such visits jail-wise and State-wise;

(d) whether the NHRC has received any compliance report from the State Governments; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the NHRC in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Human Rights Commission has undertaken the following visits during 2006-07 and 2007-08:—

Year	Place visited
1	2
2006-07	1. District Jail, Jowai and District Jail Shillong, Meghalaya

1	2
	2. Yervada Central Prison, Pune Maharashtra
	3. Naharalagun District, Arunachal Pradesh
	4. Jodhpur Jail, Rajasthan
2007-08	1. Central Prison, Dimapur, Nagaland
	2. Central Jail, Jorhat, District Jail Golaghat and Open Air Jail Mohendra Nagar, Assam
	3. Special Jail, Bhubneswar, Central Jail Cuttack, Choudwar, Sub Jail Nayagar and Open Air Ashram Jamujhari, Orissa
	4. Gopalganj Jail, Bihar
	5. District Jail, Agra, UP
	6. Central Jail, Tihar, Delhi

(c) The details of the recommendations made by NHRC State-wise is enclosed as Statement.

(d) The NHRC has received the action taken reports from the Government of Meghalaya only. The action taken reports from other States are awaited to them. The NHRC has requested the State authorities to expedite the compliance report.

(e) The report received from Government of Meghalaya was considered in the Commission who was of the view that the only area which warrants timely action is on the trial cases of undertrial prisoners pending in Courts. For this purpose a special drive is required to be launched by the State Government. This aspect also needs to be closely and regularly reviewed in the meetings of Police-Magistracy Coordination Committees under the chairmanship of district Judge/District Magistrate. The National Human Rights Commission vide letter dated 29.08.2007 requested the Government of Meghalaya to constitute the aforesaid review Committee if not in

existence for speedy disposal of pending trial cases of undertrial prisoners.

Statement

Details of Recommendations/Observations of NHRC for Improving the Jails Conditions State-wise

MEGHALAYA

- i. The prison infrastructure of the State is very weak and urgently need strengthening.
- ii. Only four out of 7 districts have District Jails. There is no Central Jail in the State.
- iii. Sanitation facilities are poor.
- iv. Health care though satisfactory needs improvement. Treatment of T.B. patients needs more attention.
- v. Undertrial prisoners are working in jail industry but not receiving any remuneration.
- vi. Undertrial Prisoner (UTP) constitute over 90% of prison population.
- vii. The system of parole provided under the Assam Jail Manual which is being followed in Meghalaya is not operating for the past several years.
- viii. System of Board of visitors has been defunct.

MAHARASHTRA

- i. Parole powers are with the Divisional Commissioner. The same may be delegated to DIG (Prisons).
- ii. Life imprisonment is for 14 years minimum, after which the case is sent to the State Government for a decision whether the prisoners is to be released or not. The prisoners felt that this is subjective and arbitrary and some norms to be laid down.

- iii. The Commission forwarded the guidelines of the NHRC to deal the case for pre-mature release of prisoners; and
- iv. The prisoners felt that the average daily wages for semi-skilled workers is too low and needs to be revised.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

- i. Lack of cleanliness in the police lock-ups which are being used as jail also;
- ii. Non-existence of facilities for juveniles;
- iii. Shortage of facilities like accommodation, vehicles, furniture, scientific gadgets for the police officers investigating various cases;
- iv. Need for compensation to the victims of terrorist crimes; and
- v. Need for a State Human Rights Commission.

NAGALAND

- i. Sanitary facilities are poor.
- ii. Recreational facilities limited.
- iii. Education facilities do not exist.
- iv. Jails are virtually without any medical cover of their own.
- v. Incidence of death in jail is fairly common.
- vi. NHRC directions regarding intimation of death followed by magisterial enquiry report are not being followed.
- vii. Absence of Works Programme which speaks total lack of concern for reform and rehabilitation of prisoners after they are released.
- viii. Performance of jail staff is suffering because of

inadequate training at officer level and no training at functional level.

- ix. Staff officers have little knowledge of prisoner's right.
- x. Convicts are denied the right to basic needs of clothing and bedding.
- xi. The system of parole provided in the Jail Manual has never been put into practice.
- xii. System on Board of Visitors has gone defunct.
- xiii. Involvement of NGOs in the jail activities is missing.

ASSAM

A number of positive comments have been made by the visiting officer. However, following are some of the issues which need attention :

- i. Absence of a Women Jail.
- ii. Underutilization of Open Air Jail.
- iii. Unsatisfactory sanitation facilities.
- iv. Improvement in water supply arrangements.
- v. Work programme existing in 15 out of 27 jails needs to be expanded.
- vi. Payment of wages need rationalization.
- vii. Recreational facilities are inadequate.
- viii. Food and health care facilities of children particularly need attention.

ORISSA

- i. Inordinate delay in disposal of cases in the respective courts.
- ii. Speedy release on bail is suffering for the

- following reasons as emerged from the conversation with the Undertrial prisoners (UTPs)
- (a) Bail petitions are pending in the trying courts for disposal.
 - (b) Prayer for bail has been rejected but the advocate concerned has not yet communicated the reasons for rejection of the bail petition.
 - (c) There is alleged discriminatory treatment to different UTPs in disposal of their bail petitions.
 - (d) Inordinate delay in the disposal of appeals made by Convicts.
- iii. Premature release cases often get delayed and remain pending before the Board for a long time; even after the final decision has been taken, the same is not communicated in time.
 - iv. Space available for interviews with the family members of prisoners is less and which is leading to overcrowding.
 - v. Living conditions are poor.
 - vi. Kitchen is dark and dingy, unclean and unhygienic and food is not served with a human touch.
 - vii. There is deficiency in serving the food to prisoners. It is carried open and is not hot at the time of serving.
 - viii. There is no arrangement for filtration or purification of drinking water; samples are not being regularly sent for testing.
 - ix. Sanitary conditions are poor. Number of commodes are much less than required according to Prison Manual. Elderly person, physically and orthopedically handicapped persons and persons suffering from arthritis cannot squat on Indian Commodes without further harming themselves.
- x. Scale of clothing and bedding for both convicts and UTPs should be fixed by the State after taking into account the climatic conditions as also security and disciplines of the prison.
 - xi. Number of beds are much less than what is prescribed in the model prison manual. Lack of medical facilities for prisoners.
 - xii. Literacy and education: Neither the Prison Administration nor the teacher implementing the programme has any clue as to what is functional literacy Vs. alphabetical literacy.
 - xiii. 187 posts of guarding staff are vacant. 25 out of 160 posts of officers and non-gazetted staff are vacant.
 - xiv. A computerized data base needs to be built up in the office of IG Prisons.
- Recreation Centre for Senior Citizens**
2729. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :
- (a) whether New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has constructed a recreational centre for senior citizens of NCT of Delhi in Sarojini Nagar Market;
 - (b) if so, the details, of facilities available in the recreational centre and the measures taken by NDMC to provide additional modern facilities therein;
 - (c) whether this centre has been encroached upon by the vendors and they are using it as godown; and
 - (d) if so, the action taken by NDMC to remove encroachments therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the Recreation Centre at Sarojini Nagar Market is closed since 2002.

(c) and (d) One instance of encroachment was reported in the month of January, 2008, which was immediately removed.

Lossess due to Protest against SEZ

2730. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has estimated the huge loss of revenue due to wide protest against setting up of SEZ in different States and halt the process with respect to some SEZs in the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Do not arise.

Classroom under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

2731. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per the norms of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), every primary school should have two classrooms with verandah and in addition a room for the Headmaster in upper primary school;

(b) if so, the number of primary schools in Bihar which have only one room and do not have any room for headmaster in upper primary schools, separately indicating the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of primary and upper primary schools without building in Bihar alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to provide the requisite number of classrooms and buildings in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) As per SSA norms a room for every teacher or for every grade/class, whichever is lower in primary and upper primary, with the provision that there would be two class rooms with verandah to every primary school with at least two teachers. A room for Head-Master in upper primary school/section.

(b) to (d) The number of primary schools in Bihar with single classroom has declined from 4753 in 2005-06, to 4257 in 2006-07. The number of schools not having their own buildings was 2095 in 2006-07. Under SSA, upto 2007-08, 13104 school buildings and 97380 additional classrooms have been sanctioned for Bihar.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, what do you want to say?

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : May I appeal that the hon. Defence Minister may make a statement?
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have received a request from the Leader of the House that he may be permitted to make a statement. Before the Papers are laid on the Table of the House, I think, if the House agrees, he may make the statement.

...(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS : On what subject, Sir?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister wanted to make a statement in regard to Sarabjit Singh, who is in Pakistan jail.

...(Interruptions)

12.01 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(I) Issue of Sarabjit Singh, an Indian National In Pakistan custody

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to inform Hon'ble members of the issue of Sarabjit Singh, an Indian national in Pakistani custody facing a death sentence. The media have reported that his mercy petition has been turned down by the President of Pakistan. We have received no formal intimation of this from the Government of Pakistan. But according to press reports, the black warrant has been issued and the sentence will be carried out on 1st April 2008. Our High Commission in Islamabad has sought details from the Government of Pakistan.

The Supreme Court of Pakistan, in a judgement on 18 August 2005 had upheld award of death sentence to Sarabjit Singh for causing explosions at various places in Pakistan. At our instance, Consular access to Sarabjit Singh was provided by Government of Pakistan for the first time on August 30, 2005 to the Indian High Commission. Thereafter his national status was confirmed. A review petition against the death sentence was also filed in the Supreme Court of Pakistan. The petition was dismissed by the Supreme Court in March 2006. A mercy petition was thereafter filed with the President of Pakistan which now, according to news reports, has been turned down. Throughout this period, Government of India have

continued to urge the Government of Pakistan to take a sympathetic and humanitarian view of this issue

Hon'ble. Members are aware that since my January 2007 visit to Pakistan, both Governments have put in place certain institutional arrangements, including a new Agreement on Consular Access and a joint Judicial Committee, in order to facilitate the resolution of the consular issues. A delegation of the family members of missing Indian defence personnel was also able to visit Pakistan last year. These initiatives may lead to an improvement of the situation for our prisoners.

It is in this context and in the same spirit that we appeal to the Government of Pakistan to treat Sarabjit Singh's case with clemency on humanitarian grounds.

... (Interruptions)

[Placed in library, See No. LT-8431/08]

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members, first let me complete the business of the Papers to be laid on the Table of House. After that, I would listen to you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission in this regard...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAIYA RANJAN DASMUNSHI : It is not a convention...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may submit whatever you want to say after the laying of the papers.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The discussion is not held on the statement in this House. Everybody has right to make statement. I will take necessary action after listening the statement...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : First let me get the papers laid. Then you may express your views.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : First let me get the papers laid.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : First let me get the papers laid then, I will listen you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : We will listen you patiently...(Interruptions)

12.03 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : On behalf of Shri Arjun Singh, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Outcome Budgets (Hindi and English versions):—

- (i) Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8338/2008]

- (ii) Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8337/2008]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8338/2008]

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8339/2008]

- (2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8340/2008]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Mines for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8341/2008]

[English]

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) : On behalf of Shri Kamal Nath, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8342/2008]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : I beg to lay on the
Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8343/2008]

- (2) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India), New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007 together with Audit Report thereon.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8344/2008]

- (4) A copy of the Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.104(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 2008, under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8345/2008]

- (5) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8346/2008]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Prasar Bharat (Broadcasting Corporation of India), New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English

versions) by the Government of the working of the Prasar Bharat (Broadcasting Corporation of India), New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8344/2008]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8347/2008]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8348/2008]

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL
SIBAL) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Agharkar Research Institute, Pune, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Agharkar Research Institute, Pune, for the year 2006-2007.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8349/2008]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the International Advanced Centre for Research in Powder Metallurgy and New Materials, Hyderabad, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the International Advanced Centre for Research in Powder Metallurgy and New Materials, Hyderabad, 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 8350/2008]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 8351/2008]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 8352/2008]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Aryabhata Research Institute for Observational Sciences, Nainital, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Aryabhata Research Institute for Observational Sciences, Nainital, for the year 2006-2007.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 8353/2008]
- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bose Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Bose Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007.
- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 8354/2008]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 8355/2008]
- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Science Congress Association, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Science Congress Association, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007
- (16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 8356/2008]
- (17) A copy each of the following Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions):—
- (i) Ministry of Science and Technology, for the year 2008-2009.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 8357/2008]
- (ii) Ministry of Earth Sciences, for the year 2008-2009.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 8358/2008]
- (18) A copy each of the following Outcome Budgets (Hindi and English versions):—
- (i) Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for the year 2008-2009.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 8359/2008]
- (ii) Department of Bio-Technology for the year 2008-2009.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 8360/2008]
- (iii) Department of Science and Technology for the year 2008-2009.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 8361/2008]
- THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : I beg to lay on the Table:—
- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Women and Child Development for the year 2008-2009.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 8362/2008]
- (2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Women and Child Development for the year 2008-2009.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 8363/2008]
- THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Planning Commission for the year 2008-2009.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 8364/2008]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions):—
 - (i) Ministry of Home Affairs for the year 2008-2009 (Volume-I).
 - (ii) Ministry of Home Affairs (Union Territories without Legislature for the year 2008-2009. (Volume).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8365/2008]

- (2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Home Affairs for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8366/2008]

- (3) A copy of the 38th Annual Assessment Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8367/2008]

- (4) A copy of the Proclamation (Hindi and English versions) dated the 12th March, 2008, issued by the President under clause (2) of Article 356 of the Constitution revoking earlier Proclamation issued by her on 3rd January, 2008 in relation to the State of Nagaland, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 177(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th March, 2008 under article 356(3) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8368/2008]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force, Deputy Commandant (Transport) and Assistant Commandant (Transport) Recruitment Amendment Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 722(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th November, 2007 under sub section (3) of section 156 of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force Act, 1992.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8369/2008]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968:—

- (i) The Central Industrial Security Force (Group 'A' Executive Cadre) Recruitment Amendment Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.5(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd January, 2008.
- (ii) The Central Industrial Security Force (Additional Director General and Additional Deputy Inspector General) Recruitment Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 682(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th October, 2007.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (ii) of (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8370/2008]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : On behalf of Shrimati Suryakanta Patil, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on the assurances, promises and undertakings given by Ministers during various sessions of Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Lok Sabha:—

TENTH LOK SABHA

1. Statement No. L Third Session, 1992
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8371/2008]
2. Statement No. XXXVI Twelfth Session, 1995
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8372/2008]
3. Statement No. XXXVII Thirteenth Session, 1995
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8373/2008]
4. Statement No. XXIX Fifteenth Session, 1995
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8374/2008]

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

5. Statement No. XXXVI Second Session, 1996
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8375/2008]
6. Statement No. XXXII Fifth Session, 1997
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8376/2008]

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

7. Statement No. XLII Second Session, 1998
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8377/2008]

8. Statement No. XXXVII Third Session, 1998
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8378/2008]

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

9. Statement No. XXXIX Second Session, 1999
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8379/2008]
10. Statement No. XLII Third Session, 2000
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8380/2008]
11. Statement No. XXXVI Fourth Session, 2000
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8381/2008]
12. Statement No. XXXIV Fifth Session, 2000
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8382/2008]
13. Statement No. XLIII Sixth Session, 2001
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8383/2008]
14. Statement No. XLII Seventh Session, 2001
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8384/2008]
15. Statement No. XXIX Eighth Session, 2001
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8385/2008]
16. Statement No. XXVIII Ninth Session, 2002
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8386/2008]
17. Statement No. XXIV Tenth Session, 2002
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8387/2008]
18. Statement No. XXIII Eleventh Session, 2002
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8388/2008]
19. Statement No. XXI Twelfth Session, 2003
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8389/2008]

20. Statement No. XVIII Thirteenth Session, 2003
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8390/2008]

21. Statement No. XVII Fourteenth Session, 2003
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8391/2008]

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

22. Statement No. XV Second Session, 2004
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8392/2008]

23. Statement No. XIII Third Session, 2004
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8393/2008]

24. Statement No. XIII Fourth Session, 2005
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8394/2008]

25. Statement No. X Fifth Session, 2005
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8395/2008]

26. Statement No. IX Sixth Session, 2005
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8396/2008]

27. Statement No. VIII Seventh Session, 2006
(Vol. I and II)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8397/2008]

28. Statement No. VI Eighth Session, 2006
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8398/2008]

29. Statement No. V Ninth Session, 2006
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8399/2008]

30. Statement No. IV Tenth Session, 2007
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8400/2008]

31. Statement No. II Eleventh Session, 2007
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8401/2008]

32. Statement No. I Twelfth Session, 2007
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8402/2008]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A.
FATMI) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Bal Bhawan, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Bal Bhawan, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Bal Bhawan, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8403/2008]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gujarat Council of Primary Education, Gandhinagar, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gujarat Council of Primary Education, Gandhinagar, 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 8404/2008]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Maharashtra Prathmik Shikshan Parishad (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Maharashtra Prathmik Shikshan Parishad (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8405/2008]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Rajya Mission Tripura, Agartala, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Rajya Mission Tripura, Agartala, for the year 2005-2006.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8406/2008]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan State Mission Authority Manipur, Imphal, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan State Mission Authority Manipur, Imphal, for the year 2005-2006.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8407/2008]

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) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Project Exports Promotion Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of Project Exports Promotion Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8408/2008]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tea Board, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Tea Board, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of Tea Board, Kolkata, 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 8409/2008]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Shellac and Forest Products Export Promotion Council (SHEFEXIL), Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Shellac and Forest Products Export Promotion Council (SHEFEXIL), Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of Shellac and Forest Products Export Promotion Council (SHEFEXIL), Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8410/2008]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pharmaceuticals Exports Promotion Council, Hyderabad, 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 Pharmaceuticals Exports Promotion Council, Hyderabad, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8411/2008]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : I beg to lay on the Table

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Part I and II) (Hindi and English versions) of the University of Delhi, Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the University of Delhi, Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8412/2008]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Part I and II) (Hindi and English versions) of the University of Delhi, Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the University of Delhi, Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8413/2008]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and

English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8414/2008]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, for the year 2006-2007.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8415/2008]

- (9) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, for the year 2006-2007 together with Audit Report thereon.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing

reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8416/2008]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, for the year 2006-2007.

- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8417/2008]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (iv) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8418/2008]

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Auroville Foundation, Auroville, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Auroville Foundation, Auroville, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Auroville Foundation, Auroville, for the year 2006-2007.

- (16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8419/2008]

- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, 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 Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007.

- (18) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (17) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8420/2008]

- (19) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of

Management, Ahmedabad, 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 Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, for the year 2006-2007.

- (20) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (19) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8421/2008]

- (21) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007.

- (22) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (21) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8422/2008]

- (23) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Book Trust, India, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement Regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Book Trust, India, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (24) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (23) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8423/2008]

- (25) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (26) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (25) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8424/2008]

- (27) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research, Chennai, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research, Chennai, for the year 2006-2007.

- (28) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (27) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8425/2008]

- (29) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2006-2007.

- (30) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (29) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8426/2008]

- (31) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research, Bhopal, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research, Bhopal, for the year 2006-2007.

- (32) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (31) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8427/2008]

- (33) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Historical Research, 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 Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (34) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (33) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8428/2008]

- (35) A copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, for the year 2006-2007, within the stipulated period of nine months after the closed of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8429/2008]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Chandigarh Value Added Tax Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 978-FII(8)-2006/2967 in Chandigarh Administration Gazette dated the 26th May, 2006 under sub-section (3) of section 70 of the Punjab Value Added Tax Act, 2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8430/2008]

12.05 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Minutes

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (Sitapur) : I to lay on the Table minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the 9th sitting of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House held on 4 December, 2007.

12.05½ hrs

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

28th Report

[English]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka) : I beg to present the Twenty-eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on "Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Southern Railway".

12.06 hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

66th Report

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : I beg to present the Sixty-sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance on the Collection of Statistics Bill, 2007.

12.10 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE DEPUTY-SPEAKER

Business transacted during the last week

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. members, for your information, I want to briefly recapitulate the main items of business transacted by the House during the last week.

During Question Hour, out of the 100 Starred Questions which were listed, only 23 could be answered orally. The replies to the remaining Starred Questions along with the replies to 1230 Unstarred Questions for the same period were laid on the Table.

As regards Legislative Business, the House continued with the combined discussion on the Statutory Resolution disapproving the Railways (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008; Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2008; General Discussion on the Budget (Railways) — 2008-09; Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) — 2007-08 and the Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) 2005-06. The combined discussion which took 10 hours and 51 minutes, concluded with the reply of the Minister of Railways. The Statutory Resolution was withdrawn and the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2008 was passed. All the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 2008-09 and the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2007-08 were voted in full and the related Appropriation Bills were passed.

The House, thereafter, took up General Discussion on the Budget for the State of Karnataka for 2008-09; and Supplementary Demands for Grants (Karnataka) for the year — 2007-08. The discussion concluded with the reply of the Finance Minister and thereafter the Demands for Grants on Account for 2008-09 and Supplementary Demands for Grants (Karnataka) 2007-08 were voted in full. Related Appropriation Bills were also passed.

Another important discussion that took place during the week was a General Discussion on the Budget (General) for 2008-09; the Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2008-09; and the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) — 2007-08, which lasted for 16 hours and 17 minutes. The discussion was concluded with the reply of the Finance Minister and thereafter Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2008-09 and Supplementary

Demands for Grants (General) 2007-08 were voted in full and the related Appropriation Bills were passed.

Another combined discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking to disapprove the Delimitation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 and the Delimitation (Amendment) Bill, 2008 and the Representation of People (Amendment) Bill, 2008 was held for 3 hours before the Statutory Resolution was withdrawn and the Bills were passed.

These important discussions saw overwhelming participation from the Members.

Nine Statements were made by the Ministers on important subjects in the House.

During the week, members raised as many as 45 matters of urgent public importance. Also, 54 matters were raised under Rule 377.

The Departmentally Related Standing Committees presented two Reports, during the last week.

While we lost 3 hour and 32 minutes due to interruptions and adjournments last week, the House sat late for 12 hours and 28 minutes to compensate the lost time.

I take this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks to the hon. Members for the co-operation and support extended to the Chair in smooth conduct of the proceedings.

12.14 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS — *Contd.*

- (ii) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 21st and 24th Reports of Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on Demands for Grants (2006-07 and 2007-08), pertaining to the Ministry of Mines***

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) :
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as per your directions I am making

[Shri Sis Ram Ota]

this statement on the implementation of the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel relating to Ministry of Mines contained in their 21st and 24th Reports.

The 21st & 24th Reports of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel have been presented to Lok Sabha on 19.12.2006 and 27.4.2007 respectively which were for the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Mines for the year 2006-07 and 2007-08. Action taken on this has been sent to the Committee Office on 5.12.2007 and 7.11.2007 respectively. There were 6 recommendations in the 21st Report and 17 recommendations in the 24th Report of the Committee on which action was called for on the part of the Government.

The status of the implementation is indicated in the Annexure-I and II to my statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read the Annexure and request that these may be considered as read.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8432/2008]

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : First, you listen to Dasmunsiji.

.....(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I will certainly listen to all of you and everybody should certainly listen all, however, I would also like to request that first we should take up the Calling Attention Motion that has been moved by former Prime Minister Shri Devegowdaji. Thereafter, we may listen other Members.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to him.

[Translation]

All of you please sit down. Prabhunathji and Gurudas Dasguptaji, you also please sit down.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : First I will try to listen two-four Members of each party who have important matters to raise. You should also try that there are no interruptions. One by one, I will call all the Members. Two-four Members who have important matters should raise it. First of all hon'ble Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The speech of only Dhindsaji will go on record.

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura) : Sir, the issue of price rise may be allowed to be raised.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All of you please sit down. All of you will get time.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice.... (Interruptions)

.....(Interruptions)

12.18 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re : Capital punishment awarded to an Indian citizen, Shri Sarabjit Singh in Pakistan.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have said that I will give time to all of you, first, please listen to Dhindsaji.

....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is a very serious matter. You first listen to him.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, today the Minister of External Affairs has given statement on the matter concerning Sarbjit Singh however you know that he is going to be hanged by some other name. The Government in its statement did not inform as to what is being done in this regard because one person is going to be hanged. I had seen on the television screen where the people of Pakistan were saying that their country men are also in India. That means they want to enter into some sort of bargain in this matter. The Government should consider the exchange of prisoners with Pakistan. The Government did not say any thing as to what is being done by the Government to save the life of a man. I would like to submit to the Government that since we are in favour of improving our relations with Pakistan, so if he is hanged it will further deepen alienation between these two countries. So, efforts should be made by the Government to solve this matter. Yesterday you might have seen on television that his sister and a young man have met Rahul Gandhi. He gave assurance. I would like to know as to what has been done in this regard. I would also like to know whether any effort is being made by the Government to save him. I would like that the Government should give assurance and should also inform as to what is being done further in this regard. It is all right that the Government have given previous facts, however, it did not inform as to what they are doing in this matter. The hon'ble

Minister is sitting here. I would like to tell him that he should take this matter seriously. All efforts should be made to protect the life of a man....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given notice....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Sumanji, I will call you.

....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Except the statement of Shri Rupchand palji, nothing will go on record.

....(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon'ble Members who want to associate with him can send their name.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, while I share the sentiments expressed by my esteemed colleague and the concern expressed by the Government about Shri Sarabjit Singh, I would like to add one more important thing that the price situation has reached such a state... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will give you time to raise this matter later on. I am assuring you. I have given the word that I will give you time.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Those hon'ble Members who want to associate should send their names.

*Not recorded

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just now hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs has given his statement. The entire country is concerned with the death sentence awarded to Sarabjit and prayers are being made for him at various places. The Punjab Legislative Assembly has unanimously passed the resolution and has requested the hon'ble Prime Minister that he should talk to the Government of Pakistan on Sarabjit issue and save his life.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Sarabjit is lodged in Pakistani jail since 1990 and most importantly even the officers of Indian High Commission were not allowed to meet Sarabjit. After the judgement of the Supreme Court his mercy petition was sent to the President but it has been rejected. It is heart rending situation. Today some news papers have published the statements of two daughters of Sarabjit, Sapandeep and Poonam. Poonam in her statement said that she has not even seen her father as she was only two months old at that time. They said that they have decided to commit suicide the moment their father is hanged.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter, so through you, I would like that the Lok Sabha should unanimously pass a resolution to save the life of Sarabjit. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is sitting here. We would like to request the Government that it should talk to Government of Pakistan to find out the solution to this problem as there is no other alternative. The legal process that was to be followed has been completed. I believe that the Government of India will take effective initiative in this regard and I hope that the Government will certainly act to save the life of Sarabjit....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Associate Goel Saheb.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, regarding the sentiment of hon'ble Dhindsa Saheb that he expressed in the House to save the life of Sarabjit, I would like to submit that the Central Government should take initiative and adopt diplomatic strategy or method because today the entire country is

concerned about this issue and it is a matter of sentiment. Today the entire country is unanimous on this question. The Parliament is supreme so the Central Government should take initiative for this. Just now one hon'ble Member was saying that there has been the tradition of exchange of prisoners. The Government should look into the matter as to what can be done through diplomatic method in this regard. However, this matter should be taken up seriously and at any cost Sarabjit should be saved from the gallows because at present a peculiar situation has emerged in the country in favour of this issue.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we all share the sentiment of the hon'ble Member.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : MR. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the most remarkable thing is that it is a case of mistaken identity. The case was registered in the name of Manjit Singh and the death sentence has been awarded to Sarabjit Singh instead of Manjit Singh. He has also said that DNA test should be conducted. Even after going through all the things an innocent person is being hanged. New persons have been elected and a new Government has been formed there. This issue can be discussed with them. All efforts should be made to save Shri Sarabjit Singh. It is the sentiment of the entire House that we want to express.

[*English*]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura) : The point is that democracy has returned to Pakistan. Elections have taken place. A new Government has come into office. Therefore, I appeal to the newly elected Members of the Parliament of Pakistan to take it up as a gesture of goodwill to the people of India because the gesture of goodwill between India and Pakistan will help both the countries. So, I appeal to the elected Members of Pakistan Parliament and also of the Assemblies to put pressure on the dictatorial chief of the Pakistan State apparatus to change and issue a clemency order. My appeal is to the elected Members of Parliament of Pakistan and to the people of

Pakistan. India and Pakistan should live in peace and not in confrontation. If this is done then that will be good for both the countries. Let the new Government of Pakistan begin a new process. I appeal to the hon. Minister to be little more firm, active and accelerated to get the whole thing done and ensure that an innocent man is not hanged.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy

....*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the release of Shri Sarabjit Singh, entire House has expressed its views. The House is unanimous on this issue. All Members want that he should not be given death penalty and he should be sent back to India. We want that Government should make all out efforts, for the release of shri sarabjit singh....
(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,*(Interruptions)* Let me speak why are you interrupting?....*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the people from all over the country have gathered at Jantar Mantar to stage dharna on the issue of price rise....
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will give you time after the speech of Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy. So now you please sit down. Now Shri Braja Kishore Tripathyji.

....*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what is this you do not allow me to speak. The issue of price rise is very important and the entire House is unanimous on the issue of release of Shri Sarabjit Singh, then what is the need of further discussion. Now you please take up my issue and give me opportunity to speak....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : You please sit down. Let me finish my speech....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to him.

....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow you. After this I will allow you.

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat) : Sir, you assured us in the morning...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have said that after this I will allow you.

....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MD. SALIM : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, After that you will adjourn the House for lunch and will not listen me. So I stage walk-out.

12.29 hrs.

At this stage Md. Salim and some other Hon'ble Members left the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am telling you that after the speech of shri Braja Kishore Tripathyji I will take up your issue and will allow you to speak.

....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing should be recorded.

....*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : After Tripathyji, I will take up your issue.

....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please listen Tripathyji for few seconds.

....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Those hon'ble Members who have given me notice.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to me.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have told you that after Tripathyji, I will give you as well as Guptaji time to speak. I feel that nobody has objection on this issue of Sarabjit Singh. The House is unanimous on this issue that the Government should find out a solution to this issue.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I am associating with other Members on this issue. On my own behalf and on my behalf of Party, I demand that the Government should pass a resolution so that a unanimous view from this House will be passed on to the Government of Pakistan, so that they can take a lenient view. An innocent person should not be hanged. Everybody in the world knows that he is an innocent person. So, our Government should take action on it. I am

associating with other Members and I request the Government to immediately come forward and respond on this matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All Members of this House agree on this point.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperambudur) : Sir on behalf of DMK, I also associate with the views expressed here on this issue....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members who have sent their slips namely, Dr. (Col.) D.R. Shandil, Shri Mahavir Bhagora, Shri Dhan Singh Rawat, Shri Ananta Nayak, Shri Ganesh Singh, Shri Ratilal Kalkidas Varma, Shri Syed Shahnewaz Hussain, Shri Kashiram Rana, Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria, Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava and Shri Ramswaroop Koli are allowed to associate in the subject.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : With all due respect to the Chair, I would only submit that the Government and the Members of this House are not having two opinions to find out ways and means on how to save a life both in the diplomatic way and using the highest office. But to pass a resolution on the judgment of the court, I think, we have never heard of any Parliament doing that. Therefore, my appeal to the House is, we have bilateral relations with that country. In humanitarian way, diplomatic way and using the highest office, we have been negotiating the matter step by step since 2005....(Interruptions) Then why do you not allow me to speak? Then just do like this. Do not take the Government casually. Sir, I will not respond to stray remarks.

Sir, the hon. Minister for External Affairs did explain in the last paragraph of his statement which is important that we appeal to that Government for clemency on humanitarian grounds....(Interruptions)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): It is a personal failure....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : You can contribute as you like but try to understand how one Government has relations with another Government. You should know. I am not going to answer you.... (*Interruptions*) Therefore, Sir, I will sincerely convey the feelings of the House to the hon. Prime Minister. So far as my knowledge goes, at the Prime Minister's level, the matter is being negotiated every day and every minute. I would appeal to you that I will convey these sentiments sincerely to the hon. Prime Minister. We are all one with the sentiments of the House. If you bind the Government to pass this and that resolution, then it will be difficult for me to say anything at this stage.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, I would request Shri Rupchand Pal to speak on the situation arising out of the reduction in the quota of food grains and rise in price of essential commodities.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Sir, we have been repeatedly requesting the Government that in view of the soaring prices which is hurting the poor, and admitted by the hon. Prime Minister, the Government should strengthen the Public Distribution System. Instead of strengthening the Public Distribution System, in violation of their commitment in the CMP, in respect of Kerala, they have rather drastically reduce the allocation of rice to the extent of 88 per cent. In the case of West Bengal, the allocation of wheat has been reduced by about fifty per cent. People throughout the country are reeling under the impact of high price rise of the essential commodities, particularly the food grains....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded. Only Shri Rupchand Pal's statement will be recorded.

(*Interruptions*)...*

*Not recorded

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : We want the hon. Prime Minister to assure this nation that effective steps would be taken by the Government to curb price rise of essential commodities and protect the people of this country from the severe onslaught of price rise of essential commodities, particularly the food grains....(*Interruptions*)

Thousands of people have assembled at Jantar Mantar. The Members of Legislative Assemblies from the States of West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura have come. The MPs have been sitting on *dharna*. We are trying to impress upon this Government on this issue. We are going to meet the hon. Prime Minister so that the Government could come out with a statement regarding the effective steps that the Government proposes to take urgently to save the people from the price rise; to strengthen the public distribution system; and to allocate and restore the quota of rice to Kerala and the quota of wheat to West Bengal and such quotas for other States....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura) : Sir, I seek the indulgence of the entire House. The issue is of price rise. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is not a meeting place. Shri Dahyabhai Vallabhnbhai Patel, please listen to the hon. Member. Shri Gurudas Dasgupta is on his legs.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : There is a price fire and the fire is felt everywhere, in relation to all commodities. The price is rising unabated and it is unbearable. It is more so after the presentation of the Budget. After the presentation of the Budget, there has been an all-round increase in the prices of all essential goods....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing should be recorded, except Shri Gurudas Dasgupta's statement.

(*Interruptions*)...*

*Not recorded

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Vermaji, it will not go like this. Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura) : Sir, I appeal to all hon. Members to kindly understand the universality of the dimension of the demon of price rise which is overtaking the country. Who is responsible? The Budget is responsible. The economic reform is responsible. Speculative economy has been set up. Speculative economy is showing its teeth. The Government's stand in case of price rise is totally dubious. For two years we have been discussing this. Shri P. Chidambaram has been saying that he is taking fiscal measures to control the price rise. Shri Chidambaram has completely failed to control the price rise....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

You please listen, what are you doing let me speak...
(Interruptions)

[English]

Shri D.P. Yadav, should I speak according to you?...
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, please address the Chair. You are the most senior hon. Member.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : The point is the Government's assurance has fallen flat on the economy.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : You have cultivated the habit of speaking just like that....*(Interruptions)* Deputy Speaker, Sir, you should lay down a rule that the hon. Members will be called to speak in the House as per the strength of the party....*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : I have said nothing.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Now the House will function as per the rule should call the Members as per the strength of the party....*(Interruptions)* On the basis of that you call them....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Devendra Prasadji, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : ...*(Interruptions)* I will not yield....*(Interruptions)* I had requested you....
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Devendra Prasadji, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : My party has 25 Members in the Lok Sabha....*(Interruptions)* It has been the convention of the Parliament that the Members are called as per the numerical strength of the party....*(Interruptions)* Injustice is always being done to us. We will not tolerate this injustice. You should give opportunity to Members to speak as per the number of the Members of a Party
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur) : Sir, the BJP Members get minimum opportunity to speak in the House....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Devendraji, neither I have any sympathy for any Member nor I have aversion for any one. Probably you do not know because at present I have not underlined the name. After this, your name was to be called. If you have objection, then I give chance to some other Member. Why are you saying like this about the chair?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I do not have any objection. The House will run as per the conventions and the rules....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am running the House as per the rules. I know how to run the House. Why are you unnecessarily speaking like this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : The House should run as per the numerical strength of the party...
(Interruptions) On Monday, it was said that we will be given opportunity on Tuesday...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Sir, I am concluding within one minute....*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Dasguptaji, please wait for a minute.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, please sit down. I will do something in the time available. You are wasting the time of the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Sir, I am just concluding by saying that on the one hand, there is a price rise and on the other hand, there is a total depletion of the Public Distribution system. West Bengal and Kerala States have been singled out. It is a political victimization. We protest against this and we seek to walk out against the policy of the Government....

(Interruptions)

12.43 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and some other hon. Members left the House.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : What are you doing?...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I would like to extend my thanks to you...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : West Bengal is the only State where there has been ration riot because the entire public distribution foodstock has been looted by the Communists' leaders....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on in the record.

(Interruptions)..."

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to extent my thanks to you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You unnecessarily kicked up a puss that resulted in this.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I am continuously giving notice for the last four days. I am speaking with a purpose. The ruling was given by the Chair in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You unnecessarily created obstruction.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Sir, this ruling was given by the Chair on Friday when hon'ble Member Ram Kripalji had raised this question and when asked by the Chair I gave the notice of this question and I was asked to raise it on Monday. It is the ruling of by the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already accepted your notice.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Sir, this is a very strange situation, that some ruling is given by the Chair, and the same is not Complied with.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already listed it.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : This fact should also be kept in view that the time should be allotted to parties as per their numerical strength. We come here after taking mandate from the people....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This creative can not be

followed in the zero hour.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : You will not follow the creative in any matter....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Current issues, important matters have to be given precedence in the zero hour, leaders have to be listened. The Chair has to keep in view all this.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : All right, the Chair has unlimited powers and it is all powerful but the powers of Chair should be exercised judiciously.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are welcome to occupy the Chair.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : When I am on the Chair, I follow the Rules of Practice and Procedure in letter and spirit....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, you can start your Special Mention.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very serious issue of national importance. Today, In Assam terrorists are continuously targeting and making violent attacks on unorganized labourers, Bihari labourers, Hindi speaking labourers or non-Assamese labourers from any part of the country. This unabated spate of incidents is a matter of concern. Five brick-kiln workers were killed in Dibrugarh district on 9th March, 2008. In February, four persons were burnt alive

in North Kacchar district by terrorists. On 24th February, two Hindi-speaking people were killed in Karbi Along district. I would like to say that this kind of situation in Assam which may be created by the terrorists or otherwise and the kind of atmosphere prevailing over there will definitely affect the unity and integrity of the country. Such incidents are continuously taking place, nobody bothers to put a check on them, the Assam Government is acting merely as a silent spectator. The Union Government is saying that para-military force is being deployed there. I would like to know that why they are not able to stop such incidents. I demand that a joint operation with the State Government should be carried out by holding talks in this regard to immediately check violent attacks on Hindi-speaking people. A strange atmosphere is being created in Assam. As per the article 41 of the Constitution of India, any citizen of India can reside in any part of the Center and earn his livelihood....(Interruptions). Despite that, the provision made in the Constitution is being violated.

Through you, I would like to request that the Government should intervene in the matter and immediately launch joint operation....(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Kiren Rijju is allowed to associate with him.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Sir, I may also be given time to speak....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Ram Kripal ji, I do not have your notice, but his notice is with me.

....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Members who want to associate with him, may give their slips to me.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to thank you for giving me time to speak on this important issue....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to him.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : It is true that Hindi-speaking people from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar are being killed in large number in Assam. I have raised this issue many a times. The Assam Government and Union Government should respond in this regard. I assume that in a federal system, everybody has right to go to any part of the country....(Interruptions). Today, if people can migrate to Arab countries and America in search of jobs, they can also go to any part on their own country. I would like to say that the Hindi Speaking people, Should be protected. The Government has failed in protecting Hindi Speaking people because Congress has only nine seats in the Bihar....(Interruptions). They are not worried about people of Bihar....(Interruptions). Bihari people are being killed and the Congress Government is not taking any action....(Interruptions). Through you I would like to urge that during the tenure of this Government the atrocities have been committed against the Hindi-speaking people, the Government should wake up and try to check further killings. Mere making of statements will not serve any purpose....(Interruptions). Today, large number of people are being killed....(Interruptions). This is a very serious matters, therefore, through you I would like to request that those people should be protected....(Interruptions).

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL (Hapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with Shri Devendra Prasad Yadavji....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Rijjuji, please conclude within a minute

....(Interruptions)

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal Pradesh West) : I have given a notice....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I associate you with him.

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIREN RIJJU : I will not associate with him, because alongwith it I have another issue which is related to the bomb blast. How can I leave it by associating with him....*(Interruptions)*. I have been giving notice in this regard to you regularly....*(Interruptions)*. I have given notices on two issues....*(Interruptions)* Ram Kripal ji please listen....*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has given notice on this issue. His is there in the list.

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIREN RIJJU : Both these issues have to be understood....*(Interruptions)* Shri Ram Kripal Ji, please associate with it....*(Interruptions)* Why is he disturbing?....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Rijju Ji, please continue your speech

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIREN RIJJU : I am raising two issues....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can raise only one matter at a time. I cannot allow you to raise two matters.

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU : If it is so, I will not speak on this matter....*(Interruptions)*. How can I conclude my speech in a minute. Please see the notices submitted by me....*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hindi speaking people are being continuously killed over there, this is one matter. Just now, two hon'ble Members have made a mention of it. I would like to associate myself with them. But I would like to say that the bomb blasts are also continuously taking place over there. This issue is also related to it. If every other day, bomb blasts take place in Delhi, will the hon. Members remain silent? Many people are being killed in bomb blasts everyday over there. This is well planned conspiracy. The Hindi speaking people are being forcibly evicted from there. All Bangladeshis have intruded into Assam. This is a very big issue, therefore, it has to be understood. Around 80 per cent of Biharis and other Hindi speaking people have fled from upper Assam. We demand that the Government should immediately take action in this regard. The State Government has been a total failure over there....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members Shri Giridhari Yadav and Shri Anirudh Prasad alias Sadhu Yadav are allowed to associate on the matter raised by Shri D.P. Yadav.

....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All other notices will be taken up in the evening.

....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All other notices will be taken up in the evening. I myself will take up these notice.

....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing except Shri Deve Gowda's speech will go on record.

....*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded

12.52 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**Need to increase the per barn quota for excess
production of tobacco in Karnataka and to
supply fertilizers at subsidized rates to
tobacco growers**

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Industry to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"Need to increase the per barn quota for excess production of tobacco in Karnataka and to supply fertilizers at subsidized rates to tobacco growers."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a detailed statement on the Calling Attention Motion raised by the hon. Member is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to read from the statement, but, if you permit me, I would like to make a couple of observations on the Calling Attention Motion raised by the hon. Member. On the 12th of March, a delegation of tobacco growers from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, the two major tobacco growing States of the country, met me and I have spent over two hours with them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you can make these observations at the time of reply.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH : All right, Sir. A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***1. Removal of penalties imposed on farmers:**

Every year, the Tobacco Board fixes a crop size after

considering the domestic and international demand, left over stocks, the projected demand by traders and exporters and the international production scenario. But, every year the growers are producing excess tobacco over and above the authorized quota resulting in fall in farm prices. This has led to repeated agitations by the farmers and the Government is forced to resort to levying penalty on excess crop produced in order to protect the interest of the law abiding farmers. India is also a signatory to Frame work Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) under the WHO and it is mandatory for India to fulfill the commitment by taking up appropriate measures to reduce the demand as well as supply of tobacco.

The penalty for excess production beyond authorized crop size is currently Rs.2 per kg and 15% service charges. This was fixed after lot of deliberation in 2005-06 when the Government came to view that the penalties imposed on marketing of excess/unauthorized crop will have a deterrent value if they are rather large and are announced alongside the authorized crop.

In this regard, the past experience of 2000-01 needs to be considered when a crop holiday had to be declared in AP because the prices crashed to their lowest owing to a large increase in unauthorized crop production in 1998-99 and 1999-2000. However, following "crop holiday in AP, the" unauthorized crop size again started increasing and reached 41.94 MKgs in 2004-05 in AP alone. Consequently, the Government had to hike penalty from Rs.1/- per kg and normal service charges of 1% to the current level. This resulted in a significant reduction in unauthorized crop in AP and Karnataka.

However, keeping in view the wishes of tobacco growers, the Government has sought views of Tobacco Board on the fact whether instead of reducing penalties, the crop size needs to be increased keeping in view the market demand. The higher

* . . . This part of the Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Jairam Ramesh]

2. Increasing barn quota and authorised crop size

crop size, if supported by market demand, would amount to lower overall penalties even with penalty rate remaining the same. The views of Tobacco Board are awaited.

On utilization of penalty amount, the Government has advised the Board to suggest innovative ways to utilize the surplus funds available with them for the benefit of tobacco farmers and for finding ways of increasing their income through alternative crops/ value added products. It has been decided in the meeting held to discuss the recommendations of Peer Review on Tobacco Board that the penalty amount may be ploughed back to tobacco farmers in the post-harvest phase and used for modernization of tobacco processing facilities.

One of the important functions of Tobacco Board is to regulate the production of FCV tobacco in order to ensure remunerative prices to growers and avoid market glut, due to excess production. This objective is sought to be achieved by fixing a crop size every year for Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka after taking into consideration the Export demand forecast estimates given by Trade (ITA), Global Production Scenario, Carryover stocks and Domestic requirements etc.

The Crop size fixed for Karnataka has increased substantially over the 7 years from 38.07 M.Kgs in 2001-02 to 95.00 M.Kgs in 2007-08. The following are the details of the crop size fixed and the actual production in Karnataka.

Year	No. of Growers	No. of barns	Crop size fixed (M.Kgs)	Crop size Including 10% nature bounty	Actual crop produced (in M.kgs)	Quota per Simple X Barn. (in Kgs)
2001-02	18751	25207	38.07	41.87	57.68	1500
2002-03	19351	25886	50.00	55.00	63.26	1900
2003-04	19702	26330	53.00	58.30	73.69	1750
2004-05	39702	55425	67.00	73.70	90.34	1750
2005-06	40544	56630	76.56	84.21	82.91	1350
2006-07	40641	56531	84.00	92.00	96.98	1480
2007-08	40740	56514	95.00	95.00	87.66*	1675

*Even lower than the crop size fixed

It may be noted that the number of barns have increased during 2004-05 due to regularisation of unauthorized barns in Karnataka. A large number of barns were constructed unauthorisedly by growers between the years 1997 to 2004 and the growers took

up cultivation of tobacco unauthorisedly. The issue of regularizations of these unauthorized barns was represented by growers, grower members, and peoples' representatives and the Government of Karnataka. Subsequently during 2004-05, the Govern-

ment of India directed the Board to regularize 29,374 un-authorized barns and again another 1,247 un-authorized barns were regularized during 2005-06. With the regularization of these unauthorized barns the crop size was redistributed among all the barns and the per barn quota has come down from 1750 kgs to 1350 kgs. With the increase in crop size, now the quota per barn has increased to 1675 kgs during last season.

A unanimous view was taken during the meeting to discuss — the recommendations of the Peer Review of the Tobacco Board on 13.12.07 and which was attended by the Chief Secretaries of AP and Karnataka, that the current procedure on fixing crop size by the Tobacco Board may continue. The Tobacco Board may fix a reasonable crop size, taking into account the market demand.

It may be noted that during the year 2006-07, the actual production of tobacco was 96.98 M.kgs (maximum marketed quantity as yet in Karnataka) as against the actual crop size of 92.00 M.Kgs. Keeping in view the actual production, the Board in the subsequent year i.e. 2007-08 had increased the crop size to 95.00 M.kgs, which was nearer to the peak production. However, the actual production during 2007-08 was only 87.66 M.kgs, which is 7.34 M.kgs less than the crop size fixed. Thus it is evident that the Board has fixed the crop size liberally for Karnataka. The actual crop size and quota authorized by the Board was not fully utilized. Still the Board in its meeting held on 15.03.08 at Bangalore has recommended a crop size of 100.00 M.kgs for Karnataka for the year 2008-09. This too has been made subject to a mid-term review. This is the highest crop size ever fixed for Karnataka and is also higher than the actual production ever recorded in Karnataka. The trade despite painting a very optimistic picture for future demand for FCV tobacco, is willing to offer a minimum guaranteed price this year in Karnataka of

only Rs 50/ kg (and that too subject to many conditionalities) although, average realization in Karnataka last year itself was Rs 59.23/ kg. Thus the interest of Karnataka farmers has been fully taken into account.

In this connection, the Government of India commitments under FCTC have also to be kept in view. In spite of the commitment to FCTC, the interest of the farmers of Karnataka is protected by giving higher crop size year after year.

3. Subsidy on SOP:

Every year the Tobacco Board is supplying required fertilizers to the growers as per the recommendations of CTRI under tie-up loan arrangements with the banks at most competitive rates of interest.

Murate of Potash (MOP) is banned for use in tobacco cultivation since it has an adverse effect on quality of tobacco. Therefore, tobacco farmers have to use Sulphate of Potash (SOP) compulsorily. The cost of Sulphate of Potash (SOP) has increased steeply in the 2008-G9 season. The price of SOP in 2007-08 season was Rs.16729/- per ton. The SOP is not manufactured in the country and the total requirements are met by imports. The total consumption of SOP in the country is at about 27000 MTs only. The Government of India is extending subsidy on Murate of Potash. Keeping in view the long standing demand from tobacco farmers for subsidy on SOP, I had written to the Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers on 11.8.06 to provide subsidy on SOP on same scale as for MOP. The matter is now under consideration in the Department of Fertilizers which has to take a final view *.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : Sir, I have gone through the statement laid on the Table of the House. The hon. Minister has stated that every year the growers are producing excess tobacco over and above the authorized quota resulting in fall in farm prices. Sir, at the same time,

[Shri H.D. Devegowda]

I have also gone through the resolution, passed by the Tobacco Board, to enhance the ceiling limit up to 100 million kgs. This is contrary to each other. If the production is going to fall down every year, there is a need to take a decision to enhance the quota to 100 million kgs.

The other issue and as he has mentioned is that the quota is going to be reviewed year after year. As per the table in his statement, from 2001-02 to 2007-08, the number of growers has increased from 18,751 to 40,740. Every year it is increasing. The crop size is 95 million kgs. It started from 56 million kgs. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that apart from the reply that he has given what exactly is the problem of Karnataka growers who produce the best quality of tobacco and which has a demand in about 40 countries. I would like to know when they are earning so much of foreign exchange, why there is a restriction on the Karnataka growers.

The hon. Commerce Minister assured me in 2005 that this one rupee penalty is only a temporary measure, subject to return the same one rupee penalty. But today, the penalty has been increased to two rupees and the other cess, which has been levied, goes up to 15 per cent. Around a million households are dependent on this. I will read this out. Today, the FCV tobacco growers have been forced to shell out Rs.9.2 crore as penalty in crop year 2006-07 alone, besides the cess service charges and interest of over Rs.25 crore. Can there be a more cruel or hard decision on the farmers?

On the one side, the Government has come forward to give concessions to the farmers to the tune of Rs.60,000 crore and on the other side, the Government is penalizing those farmers who are helping the country to earn so much of foreign exchange and contributing to the kitty of the Union Government. I would like to know why there is such a harsh decision on the farmers of Karnataka. I am unable to understand this. I would request the Government to reconsider this decision.

12.58 hrs.

[Dr. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

Sir, I am not making a complaint nor am I jealous about the benefits which the Andhra Pradesh farmers are getting. Let them enjoy the benefits, I do not want to come into their way. There the Government has given to them .4,500 kgs. per barn, whereas in Karnataka we have asked for 2,500 kgs. per barn. What exactly is the problem there to consider this request in interest of the farming community?

I have gone through the statement where it has been admitted that the penalty for excess production beyond authorized crop size is currently Rs. 2 per kg and 15 per cent service charges. This will come to Rs. 25 crore as a penalty for 60,000 farmers of Karnataka.

13.00 hrs.

You also said that this penalty is going to be used for the change of crop to discourage the tobacco-growing farmers and to go for other crops. But, has anybody tested it? This land, this soil is not suitable for any other crop. This is the only crop, this FCV tobacco, which is fit for growing especially in these five or six talukas of the two districts. No other crop is possible. Why the people have been so much harassed? This issue was also raised by me in 2004-05 in the House itself. I do not want to go back to the details given by the same Commerce Minister. He was very sympathetic. I must be very plain. He has taken the decision to clear all the excess tobacco that is grown. Now the ceiling limit itself has been fixed by the Board up to 100 million kgs. If that is the case, why is this penalty? Please see that this penalty is waived. As you said, this Rs. 9 crore is going to be used for other activities. They are sucking the blood of the Karnataka farmers and using it for other activities. I do not know what other activities are. There is no scope for change of crop. The soil is not suitable for any other crop. This is my first point.

I asked for the subsidised fertilizers. Today, the reply given by the Government is that they have to import from abroad; they have to give Rs. 16,729 per tonne. Can you calculate the cost of production? The maximum rate last year was Rs. 59 per kg. Once you are going to admit yourself Rs. 16,729 per tonne SOP, please refund whatever the penalty that has been imposed.

In 2004, in the very same House, I raised this issue. The hon. Minister was kind enough to take a decision to clear the excess production and also to see that Re.1 penalty which has been levied, is refunded to the poor farmers.

So, I have got these two issues, one is increasing the size of the barn to 2,500 kgs, and the other is removing Rs. 9 crore penalty on the farmers.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH : I share the concern of the hon. Member, but I do want to explain why is it that we impose production ceilings in the case of tobacco. First, India is a signatory to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control of the World Health Organization, and we are committed to an agreement that is pledged to phasing out tobacco over the long term. However, that is not the main reason why we fix crop size. The only reason now that we use crop size is to protect the interest of farmers. It is because, we have seen in the past repeatedly, and the hon. Member knows this, both in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, which are the two predominant tobacco growing States of the country, in the past, when we have not had production ceilings, we have had excess production, prices have fallen and farmers have been put to great distress. It is precisely because we want to end the distress of farmers that we had introduced production ceilings. These production ceilings are reviewed on a year-to-year basis and there is absolutely no discrimination between Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. These production ceilings are fixed based on market demand, based on soil quality and based on previous production trends. I have been meeting delegations of tobacco growers from time to time.

I have visited the tobacco growing districts personally. On the 12th of March, 2008 a delegation of tobacco growers from Karnataka met me. I listened to whatever they had to say very patiently. The issues that they raised are precisely the issues that the hon. Member has raised in the Calling Attention motion.

Let me tackle the fertilizer subsidy issue first because that is somewhat simpler than the production ceiling issue. On the fertilizer subsidy issue, the tobacco growers have demanded a subsidy on Sulphate of Potash which is used in tobacco cultivation. Unfortunately, Sir, as the hon. Member is aware, the other potassic fertilizer which is MOP, which is Murate of Potash, cannot be used for tobacco cultivation because of the toxic potassium chloride, and hence Sulphate of Potash is used. Now, Sir, it is a fact that for the last many decades in the past and in the future, India will continue to import potassic fertilizers. We make nitrogenous fertilizers at home; we make phosphatic fertilizers at home but we have no sources of potassic fertilizer in India and, therefore, hundred per cent of potassic fertilizer is imported. Sulphate of Potash is imported. The total subsidy which will be required is this. About 50,000 tonnes of Sulphate of Potash are used, out of which, roughly 27,000 tonnes are for tobacco growers. Our calculations show that the total subsidy that would be required to sell Sulphate of Potash to tobacco farmers at Rs. 5/- per kilogram would be something like Rs. 1,200 crore per year. I have written to the hon. Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers last August pleading for complete subsidy on Sulphate of Potash. The tobacco growers are well aware of this issue. I have reviewed this matter just day before yesterday with the Department of Fertilizers, and I am pleased to inform the hon. Member that the Department of Fertilizers is in the process of finalizing a Cabinet Note for bringing Sulphate of Potash under the subsidy regime.

Now, the hon. Member had been the Prime Minister of the Country. He knows that there is a process of

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consultations before we go to the Cabinet. I have been assured by my colleagues in the Department of Fertilizers that in the next two to three months this process would be complete. Let me reiterate, Sir, that the proposal that I have made to the Department of Fertilizers, which has been accepted, is to bring all of Sulphate of Potash under the fertilizer subsidy regime. The total subsidy that would be required for this is Rs. 1,200 crore. The hon. Member should be aware that in the forthcoming year, that is, in the year 2008-09, the fertilizer subsidy bill alone is expected to touch Rs. 90,000 crore.

Now, I do not think that a charge can be levelled that this is a Government that is bleeding the farmer or harassing the farmer if the total fertilizer subsidy bill alone is Rs. 90,000 crore in the forthcoming year. However, Sir, because I have made an assurance to the tobacco growers, I stand by that commitment and I reiterate that on the floor of the House that our proposal is that all of Sulphate of Potash should be subsidized and the total subsidy bill should be borne by the Government of India. This proposal has been forwarded to the Department of Fertilizers. It has been accepted by the Department of Fertilizers. It is now being processed for Cabinet approval.

Sir, the second issue that the hon. Member has raised is the issue of production ceiling. Now, by circumstance or coincidence, the Union Health Minister is also present and sitting behind me. The Union Health Minister is breathing down my neck everyday to say, "Why are you encouraging tobacco cultivation?" Now, luckily for us, tobacco is not cultivated in Tamil Nadu. Otherwise, he would not have raised that question. Since tobacco is not cultivated in Tamil Nadu, he is at liberty to say why tobacco is being encouraged. Now, I have to listen to my distinguished colleague, the Union Health Minister, and I also have to listen to my own constituents from Andhra Pradesh, who are tobacco growers.

I have to listen to people of my own State from Karnataka. They are also tobacco growers. So, I am caught between three different cross fires. But nevertheless let me assure the hon. Member if he sees my statement that has been given and circulated and which is in front of him, the production ceiling for Karnataka for 2007-08 was fixed at 95 million kgs. The actual production is about 88 million kgs. Production ceiling is 95 million kgs. The actual production is about 88 million kgs. Actual production is lower than the production ceiling. However, in spite of this, I have requested the Tobacco Board. The Tobacco Board is considering fixing a higher production ceiling for 2008-09 at 100 million kgs for Karnataka.

Now, why is this? Now, people may say the hon. Member has got interest in this issue because elections are forthcoming. I do not want to ascribe any such political motives. But there is a demand for Indian tobacco in world markets. Whether Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss likes it or not, there are countries which are wanting to buy Indian tobacco. Zimbabwe's crop has left the international market. The United States is phasing out its tobacco production, and as the hon. Member said, the tobacco that is cultivated in Karnataka has a particular premium in international markets.

Recently, the hon. Prime Minister was in China and I am pleased to inform the hon. Member that after a long gap of 14 years, India and China have signed an agreement for the export of 10 million kgs of tobacco from India to China every year. China is the largest and fastest growing tobacco market in the world. This agreement would greatly benefit the farmers of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Now, it is in this background, the loss of Zimbabwe, the phasing out of the American tobacco crop, the growth of international tobacco consumption, particularly in China, has prompted us in the Ministry of Commerce to request the Tobacco Board to fix a higher production ceiling because of the potential for selling more tobacco.

Sir, this year, 2007-08, we earned about 410 million dollars from tobacco exports. Our estimate is that we would have earned about 410 million dollars from tobacco exports and as the hon. Member knows about roughly 60,000 to 67,000 farmers in Andhra Pradesh and anywhere between 45,000 and 50,000 farmers in Karnataka have contributed to this export performance. So, it is in this background that we have fixed a higher production ceiling this year, and I am sympathetic to the issue that has been raised by the hon. Member about the penalty charge. The penalty was increased initially from one per cent to two per cent and then it was increased steeply to 15 per cent basically to discourage excess production which would cause undue distress to farmers.

I have personally taken this matter up with the Tobacco Board to examine how soon we can reduce the penalties from 15 per cent. The tobacco growers themselves want a penalty of no more than five per cent. They agree that there should be a penalty. So, it is in this background that I want to assure the hon. Member that we have not only increased the crop size but we have also taken steps to review the penalty.

In the next meeting of the Tobacco Board, we are going to take a decision and I think the hon. Member should be under no doubt....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No question please. Please be seated. No question is allowed.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH : If I can just finish, I would be glad to respond to the hon. Member as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, the rule does not permit this.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH : We are examining both the options. We are increasing the crop size and reducing the penalty. Both issues are being discussed in the Tobacco Board and it is our intention to extend every form of assistance to tobacco growers in the country.

Sir, I will just make one or two very brief comments

because the hon. Member has raised some larger issues on tobacco. Sir, tobacco is a crop that is criticised because it causes cancer. But tobacco is also a crop that is very hardy and that is the only crop that can grow on these soils in these districts of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. That is why, you will be pleased to know that we have taken up, the Commerce Ministry and the Tobacco Board has taken up a special project with the Ministry of Science and Technology to develop non-carcinogenic uses of tobacco. So far, we have seen tobacco only in the cancer perspective. But, there is a lot of research that is now being done to extract chemicals from tobacco and the pharmaceutical and the nutraceutical values of tobacco crop are now being increasingly recognised. I believe that in the next five to ten years, tobacco will be grown not just for cigarettes but would also be grown for extracting valuable chemicals, for nutraceuticals and pharmaceuticals.

Finally, our Government is also thinking of providing incentives to farmers to diversify away from tobacco. Now, it stands to reason when irrigation is provided, farmers will automatically move away from tobacco to paddy or some other crop. But where irrigation is not provided, where the soils are poor quality, tobacco remains the best options. However, we are thinking of introducing incentives to diversify area away from tobacco over the next five to ten years into things like agro-forestry, into things like medicinal plants, into things like subabul, depending on the local agronomic conditions. But nothing is going to be done without the participation of farmers. Nothing is going to be done without the full involvement of farmers in the Tobacco Board and in the Ministry of Commerce.

The hon. Member should know that in the State of Karnataka, between 2004 and 2007, almost 24,000 unauthorised growers were regularised. So, far from causing distress we have actually gone out of our way to help farmers much to the consternation of the Union Health Ministry. We have not only taken on board tobacco production, we have regularised 24,000 unauthorised

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growers who have actually not had the permission to grow tobacco from the Tobacco Board.

Sir, I want to finally reassure the hon. Member that we will take steps to ensure that the production ceilings are reasonable, the penalties are reasonable and that all steps will be taken to ensure that the interests of tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are fully protected. There should not be any doubt on this score on the part of the hon. Member....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : Sir, please allow me. Normally, I am not going to interfere unnecessarily. You have been watching. I am the last person to do so.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly be brief. You have put your questions. Please seek clarifications.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : Please bear with me for two minutes. It is not because of the election purpose.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : In the year 2005, I raised a Calling Attention motion. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this because he thinks that for the purpose of election benefit that I have made this exercise. In the year 2005 I have raised a Calling Attention motion. The hon. Minister was also holding the Commerce portfolio at that time. The reply was given. It is here.

It is not a question of election. I am not bothered about the results of the election. When the farmers are suffering so badly, it is my duty as a farmer to raise the issue. Sir, the hon. Minister has made certain exercise. I must even compliment the hon. Prime Minister. When you have achieved every year 10 million kgs. of tobacco to be exported to China, the question is now making all the farmers or discourage the farmers to reduce the growing of tobacco. I do not think that the question of growing tobacco is going to convince me. However, you said....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister has explained the position very well.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : Yes, he has done it very well, and I must compliment him for having gone to China with the Prime Minister. Now, the quota to sell to China every year is going to be increased to 10,000 million kgs. This is an understanding between China and India so far as the Trade Agreement is concerned. In this context, he also says that we have increased the size of the quantity up to 100 million kgs. If that is the case, then it is not only going to benefit the farmers, but it is going to benefit the coffers of the Union Government by getting sufficient foreign exchange reserves for it.

You just now mentioned that we are thinking to reduce to five per cent penalty. In your own explanation you have said it. May I draw your kind attention to this point? Please bear with me for a few minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly put a straight Question to the hon. Minister.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : It is mentioned that the penalty amount may be ploughed back to tobacco farmers in the post-harvest phase and used for modernization of tobacco processing facilities. I am also a farmer. They are growing tobacco in my home Constituency. What type of modernization process has taken place? Please tell me about it.

Secondly, I have asked a simple Question. Kindly allow 2,500 kgs. per barn instead of 1,675 kgs. per barn. It is 4,500 kgs. per barn allowed for Andhra Pradesh, but it is only 1,675 kgs. per barn for Karnataka. Why is it so? Is it so difficult for you even to consider doing this? Please tell me about it. Why is it so? What exactly is the reason for not doing it?

I do not want to make charges against Andhra Pradesh. The Board is in Andhra Pradesh. How many people are representing Karnataka? Fortunately,

the Minister is from Karnataka, and I must compliment you.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH : I represent Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : I know it. But, how many people are there in the Board? In the last 10 years, I am here except barring about 18 months. Normally, I do not take up other issues, and I only keep quiet and that too in the last benches. They also met you when the problem issue of farmers came up. What is the relief given to them? If Rs. 90,000 crore is the farmer subsidy, it is not for the tobacco farmers. The total subsidy component may be Rs. 90,000 crore for the whole country. But the 60,000 farmers of my own home State have been penalized....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA (Machilipatnam) : The Board has recommended it....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Now, you have to consider the penalty....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, it will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : Karnataka had hardly got two MPs when Rupee 1 was imposed as penalty. I know as to how this House is going to function. I have got some experience about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are some Rules mentioned in the books.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : I do agree to it, and that is why I have been keeping quiet....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to follow the Rules.

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : Sir, have you ever seen me violating the direction given by the Speaker or the Chair? No, under no circumstance have I done it. Therefore, please bear with me.

At that time, even for Rupee 1 penalty that has been imposed, the hon. Minister said that it is because Andhra Pradesh has 25 or 28 MPs....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH : Sir, I categorically reject this. There is absolutely no politics in the fixation of crop size. There is no politics in it. The fixation of crop size does not proceed on the basis of MPs. This charge is completely unfounded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please bear with him for some time.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : Shall I send all the papers to you?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH : Sir, this charge is completely unfounded.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : You do not know about it. I am not going to make the charges. I will place what I have written to the present Prime Minister in 2005 and shall place it on the Table of the House. The papers show how Karnataka has been treated in a step-motherly fashion. Your own Minister called me and tried to persuade me ...
(Interruptions)

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH : Sir, the hon. Member is trying to make a political statement. There is no discrimination against Karnataka. There is absolutely no discrimination against Karnataka.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : You can refute it. What is the penalty imposed in respect of Andhra Pradesh?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH : Sir, the penalty is the same for Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Devegowda, rules do not permit this.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : The tobacco produced in Karnataka is the only best quality of tobacco which is exported. Can you tell whether tobacco produced in Guntur is being exported? Can you say that? Why are you saying like this? Why are you misleading the House?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH : I am not misleading the House. The hon. Member's facts are completely wrong.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the proper way.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH : Sir, 62 per cent of tobacco produced in Karnataka is exported, while 58 per cent of the tobacco produced in Andhra Pradesh is exported.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : For having produced such best quality tobacco, do you want to penalize Karnataka?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Devegowda, please sit down. Hon. Minister, do you want to say something?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH : Sir, I want to reiterate that there is absolutely no politics in fixing of the crop size or on the per unit barn crop size. There is no discrimination in the issue of penalty. The latest figures are, since the hon. Member feels that we are discriminating against Karnataka, in 2007-08, roughly 62 per cent of Karnataka's crop was exported, and roughly 58 per cent of Andhra Pradesh's crop was exported. The Karnataka tobacco has got a premium in the international markets. We are doing everything to promote. It is unfortunate that the hon. Member is trying to ascribe political motives.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 8433/08]

MR. CHAIRMAN : House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13.27 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.34 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Thirty-Four Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House shall now take up Matters under Rule 377.

- (i) **Need to Expedite Implementation of Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana in the Country**

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH (Aligarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidutikaran Yojana being sponsored by the Central Government is an important scheme. The Central Government provides adequate funds to the State Governments for the rural development scheme, however, the State governments are performing work under the scheme at a snail's pace. Due to this the first phase of providing electricity to approximately 2000 villages till the year 2009 under this electrification scheme has not yet been completed. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state:

- (a) the time by which this scheme is likely to be completed?
- (b) the amount allocated for this scheme and the amount spent so far on this scheme?
- (c) the number of identified villages in which this scheme has been implemented and whether

boards have been put up at places where this scheme has been fully implemented.

(d) whether any committee constituted by the Central Government has reviewed this scheme?

(ii) **Need to Provide Relief to Families of Tribals Killed in Police Firing in District Sabarkantha, Gujarat from Prime Minister's Relief Fund**

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha) : Sir, at Atntarsuba, Taluka Vijaynagar, District Sabarkantha, Gujarat, two tribals were killed and three injured in police firing on 13th February, 2008, over the dispute of cultivation of forest land. Despite repeated requests to the Government of Gujarat, it has not announced or provided any monetary relief to the families of victims and families who are facing a tremendous hardship.

In such a situation, I demand that monetary relief to these families be provided from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Francis Fanthome — Not present.

Shri Dip Gogoi — Not present.

(iii) **Need to Start Four-laning of NH-37 on Nagaon-Dibrugarh Section Under Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North-East Region**

SHRI DIP GOGOI (Kaliabor) : Sir, under Special Accelerated Road Development Programme (SARDP-NE) for North-East region, four-laning of NH-37 from Nagaon to Dibrugarh at a distance of 315 kilometres has been included. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to start the work at the earliest.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Karan Singh Yadav — Not present.

Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya. — Not present.

(iv) **Need to Augment Rail Connectivity to Cities of Madhya Pradesh**

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a need to make the train journey more convenient and to increase the facilities across the country. Madhya Pradesh is the central region of the country from where trains to North-South, East-West normally pass to and fro. New trains have not been introduced as per the demand.

There is a need to extend the trains where terminals and platforms are available, in the backdrop of the historical, cultural and religious importance of Ujjain. There is a demand for a new train service from Ujjain to Amritsar which should be started via Nagda- Kota. Jaipur-Shamgarh passenger train should be extended up to Nagda-Khachrod-Ratlam. 2415/2416 Intercity should be given permanent stoppage at Mahidpur Road, 2465/2466 Ranthambor Express should be given stoppage at Vikramgarh Alot, 9303/9304 Intercity and Indore-Pune train at Khachrod and Bandra-Nizan-ud-din Garib Rath should be given stoppage at Nagda junction. The hon. Minister is requested to give relief to the common man by sanctioning these train facilities.

(v) **Need to Review the Decision to Run North-Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong under Public-Private Partnership**

[English]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal Pradesh) : Sir, North-Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS), Shillong came into existence under the NDA Government with the idea of providing advanced healthcare facilities, especially to the economically backward people of North-East India. But the

[Shri Kiren Rijiju]

present Government is working to sell it off to private parties, e.g., M/s. Frontier Lifeline, Chennai.

The Department of Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery, in spite of having full facilities is being handed over to a private nursing home in Chennai under the guise of private-public partnership. A memorandum of agreement is being signed at a whopping cost of about Rs.20 crore at the expense of Government exchequer. The idea behind this is to facilitate business of the concerned private hospital in Chennai. The only thing lacking here is supporting technicians, who can easily be deputed from Government institutes like AIIMS. The money used for private-public partnership can be utilized to provide expensive procedures like angioplasty and bypass surgeries free of cost. Obviously, the question of subsidized care does not arise with this public-private partnership.

I, therefore, strongly urge the Prime minister to intervene in the matter and ask the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to help in the development of NEIGRIHMS and work for the poor people of the North-East.

- (vi) **Need for gauge conversion of Rajppla-Ankleshwar and Kaushamba-Umerpada Metre-Gauge Sections in Gujarat**

[Translation]

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (Bharuch) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before independence there were several metre gauge lines in my constituency Bharuch which have not been converted into broad gauge so far due to which the people of my Parliamentary constituency are not getting modern railway facilities. A provision was made in the last Railway Budget for converting the metre gauge into broad gauge from Rajppepla to Ankaleshwar, however, work has not been started yet. Similarly, there is a demand for converting the Koshamba-Umarpada rail line in broad gauge line but the work on this line has also not been started, Fourteen years ago Bharuch was hit by

floods owing to which railway line got submerged in water and the metre gauge line from Ankaleshwar to Netra had to be closed which has not been opened so far. I request that the line should be reopened after the gauge conversion of Bharuch Semni Jambosar Metregauge into broad-gauge. My area is tribal (OBC) dominated area where people do not get inexpensive means of transport. So, a survey should be conducted of providing rail facility in these areas. Besides, people from Bihar and Western Uttar Pradesh come for earning a livelihood in my parliamentary constituency and are taking care of their families but several trains do not stop at Ankaleshwar and Bharuch which causes a lot of problem to the labourers coming from Bihar and Western Uttar Pradesh.

Through this House, I request the government to issue instructions to the Department of Railways to restore the closed rail lines and convert the above-mentioned metre-gauge into broad gauge line so that the tribals (OBC) people of my constituency could be facilitated.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Girdharilal Bhargava – not present.

- (vii) **Need to release funds for setting up a sub-station at Kalahandi district, Orissa, under Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme**

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : The Government of India have approved an estimated amount of Rs. 592.22 crore for implementation of Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP) for upgradation of sub-transmission and Distribution network in the state of Orissa. Out of this, Rs. 74.02 crore has been received from Government of India and the same has already been passed on to the Distribution Committee for implementation of the projects.

In the meantime the steering Committee for APDRP approved the short closure of project cost from Rs. 592.22

to Rs. 506.73 crore out of which Rs. 295.40 crore have been approved by the steering committee. The implementation of new APDRP scheme shall be governed by the new terms and conditions of the restructured APDRP for the 11th Plan.

The Government of India have not paid Rs. 264.94 crore towards APDRP incentives, in spite of the State Government, taking up the matter with them vide letter No. UMI/06/96 CM dated 18.03.2006.

So, it is requested that funds may be released so that the Bhawanipatna 132 KVA sub station could be set up in the district of Kalahandi, for which land has been provided by the District Authorities.

(viii) Need to revamp the National Savings Schemes with a view to attract more investors in the country

SHRIMATI P. SATHEDEVI (Badagara) : The National Savings Scheme which was vibrant with periodic new schemes keeping up with market trends are now losing its popularity due to the Government's policies. The non-revision of interest and withdrawal of MIS Bonus has already led to the decline in number of investors opting for the National Savings Scheme. The commercial banks and private financial institutions are actually dominating the saving scenario especially under short-term deposits tailored to the tastes of the investing public. To survive these adverse trends the National Savings Schemes are to be suitably revamped by enhancing the interest rates, reinstating the bonus to MIS Accounts, allowing institutional deposits and allowing agents to act as messengers of investors and introducing attractive new schemes.

Hence, I request the Finance Ministry to take appropriate steps for strengthening and protecting the National Savings Schemes in the country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Ramji Lal Suman – not present.

Shri Mahendra Prasad Nishad. – not present.

(ix) Need to set up a 'Krishi Vigyan Kendra' in district Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD (Fatehpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through You I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture towards district Fatehpur of Uttar Pradesh in this House and would like to State that Fatehpur district of Uttar Pradesh is a backward district where agriculture is the main source of livelihood. But, in the absence of a Krishi Vigyan Kendra farmers are unable to hold consultations relating to modern means of agriculture, and because of the farmers do not get yield of agriculture in good quantity.

Thus, I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to take immediate steps to set up a Krishi Vigyan Kendra in District Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Smt. Archana Nayak – not present.

Shri S.D. Mandlik – not present.

[English]

(x) Need to determine price of farm produce on the basis of production cost

SHRI S.D. MANDLIK (Kolhapur) : The issue of suicide by farmers all over India is a matter of serious concern of all of us. The issue has reached an alarming proportion since there is no improvement in situation in spite of announcement of various packages by State and Central Governments.

The budgetary allotment to agricultural sector has been gradually reduced from 34 to 11 per cent over last 30 years. We have been adopting short-term measures for helping the farmers in difficulties.

[Shri S.D. Mandlik]

The guaranteed price for the farm output is one of the solutions to mitigate the problems of farmers. The present pricing system for all farm output is consumer-oriented and not production cost-oriented. This is the main reason why farmers are not able to survive the shock of not getting anything out of hard labour and the frustration is causing the farmers to seek the path of suicide due to heavy burden of debt. Thus, the cost of end product like sugar has tumbled down thus causing serious financial problem to sugar factories and farmers alike. Had an Statutory Minimum Price for sugar been fixed, this situation would not have arisen.

Sir, through your good offices, I urge the Government, to give serious rethinking on pricing policy of farm products and make efforts to fix statutory minimum price policy on all farm outputs based on production cost oriented. Further the Government, must provide funds to supplement the pricing policy, which will help the farmers to recover his production cost with reasonable profit.

- (xi) **Need to construct a second bridge over river Koshi between Gokulpur and Midnapore besides sanctioning of doubling of railway line project on Kharagpur-Gokulpur section in South-Eastern Railways**

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore) : In the last Railway Budget of the UPA Government there was a project of constructing the second Railways Bridge over river Koshi in between Gokulpur and Midnapur Railway Station under Kharagpur Division of S.E. Railway. But till today no work has been completed so far. The matter has been raised several times in the House, in Consultative Committee meeting and in a meeting at General Manager level. There is also a long standing demand for sanctioning doubling of Railway line from Kharagpur to Gokulpur in the same division. The up-to-date survey work has been done. It is to be noted that around seventy passengers, Express, Super Fast trains and Rajdhani Express also run on this

route every day. From Kharagpur to Adra, the huge industrial complexes are coming up at both the sides of Railway line. A very big industry has started its construction work in the area. To facilitate all these, sufficient train service is required. But there is no double line and 2nd bridge in this route so far. I urge upon the Railway Ministry to take up this matter as an urgent one and take necessary measures to launch said projects in the coming economic year itself.

- (xii) **Need to set up an Elephant Sanctuary at Hogenakkal Forest area in Tamil Nadu**

DR. R. SENTHIL (Dharmapuri) : Large number of elephants live in the forests adjacent to Hogenakkal water falls on either side of the Tamil Nadu, Karnataka border. At the time of mating and also during summer when water is scarce, they stray to villages adjacent to the forest border and are often killed by criminals. Last summer three elephants were killed when they tried to cross over the Dharmapuri-Bangalore rail track.

To protect their dwindling population, I request the Government to set up an Elephant sanctuary at Hogenakkal forest area. This had been the demand of various sections of the people living in Dharmapuri district. Hence, I request the hon. Minister for Environment and Forests to consider the request favorably and do the needful.

- (xiii) **Need to bifurcate Virudhunagar Short Distance Charge Area (SDCA) in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI (Sivakasi) : Sir, the capacity of the Short Distance Charged Area (SDCA) may be attributed as a reason for bimonthly rent hike to Rs.360 which is, by and large, on a higher side which the rural population cannot afford to. Due to higher rent of Rs.180 per month many customers have surrendered their phones in my constituency. I would like to reiterate the need for bifurcation of Virudhunagar SDCA which comprises Virudhunagar, Sattur and Sivakasi Taluks for the

sake of reduction of monthly rental. If the rental is reduced from RS.180 p.m. to Rs.120 p.m. in the SDCA, then the customer dissatisfaction can be overcome and there will be no revenue loss and further disconnection.

Through you, Sir, I request the Ministry of Telecommunication to consider this issue favourably for the sake of rural public.

14.51 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL
OF FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 2008

AND

FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we will take up items no. 25 and 26 together.

Shri Mohan Singh — Not present

Shri Bachi Singh Rawat — Not present

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a point of order on the statutory resolution.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right, what do you want to say.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Bill which is being brought in place of the ordinance in this regard, I would like to say that when this Bill was passed and enacted the approval of the hon'ble President

was obtained, but the Ministry should have issued its gazette notification which was not done. In this situation, when notification was not issued, it cannot be enforced and when this Act was not enforced how it can be amended? I want that there should be some clarification given in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minister want to say something?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : The Act is in force. Certain Sections have been notified. Sections 4 to 10, Sections 87, 88, 91 and 101 have been notified.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : The full Act was not notified....(Interruptions) The Act was not in force, as per my knowledge.

[Translation]

When the entire Act is not enacted then amendment cannot be brought.

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the government has not enforced the Act in toto, what is the need of bringing an amendment?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No. He has explained his position.

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH : MR. Deputy Speaker, Sir hon. Minister should give an explanation in this regard.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when this Act is not in force in the country, how can an amendment be brought in it?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat Ji, now you can say what you want to say.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on it. You have permitted me for its disapproval, so I would like to say that the main reason for its disapproval is that it is like a rootless tree from which leaves cannot be expected to sprout up. This Act was originally enacted in the year 2006, and now the Minister is writing himself that the Bill has been brought to make an amendment to the Food Safety and Standard Act, 2006. He himself has written this. This Act was formulated in the year 2006 and it was passed by the Parliament but since then it has not been implemented up to 19th August, 2007. The Supreme Court of India had to make a comment in this regard as a result thereof. I want to tell you that while hearing of the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by a non-governmental organization 'Centre for Public Interest Litigation' the Supreme Court's bench comprising the hon'ble Justice A.K. Mathur and Dalveer Bhandari strongly criticized the Union Government in this matter. The Court had asked the Government as to why the Act could not be brought into force despite the fact that it was passed by the Parliament and assent was accorded by the President of India last year in August. The Court had directed the Additional Solicitor General Mohan Parasaran to file his reply till the next date of hearing i.e., 5th of September stating the reason for not notifying the same...*(Interruptions)* I am telling you that it has not been brought in to force for one year. I would like to ask as to the date on which notification in this regard was issued. First of all, the hon'ble Minister may please apprise the House in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, first you move your amendment.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I beg to move:

"That the House disapproves of the Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Ordinance 2006 (No. 6 of

2006) promulgated by the President on 7th February, 2008."

(English)

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, I would like to request the hon. Member-since we will be taking up both the agenda items, I could very clearly explain at that point of time elaborately, now, I will explain what has been happening.

(Translation)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, first, you move the Bill for consideration. Then you speak.

(English)

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, as passed by Rajya Sabha be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Parliament enacted the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, with a view to consolidate the laws relating to food safety in the country.

Sub-Section (4) of Section 5 of the said FSS Act empowers the Central Government to appoint the Chairperson and Members, other than the ex-officio members of the Food Authority on the recommendations of the Selection Committee. Sub-Section (5) of Section 5 of the FSS Act prohibits holding of any other office by the Chairperson and members of the Food Authority. This Food Authority is the central of nuclei of this entire Food Act.

The Central Government was of the view that the members of the Food Authority may also be appointed on part-time basis since it may not be possible to appoint eminent persons as members of the Food Authority for the reason that they would be holding some other office or appointment in some industry or organization of consumer

forums which they represent. Therefore, Section 5 of the FSS Act has been amended. Section 7 (1) of the FSS Act was also amended to take out the members from the purview of the provisions which restrict the appointment of the members to a maximum of 62 years of age so that we can get more experience and expertise from different parts of the country.

1 In order to expedite the selection and subsequent appointment of Chairperson and Members of the Food Authority, it was thought necessary to promulgate the Ordinance on 7th February, 2008. The Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Bill, 2008 seeks to replace the Ordinance.

This is a small Ordinance and this is pertaining to firstly age and secondly part-time or whole-time members, I move that this Bill may be taken into consideration.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order under the Rules 71 and 72 of the Rule Book. When an Act is not completely in force, an amendment cannot be brought into it. As the hon'ble Minister stated, some sections of the Act had been notified in the Gazette. Please listen to me. *[English]* Please hear me.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has himself admitted that he had notified certain sections of the Act in the Gazette. *[English]* The whole Act is not notified in the Gazette, why then is it permitted? *[Translation]* He is saying that he is bringing in an amendment to replace certain provisions of the Act of 2006. When the Act is not in force, how can an amendment be brought into it? Please clarify it.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, I have already informed the hon. Members that the Sections which I have

already mentioned, have all been notified on October 15th 2007. ... (Interruptions)

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Where is the Act?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : That will come subsequently. You should understand that the basis of this Act is the Authority. First you have to form this Authority for the Act to be implemented and enforced. Without having an Authority, you cannot enforce the Act. That is why, we are bringing this Amendment.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the Government did not enforce this law, how can an amendment be brought into it. What is the need of it? First you enforce it, then, bring an amendment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Act has already been enacted.

SHRI GANESH SINGH : It has not been brought into force.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Commencement does not mean that the Bill was not enacted as an Act.

[English]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : The Act is not in force wholly. Some sections are in force, but not the whole of it.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : We are bringing in an amendment to the Section which has been enforced.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : No.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : That is not the question.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : It was not notified. The procedure is that once the Bill is passed and the consent is given by the President, then it will be notified

[Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy]

properly. So, the Government has not notified this Act and so, it was not operational. So, when the Act is not in operation, how can an amendment be made to that? That is the question.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : I very clearly like to bring this fact to the hon. Members that we have notified certain Sections of the Act, and the Act need to be enforced by the Food Authority. It took a little time to bring in the Food Authority because we have to have expertise from different parts of the country involved in this.

15.00 hrs.

This is the highest regulatory body for the food in this country and that is why the Prime Minister has given this task....(*Interruptions*) and we have enforced sections in that. We are trying to bring in amendment to those sections so that it is easier to facilitate for setting up of this Authority.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GANESH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has himself admitted in Rajya Sabha that he has not enforced it. This fact is not wrong. The Minister has himself admitted this fact....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to me now.

If the date of commencement of an Act has not been notified, it does not thwart the Bill seeking to amend such an Act. The original Act is on the statute book and the Act was passed by the Parliament. Parliament has the power to amend the Act.

As far as the question of bringing the original Act into operation is concerned, it has to be decided by the Executive to whom the power has been given under the original Act.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the objectives of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2008 are indeed good. So, keeping in view these objectives, I would not like to oppose it, but the intention of the Government is not clear in this regard, as has been stated by several of my colleagues. Now there is just a small thing. The hon'ble Minister has admitted now that there will be some part-time Members. They cannot be full-time Members. He has himself admitted that there is a small amendment to reduce the tenure of someone. What was the need of bringing an ordinance for such a small amendment?

15.02 hrs.

[*Dr. LAKSHMARAYAN PANDEY in the Chair*]

I would like to draw your kind attention towards the amendment, which has been brought in. While clarifying the provisions of the original Food Safety and Standards Act, 2008 that empowers the Government to constitute the tribunal of the food authority consisting of chairman and members, he has himself written that the amendment would be deemed to have been promulgated on 7th of February, 2008. Secondly, section 5 has been amended stipulating the appointment of part time members, other than the ex-officio members of the Food Authority by the Union Government on the recommendation of the selection committee. It means there will be both the part-time and the full-time Members. The Authority shall comprise of these two types of Members with bar on the chairman of the Food Authority to hold any other office. These are the three minor thing on which the Government remained silent for the last two years.

Sir, in this Parliament, the question of Coca-Cola was once raised on this issue, a Joint Parliamentary Committee was constituted. Adulteration in Pepsi and other cold drinks brand was found and there was much uproar to determine the accountability in this regard as well as to ascertain the chemicals found in them. The Government, at that time,

had assured to bring such a legislation so that food safety and the standard of quality could be maintained. However, I fail to understand the Government moving in a snail's pace in this regard and so, I would like the Minister inform us in his reply explaining that this Act was passed in 2006 and it is 2008 now, as to which section of the Act were notified and when. Is it possible to bring amendment only in one-two sections of the Act which have been notified, whereas the Act has not even been wholly enacted.

Sir, you are in the Chair. We would also like you to give us an assurance. The Chair you are sitting is for protecting the dignity of democracy. The bill, which was passed by the Parliament, became an Act, but was not implemented and before its implementation, amendment bill has been presented, what is this? You will say, then how the Government have given the reply. It was asked whether the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 has not been implemented yet and thereafter reasons were asked. Then Government replied that the Act would be implemented from the date the Government notifies it in the Gazette after the constitution of Food Authority. They are saying that they have notified it, but you must look into the as to how far this information is true. The Government themselves have evaded it, though this reply was given on 16th March, 2007. The hon'ble Minister himself is saying that after the constitution of the Food Authority, the Government will notify it in the Gazette. It was said in the year 2007. I fail to understand constituting it after lapse of one year. If it has not been constituted, then how notification has been issued.

Sir, a steering committee to constitute Food Authority was constituted under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary under Food Safety and Standard Act 2006. They certainly constituted a Steering committee, but it seems that the hon'ble Minister perhaps made a casual mention regarding notification and it is up to him to tell about the veracity of what he has stated. However, it has been clearly stated in the reply given in the House on 16 March, 2007. Thereafter a question was asked on 23rd November, 2007

whether the Supreme Court had reprimanded the Union Government for not notifying Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and for non-implementation of the said Act despite the fact that the President had given her assent to the bill one year ago. The second part was that if so, the steps taken so far by the Government to check adulteration in food and beverages? This is what was asked. The Government replied that important inter-ministerial coordination is required in the setting up Food Safety and Standards Authority and implementation of the Act. Many Minister and many departments have been included in it. Further, it has been stated that on the basis of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, a Steering Committee under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary, which includes secretaries of all concerned Ministries has been constituted to keep vigilance over the autonomous Food Safety and Standards Authority. The same thing has been stated that no notification has been issued, but only a steering committee team has been constituted. The Food Authority will be constituted after the House passes this bill.

Sir, the issue is very important, two years have elapsed, all of us say that consumer rights should be protected. The consumers should get pure and quality food items, rightly priced, rightly weighed and measured and also quality service. The consumer should get quality goods at right price in the market. This is the duty of the Government, the Food Inspectors are there to keep vigil over it. But then also, adulteration is rampant, today one finds adulteration of milk, coca-cola, spices, dry fruits, sweets and drugs, every item is spurious and adulterated. The Government has remained unresponsive to the problem for last two years and only now it has awakened. I would like you to admonish the Government for making such a long delay in this regard and as to why such a bill was not brought earlier.

Secondly, I would like to say that part-time is a very small issue, as told by the hon'ble Minister. The Constitution of India has the provision that the Government can promulgate the ordinance in case of emergency, crisis or

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

when danger is looming large over the security of the country; but at present none of the said conditions is prevailing. All of a sudden, the hon'ble Minister woke up and ordinance was promulgated. The parliament session was going to begin on 25th February and this ordinance was promulgated on 7th February, 2008. Only 15 days were left for commencement of session. What was the need to bring the ordinance for such a short time, an act that is tantamount to wasting much energy for little cause? The Government has shown a lackadaisical approach in this regard and shows the tendency of the Government to act in knee-jerk fashion and also involves the issue of misusing the power of promulgating ordinance. I would like the Government to explain its willingness to promulgation of ordinance every now and then. The bill was passed in the year 2006. I would like to know as to why so much delay was caused in this regard.

I am not for opposing other provisions in the bill like the constitution of Food Authority, power of Food Inspectors to collect food samples from the market, to be tested in laboratories. Action should certainly be taken against those found guilty because many diseases like cholera and diarrhoea are spreading due to adulteration in food, big autonomous bodies supply contaminated water, adulteration on such a large scale is taking place, that action should be taken against the culprits, nobody will deny this fact. I condemn the tendency of promulgating ordinance by the Government and therefore, I present the Disapproval Motion.

I agree with the provision of the bill. I doubt the intentions of the Government as it has caused a lot of delay in bringing this bill, but the bill it has brought is good. [English] Something is better than nothing. [Translation] If this Authority is constituted, at least the rights of consumers will be protected and adulteration will also be checked.

I would like to know, as it is my right to know, what action has been taken on the report on Pepsi cola,

submitted by the Joint Parliamentary Committee and why action has not been taken so far in this regard? Have the Government succumbed to pressure from the big companies and did not take any action due to that? That is why the Supreme Court had reprimanded it and said it had mala fide intentions. With your permission, I would like to read out a line. It has been asked as to why delay in implementation is being caused despite the fact that the President has given its assent to it and has also been published. The Court said that it seems that C.P.I.L. advocate has rightly charged that the Government are avoiding the implementation of this Act. Justice Mathur said that charges have some relevance, the Government's deliberate inaction is giving opportunity to people for leveling these kinds of charges and this is the procrastination on the part of the Government. The Supreme Court has said that the Government are playing hide and seek in the matter.

Secondly, there is a shortage of Food Inspectors in the market and it is a huge task for them to handle because many new shops have opened. Unhygienically exposed sugarcane juice, other edible items and sweets are being sold. Now festivals like Holi, Baravrat, Good Friday are approaching. Therefore, adulteration in milk and other food items should be checked, the rights of consumers should be protected and more Food Inspectors should be appointed. The number of posts can be increased in consultation with the State Government; the facilities given to them should also be increased.

The hon'ble Minister should definitely state the number of people against whom he has taken action under Food Adulteration Act after enactment of this Act? He should also state the number of people to whom punishment has been awarded under the already existing Food Adulteration Act. All other people will also state the reasons for delay.

I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak, but then also I would like to clarify that our party supports this bill. The Authority should be constituted for

accomplishing a good objective, but I have moved disapproval motion for drawing the attention towards the inaction of the Government.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motions moved :

"That the House disapproves of the Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 (No. 6 of 2008) promulgated by the President on 7 February, 2008."

"That the Bill to amend the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, as passed by Rajya Sabha be taken into consideration."

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru) : Sir, I stand to support this Bill. The reason being I heard the objections raised by some of the Members on the other side. While they are in favour of the Bill, their grievance is that it was not implemented and that without implementation how can you bring an amendment.

The earlier Act of 2006 says that the Chairperson or members other than ex-officio members of the Food Authority shall not hold any other office which means necessarily they have to be full-time members. So, the implementation of the entire Act will have to be done only by the Safety and Standards Authority of India which contains 22 members. This Act was assented to by the President on 23rd August, 2006 and when they started making arrangements to constitute this Authority, the experts — not just ordinary citizens nor the Members of Parliament nor any other officer from any walk of life — were required who can check the standards and quality. It requires enormous knowledge. They wanted to fix up the standards on scientific basis and not on traditional basis and not on the basis of the standards that are available in the village or in the district of a State in the country. They wanted to adopt the standards of international level.

Now we are not dealing with it locally. We are exporting a lot of commodities and we are importing a lot of commodities. We have got an instance where a marine industry which used to earn thousands of crores of rupees had a set back on the plea that the American Government said that this particular prawn or shrimp had got some ingredient which is not good for health. So, they stopped the entire import. Similarly our poultry products were subjected to scrutiny at one time for the simple reason that the food that is given to the poultry is contaminated or is containing something not good for the human life. So, that means they go into such a minute aspect and analysis that even a decimal change can create an alarming situation. You and me may not be bothered about a small change in the food or a little contamination in the water that we drink. But there are other countries which are very particular about these small changes. For example, my friend, Shri Rasa Singh Rawat was telling that when some newspapers informed us that there is some residue of pesticides in the cold drinks, it created an alarming situation in the entire country. Everybody was bothered how much it would affect his health. So, they did tests and all. Therefore, the Minister has to be more careful in making provisions about it. When he felt that identifying the right person of a right standard and quality to head this as members, he felt that this amendment is required. So, that is how he came up with this amendment.

I am happy that all the Members have unanimously said that the Act is good and that it has to be implemented. We are also for it. Now for implementing this Act, he found that there are some implications in it which are coming in the way of its effective implementation. So, he came to us for an amendment. In the meantime, because the House was not in Session, he went for an Ordinance. Otherwise, he would not have gone for it. As he says if there were to be some bad intentions in delaying the implementation of the Act, he could have waited for another year more. There was no need for him to bring an Ordinance. There is no need to bring an amendment today.

[Shri K.S. Rao]

So, the member cannot say that there is a *mala fide* intention in bringing this Act or in delaying its implementation. So, I do not find any substance in the allegation except that because they are sitting in Opposition Benches, they have to necessarily make some allegation and find fault. On that ground, they made this allegation but I do not find any substance in it.

The very purpose of bringing an Act is to maintain standard and quality and the Act also has repealed about eight laws which were existing earlier and made an integrated Act by which the complexity of the law and delay in observing various laws have been reduced. That is also an advantage. They wanted to operate only through one account. The purpose of it is a major thing. The interest of the consumer is the criteria and particularly to avoid contamination, adulteration, insecticides and pesticide residue. Sometimes some colours are very attractive but that colour or that chemical is found hazardous to health. So that attraction or visibility cannot be accepted because health hazard is there.

The provisions of this Bill are meant not only to regulate the manufacturers, but also to take care of the aspects like how it is being stored; how it is being distributed and how it is being processed. All these things require minute standardisation. This Act will definitely help in regulating the quality and standard of every food.

My only apprehension is that if the provisions of this Act were to be implemented on the street vendors, the small traders, then it would be very difficult for them to sustain it. They are small time people who are not aware the details of these provisions and they depend entirely on traditional ways of preparing food. My humble appeal to the hon. Minister is that – I do not intend to say that any adulteration in food should be accepted even if it were to be done by the hawkers and small traders – the Government should not be harsh on them and instead they should book the big traders and manufacturers who are

doing such adulteration wilfully and with full knowledge. If a manufacturer were to produce a product in a big way, then he has to keep in mind the prescribed standards and be careful to see what is good, what is bad and what is hazardous for health. He has to spend money on the product that he is passing on to the consumers. The consumers are capable of taking that burden to the extent. But when it comes to the street vendors, if they were to take this burden, then they will suffer. I would like to request the hon. Minister to ensure that the Food Inspectors, the Food Officers do not harass the small traders and the small vendors.

Apart from this, the general principles and provisions of the Bill are good. There is a provision for severe punishment in the Act for using any hazardous material which may lead to the death of a person. In the event of death the punishment prescribed is seven years imprisonment, or even life imprisonment with a penalty of Rs. 10 lakh. Let there not be any consideration or softness where it is found that a manufacturer has resorted to some wrong means in producing an adulterated food. That manufacturer should be punished mercilessly. Some wrong-doers must be punished at that level and then only others will be cautious and all of us will get quality food.

My last point is about supply of water. The water that is being supplied by the civic bodies is out of the purview of this Bill. I think, the hon. Minister should find some way to ensure that the water that is being supplied by the civic bodies must be in accordance with the standards and levels fixed by them.

Sir, with these few words, I support this Bill. The intention of the Government should not be misunderstood by the Opposition. First an Ordinance was brought and immediately a Bill has been brought forward to replace that Ordinance.

*SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jaipauri) : Thank you Chairman, Sir. I take the floor to speak on Food Safety

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

and Standards Amendment Bill 2008. You have given me the opportunity to speak and I am grateful to you for that. This Bill was enacted in 2006. It has been reintroduced with certain amendments. Here, neither my party nor I stand to oppose the Bill. Whether the Chairman of the Committee will be a whole timer or a part timer; whether his retirement age will be 62 or 65, that is immaterial to me. Two years have passed after the setting up of the Committee. The work of the Committee was to take care of food quality, manufacturing, storage, distribution, sale, import and availability of safe food. The goal which was to be achieved by the Committee is still out of reach.

India is a country plagued by malnourishment and the aspect of quality control of food is a square peg in a round hole. So many years have passed since independence; it is a free country now with a free government and free people who had expected that the government would provide relief to them. But our experiences say that instead of relief and satisfaction, inconvenience has increased manifold. Today we are trying to hide our helpless faces behind masks. A poet says that there were numerous holes of various sizes and dimensions on the floors, so I bought a carpet, ten by ten, to cover them.

According to the Arjun Sen Gupta Report, the per day earning of 77% workers of the unorganized sector, 88% of Dalits, 80% of the Tribal, OBC, Muslim community is only Rs.20/-. We are 49th in the World food nutrition index and we are thus front runner among the hungry countries. Our rank in Human Development index is 127. When we travel by bus or tram in Kolkata, the conductor says — "Move ahead". We are moving but not towards the front, we are going back. The National Health Survey Report says — "Every second child under three years of age is under weight and three out of five women are anemic".

In India 59% people don't have brick built houses, 58% people don't get to drink potable water, 55% people don't have sanitary facilities, 32% people are deprived of

electricity. The Government has divided them among APL, BPL and ANTYODAYA. Poor people don't have any caste, creed or colour. There is further division of poor, not poor, not so poor, and non-poor. Under such criteria will they be allowed to purchase food-grain at subsidized rates? Will lakhs of women involved in the self help groups get loans? Will they ever received proper medical aid in case of ailment?

Like heaping of sorrow upon sorrow, there is skyrocketing price hike. Why was the universal public distribution system not implemented? Why are essential commodities not supplied at the same rate throughout the country? Condition of the impoverished people is miserable. Above all, the UPA Government has lowered the quota of paddy, wheat, sugar in some states. The states which are not ruled by the same party that rules the Centre, suffer more. Kerala and West Bengal are thus bearing the brunt. The commitments of the Common Minimum Programme have not been followed up.

The Government has a responsibility to look after the citizens of the country. For that, political will and a class outlook are essential. But the political intention and outlook of this Government are not favourable to the poor people. The Government has to ensure food, health, education, shelter, clothing to the common man as these are his basic rights.

What is the Infant Mortality rate in our country? It is 63 per thousand live births; Maternal Mortality rate is 407 per one lakh live births. Malnutrition rate is 52.5%. M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation had recommended the formation of National Nutrition Authority. It had also asked to give emphasis to nutrition security and look after the human consumption of protein, vitamin and the calorie intake by our children. But no proper mechanism has been followed for that.

India has taken a leap in the field of technology but we are not being able use that technology for food and medicine. How many food testing laboratories are there

[Shrimati Minati Sen]

in this country? Even the existing laboratories do not have adequate infrastructure, experts, scientists or technologists. They are merely a carpet-knight.

Even after so many years of independence, there is rampant adulteration in crops, food grains, pulses, tea, coffee, medicine. Black marketers, middle men, hoarders are flourishing day-by-day. In India, about 30% spurious drugs are sold. In the International fake drug market, 38% is contributed by India and Delhi is a hub of such activities. So many people suffer from diseases like TB, Malaria, Cancer, etc. But the medicines are so costly that common people cannot afford those. Due to unholy nexus among the MNCs, Doctors and traders, the condition is deteriorating. There is a total lack of monitoring and inspections by the Government in the medicine sector. Who will check this menace?

Coca-Cola Company, a multi-national, was selling soft drinks laced with pesticides. A Joint Parliamentary Committee was set up to probe into this but its report is still not public. There is a flourishing business of fast-food, junk food which use chemical preservative. They cause harm to human health, especially to children.

We want food, we want shelter and clothing, we want to breathe in open air, we want a bright and healthy life and for that we need courage in our hearts, faith in ourselves, belief in our might. Only then the objective behind this Bill will be achieved. Once again, on behalf of my party I support this Bill and end my speech here.

(Translation)

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. The Food Safety and Standards Act was formulated in 2006. Thereafter, an ordinance was promulgated whereas the healthy convention is that normally no ordinance should be promulgated. However, I fail to understand as to why the Minister of

Information and Broadcasting also had first got an ordinance promulgated and thereafter brought the Bill. It is a healthy Parliamentary convention that if the matter is very urgent, only then ordinance should be promulgated. When the session was going to commence, then what was the need of an ordinance? The hon'ble Minister has moved the amendment bill to amend the Act of 2006. Whatever Act is formulated by the Government, but unless it is implemented properly, the common man is not going to be benefited by this. Laws are formulated in the Parliament but outside these laws are violated, these are not complied with and there is no monitoring in this regard. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that presently fake drugs amounting to Rs. 50 thousand crore are being sold in our country and many people become ill and die after consuming these drugs and many people fall prey to serious diseases. I am very sorry to submit that even after 60 years of independence, we have failed to check the trading of fake medicines and even today there are being openly sold in the market. Why do we not make provision in the laws that those traders who manufacture such fake drugs should be awarded death sentence so that it may become clear to the people of the country that the persons involved in such activities shall not be spared.

I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon'ble Minister that the extent to which hazardous things are being adulterated in food items is a matter of serious concern. An African national had come here, I asked him whether there is adulteration in his country because there is poverty in his country as well. He replied in the negative saying that there is no adulteration in his country despite the prevailing poverty. It is a matter of honesty. Are we the only dishonest nation in the entire world where drugs, food items, beverages nothing is free from adulteration?

I have gone through the report of the hon'ble Minister. Samples have been collected by the Government. But a small number of samples is being collected. There are no details as to how many persons have been punished or

sent to jail in this connection. The volume of adulteration in food items is so high that no pure item is available in the market. Fat and bones are being used to manufacture 'Desi ghee'. There is adulteration in 'Dalda' and mustard oil as well. Not only this, even oxitone injection is being used to lactate cows and buffalos. It is being openly used in every town. Though it may not have spread in villages, however, it is being done in every town of India. Will the Minister be able to check it? Now injection is used in vegetables as well. The size of pumpkins is increased by injection. I do not know whether the provisions of the Act will also cover vegetables or not. Our fruits have also been contaminated and many countries are refusing to purchase the vegetables and fruits of our country. We are the biggest producer of vegetables in the world. In the production of fruits as well probably we are on the second or third position after China. If we are not able to produce and supply pure articles, it will be a health hazard for our country and along with this our country will be branded as dishonest country in the world.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards the fact that today 75 per cent articles being sold in the market are adulterated. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he could check this phenomena with the provisions that have been incorporated in this Act. Is he confident that he would be able to check this? I rise to support this bill/act, however, I would like to draw his attention towards what we are witnessing and urge upon him that more stringent laws in this regard should be enacted. Laws should not only be enacted, rather, they should also be implemented.

At present, 83 percent people of our country are surviving only on Rs. 20 per day. We often write to the hon'ble Minister and the Prime Minister in this regard. If any poor man gets cancer, heart disease or kidney failure, he cannot get himself treated because every person cannot approach a Member of Lok Sabha. At present, only 20 or 30 percent of the treatment amount is given to him from the Prime Minister's fund. Probably, he gets money from

the hon'ble Minister's fund. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he has made any separate provision for this purpose. I would like to know from him whether his Ministry propose to make any separate provision in its budget or in the Central budget which is going to be passed for those poor people who form 83 percent population of our country and earn Rs. 8 to Rs. 20 per day to ensure that as a welfare state the Central Government will bear the entire cost of treatment and medicines of such needy persons.

Our India is a republic and a welfare state. However, I am sorry to state that today U.K., America and all other countries are providing health insurance to their citizens. But, in case of our country, if there is any scheme of health insurance it is not sufficient because its benefit is not directly reaching the common people.

Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that when he replies he should clarify all the points that I have raised so that the House may get satisfied. Just now, an hon'ble lady Member was saying about the adulteration in beverages. A Joint Parliamentary Committee was constituted in this regard. Till today, I could not know as to what report was submitted by the Committee. Similarly, a variety of brands of mineral water are there in the market. They do not have any fixed standard and neither are they tested. Especially, the beverage or the bottled water sold at the railway stations and platforms is nothing but pure tap water. They are sold after being packed. Hon'ble Lalu Prasadji is not present here. I would like to request him that the 'Rail Nir' which is served at railway stations should be supplied directly by the Railways. This should be supplied by the Railways and not through the private vendors who at present supply them.

With these words, I would like to extend my thanks to you and hope that when the hon'ble Minister replies he will clear all the apprehensions that have been raised by the hon'ble Members including me and satisfy us.

[English]

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA (Jagatsinghpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I extend my hearty thanks for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Bill, 2008. We are living in an unsafe world. The drinking water, the medicines and most of the food articles which we are consuming now-a-days are all unsafe for the human beings. In such a situation, the hon. Minister has brought forward a dynamic Bill for the greater interest of the common people of the country. It is no doubt a Bill to be welcomed and we all welcome this Bill.

15.45 hrs.

[SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*]

At the outset I would like to highlight the points for his kind consideration. To ensure food quality I would like to know whether we have got sufficient laboratories for their testing. Secondly, I would like to know whether adequate number of food inspectors are there to test all those food items. Let me come to my third point. As a criminal practitioner, I have conducted more than thousand cases during my 31 years of practice, before I was elected to this august House. My experience is that some cases come to the Supreme Court. In most of the cases the accused were acquitted on the ground that the prosecution has to prove that there is proper storage. In case the prosecution failed to prove that there is no proper storage, on that score alone the benefit will go to the accused. Then, when the inspector inspects these food articles, they should conform to certain norms. On the basis of his analysis, the public analysis report is prepared and that becomes the basis for initiating the case, if it is found that food articles are not fit for human consumption. These things must be confirmed by the food inspector. Now, we find that we do not have enough food laboratories to ensure quality of food.

My respectful submission in this august House is that many laws are being introduced. These laws are very sweet

and are in the interest of the common people of the country. But in spirit, these laws are not enforced. The interest of the common people are never safeguarded. It is found that businessmen are often booked in such cases. These people, through different sources of power, finally get escaped. They influence the inspector. Suppose the food item is taken for testing to the laboratories, it is noticed that in the mean time the ingredients are changed and something else is introduced there, which conforms to the public analysis report and finally they escape. That is also noticed during my experience in case of drugs and other cases. I was conducting a case where a gentleman was selling ghee mixed with mobile oil. It was mentioned in front of the shop that pure ghee is available. But below that, in small letters, it was written that it is only meant for lighting the lamps. Food Vigilance staff went there, raided the shop and everything was seized. Two special Public Prosecutors were engaged to conduct the case. Ultimately, it was found that it was not kept for human consumption. So, the benefit went to the accused. In such circumstances, my respectful submission before this august House is that enforcement of law should be in the spirit of the law. We can find out some way if that is enforced appropriately and equitably. Unless stringent punishment is awarded, unless speedy trial is provided under the law, we cannot control these types of offences which are mounting up in different parts of the country.

Coming to spurious drugs, its origin is from U.P., and it spread to my State. In Kantabanji, huge quantity of spurious drugs were seized.

It was found that all those articles were stored by big businessmen and by influencing the local police, by influencing the local leaders and by influencing other agencies that they could be able to sell the spurious medicines in the market. Suppose, I am murdering one person, but a person who is selling these spurious drugs, is killing a number of persons everyday; so, in such circumstances, whether death penalty is going to be provided under these laws so that the rigours of law can be felt by persons. This is to be studied.

Sir, I welcome these laws which are introduced for the greater interests of the common people and not to safeguard the interests of a few persons, those who are availing all opportunities in their life. A person living in the interior part of the village does not get good medicines, not good food and even adequate drinking water which he takes every day is also not safe.

Sir, as it was noticed recently that some wheat was imported from Australia and it was found that the same did not conform to the standards. So, what is the remedy available under the law to find out and on what basis, we can prosecute the guilty? Unless we find out the remedies, it will not be of any use. We will only feel proud that very dynamic laws have been introduced in this august House, but it will have no effect on the people. So, businessmen, blackmarketeers, hoarders and those in the habit of minting money by adopting such nefarious things should be taken into account. That is why I would like to pose a point in this august House. Adulteration is a health hazard. So what is the agency and how to overcome such health hazards which are now mounting up in the country?

Now, you say that we will have 350 laboratories throughout the country. But I would like to state here that not a single laboratory has been set up in any State. In my State also, there is not a well-equipped laboratory for testing all these articles.

Thirdly, I would like to say that prohibitory colours should not be used in preparing food items. Now-a-days, it is noticed that these packaged items are rampant in the country. Most of the packaging is being done by the big businessmen by engaging their employees. In such cases, no safety and no standard has been prescribed for them. It is not known who is the person actually inspecting to find out the safety and standards of these articles.

So, in such circumstances, when the hon. Minister is going to introduce the law, he should keep in mind that

its enforcement must be done in spirit and must be in reality, failing which any law which will be introduced will not serve the interests of the common people. Moreover, *aam aadmi* for whom we people are crying in this august House will suffer for years together. Six decades have passed, but no safety and standards have been prescribed to provide safe drinking water, safe food and anything safe for the interests of the common people.

Madam, with these few words, I extend my hearty thanks for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Madam Chairman, this Bill is being brought here in place of the ordinance, earlier also, I had an objection in this regard, which is still there. The objection is that, when the entire Act as passed and signed by the President, it should be published in the Gazette as a whole. But probably, the Ministry of Health published only some sections related to it and other parts were left. I would like to say that the entire act is one and its parts can not be separated. This is definitely a discrepancy, if at this stage also, any statutory amendment can be made, that should be done and this discrepancy should be removed, otherwise objections in this regard would be raised.

This Bill has been brought with limited purposes. The Chairperson and the Members including the ex-officio member of the Food Authority and other part time members may be appointed by the Central Government on the recommendations of the Selection Committee. The second provision is that the Chairperson shall not hold office after attaining the age of sixty five years. Although it has very limited purpose, but taking the advantage of this context, I would like to say that some things have been mentioned in the original Act. The availability, manufacturing, storage, distribution, sale and import of healthy food items has also been included in it. It stipulates the type of healthy food item to be provided by the Government, and it would see as to what kind of provisions are available for its

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey]

manufacturing, what is the condition of storage, whether the food items being imported are good from health point of view or not. All these issues are to be decided by the Government. As many hon'ble members have expressed apprehensions that the quality of items available in market is not good, they are injurious to health and his Ministry is not having any control over it. The Government can exercise its control through Food Inspector or assign some work to the State Government, but the Union Government too has some duty and a large area lies under the Union Government. Well equipped laboratories where the proper tests of these items may be conducted are not available in this sector, so such laboratories should be set up. Today, even ISI marked packed drinking water contains impurities. Whether the Government have ever tried to check this? Many edible items like turmeric, coriander, edible oil, flour are being adulterated and when the issue of checking this practice is raised, the Government passes the buck to the State Governments. But the legislations enacted by the Government should have provisions, enabling it to check this practice.

In the statement of objects and reasons the Government have stated that we guarantee providing good food items as per prescribed standards and also ensure providing foodgrains having sufficient calories as per prescribed standards to the people of country. I would like to know is that as half of population of the country is poor, whether their children get wholesome nutritious diet as per standards set by the Ministry of Health? If not, the Government are responsible for it, what steps the Government have taken in this regard. The Government want to merely fulfil the formality by bringing this bill, but what purpose will it serve? The hon'ble Members, Shri Rewati Raman Singhji has rightly said that mere enactment of law will not serve any purpose. I would like to know the number of persons against whom, cases have been filed under Food Adulteration Act, the number of persons who have been punished till date, the outcome of those

cases, the reasons for not prosecuting them properly. Even today, the Government are having laws and provisions, but it is not able to take benefit of those provisions. As per the present circumstances, this subject is largely related to Ministry of Agriculture alongwith his Ministry. The Ministry of Agriculture too has made tall claims about the Food security. They had announced that they will make additional production of 10 lakh metric tonne wheat, 9 lakh metric tonne of rice, 2 lakh metric tonne of pulses under food security mission in next Five Year Plan by the year 2012. Today, we are importing wheat from foreign countries, but the quality of imported wheat is so bad that even animals refuse to eat it? Whether the hon'ble Minister has ever paid attention in this regard?

16.00 hrs.

I would like that when hon'ble Minister gives his reply then, he should also tell us about the present position in this regard. Today, the situation is changing, he must pay attention in this regard. In today's newspaper, it has been published that the way glaciers are melting rapidly and global warming is occurring, these developments may cause the danger of heavy rainfall and floods. This is adversely affecting environment as well as our health. It is also adversely affecting production of fruits and vegetables. Today, efforts are being made to increase the production of vegetables through the use of chemicals. It will also affect our health adversely. Today packed food is available in abundance in the markets. This packed food has large scale use of chemicals which adversely affect our body.

All these issues come under the Ministry of Health and efforts should be made to ban their use. Just now an hon'ble Member said that spurious drugs are available in the market. It is true that around 50 per centre drugs being sold in the medicine market are spurious. The hon'ble Minister will say that checking such activities is the duty of the State Government, but I would like to say that the Union Government should take initiative in this regard, enact stringent legislation and intervene to check it.

Today, global warming is adversely affecting the environment, it is also affecting our production, more over, it is not leaving good effect on human life. Today, the packed food items are available in abundance. People are also buying them freely whereas their quality is low. He should definitely pay attention towards this aspect and act accordingly. I would like to submit that keeping in view the present circumstances we are working under National Food Security Mission and National Development Council has given certain proposals in this regard which should be considered. The Government have identified around 305 districts where work in this regard is being carried out. Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Assam are the main States covered under this programme. Efforts will be made to increase foodgrains production in these districts during next five year plan. The hon'ble Minister is going to work with the Ministry of Agriculture in 305 districts of 16 States, I would like that he should pay more attention towards it. The Government should also pay special attention on food security. Today food habits of people are changing which also requires due attention. It is proposed to make two amendments in basic sections in this Bill and I do not have any objection to it. But, overall, what is needed is that stringent action should definitely be taken to control the prevailing situation.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal) : Madam, I rise to support the Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Bill piloted by the hon. Minister of Health Dr. Ramadoss. The Minister concerned is very much health conscious. It has been proved widely. He has already launched a crusade against the smokers. We the smokers have already been ostracized in Parliament premises by his relentless campaign. So, when a Bill is piloted under his concern, we are all very optimistic that the implementation will also be done in a right manner.

Some confusion was raised about the technicalities of the Bill. However, on March 14, 2008, in respect of

Question No.1640, it was stated by the Ministry concerned:

"The setting up of Food Safety and Standards Authority and implementation of the Act involves significant inter-Ministerial coordination. A Steering Group consisting of Secretaries of all relevant Ministries has been constituted for overseeing the setting up of an autonomous Food Authority on the basis of the FSSA Act, 2006. Sections 4 to 10, (inclusive) Section 87, 88, 91 and 101 of the FSSA, 2006 have been notified with effect from 15th October, 2007 to enable setting up of the said Authority which would take up further steps for implementing the Act. The setting up of the Authority is in its final stage."

It is common knowledge that when we go for constructing one edifice, first, we have to prepare a plan. Later, we have to mobilize funds. Third, we have to make the estimate and fourth, we have to identify the implementing agencies for getting it done. So, already, it has been enacted but the foundation remains in the setting up of the Food Authority because the Food Authority itself will take a pivotal role. Without having the Food Authority, the contents of the Bill and the intentions of the Bill could not be materialized.

How much have we been civilized can be determined by the quality of food that we consume. It is really regrettable that even after acquiring the growing status in the comity of nations, we are really lagging behind in the context of quality of food. In the year 2006, the Food Safety and Standards Bill was passed in Parliament by the Ministry of Food Processing. But this time, again, an amendment Bill is going to be passed under the stewardship of the hon. Health Minister. Naturally, what I would like to point out is that any hydra-headed incumbency cannot be deemed sufficient for implementing this kind of an important Bill as it involves various segments of food, manufacturing, processing, import, etc. So, first of all, what I propose is that the entire Food safety and standard mechanism should be brought under one umbrella so that the food security

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

and standards could be implemented in a very precise manner. Otherwise, it will be only written on the paper.

In this country, even in Delhi which is our National Capital certain things happen. I would like to refer to one report from the *Times of India* which says:

"Horse dung in *dhania* powder, petroleum products in Khoya and a liberal dose of artificial colour to make your salad look more attractive. The festive season is boom time for perpetrators of food adulteration offences. Not one of the 27 Sub-Divisional Magistrates in the city have collected the mandatory 20 to 24 food samples per month from their respective areas in the last ten months."

You will be astonished to know that as no common man has ever lifted a sample and sent it for testing in the last 10 years, the Government of Delhi has decided to give wide publicity to the provision. What does it mean? For prevention of adulterated food, the laws are in vogue since 1958. But still the common people are unaware that they have the right to consume good quality food and if anybody tried to do adulteration they have the right enshrined in the existing laws so that they can protest against adulteration and whereby they can also protect themselves from being adulterated.

The Food Safety and Standard Act has already repeated eight existing laws in relation to food safety and standard because multiplicity of laws and regulations impede the growth of the food processing sector where we are enjoying great potential. So, the law was enacted, but here in the amendment the Government has sought to make a little provision under Section 5 of the Food Safety and Standard Act as sub-section (5) prohibits holding of any other offices by the Chairperson and Members of the Food Authority. Which led to difficulties in constituting the Food Authority. So, in order to constitute a viable Food Authority which needs to be hassle free, the Government brought this small amendment. Then, the Central

Government was of the view that the Members of the Food Authority may also be appointed on part-time basis since it would not be possible to appoint eminent persons as Members of the Food Authority for the reason that they would be holding some other office or post in some industrial organisation which they represent. So, in order to insert dynamism in setting up of the Food Authority, the amendment including section 7 (1) of the F.S.S. Act have been sought for. Therefore, we should all support this amendment.

Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that since December last year, the State of West Bengal has been ravaged by bird flu. It has hogged limelight and when it assumed alarming proportions, the Government of West Bengal had started culling operations by employing lay persons who were not imparted any training for scientifically culling the chickens. Thereafter, the Government has imposed a ban on rearing chickens in those areas which had been affected by bird flu. The Government had declared that they would do the mopping up operation and after finishing the mopping up operation they lifted the ban and allowed the people to consume chicken. Even the Minister of Animal Husbandry of the Government of West Bengal himself organised a chicken festival so that chicken could gain popularity again among the people. But meanwhile, the entire economic structure in rural parts of West Bengal got dismantled. But now we find that bird flu has relapsed in various parts of the State. According to the prescription of the World Health Organisation, in areas which have been affected by bird flu, rearing of chicken cannot be allowed for three months, but who will pay heed to it when the Government itself is asking people to consume chicken? Before rearing of chicken can be started again, it is imperative to adhere to the prescription suggested by the World Health Organisation. So, what is the duty of the common people when the State Government is indifferent to the alarming situation?

Madam, many hon. Members here have raised the issue of quality of water consumed by the people. My

district Murshidabad and eight other districts of West Bengal have been infected by arsenic contamination. So, the vegetables and fruits that are grown there by extracting water from underground contain arsenic which deposits on plants and we have to consume arsenic infected fruits and vegetables.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that India is a signatory to the CODEX Alimentarius Commission and India is also a signatory to the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement under WTO. But India has been flooded with genetically modified food. So, I would like to know whether the Government has any mechanism to check the genetically modified imported food which is coming to our shores everyday. I would also like to know whether our quarantine officials and our port officials are equipped enough to deal with the microbiological contamination and genetically modified food that are flooding our country. Before supporting the Bill, I would also like to warn the Minister that without having a precise implementing agency we would not be able to achieve the desired results.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur) :
Madam, when we passed the Food Safety and Standards Act in 2006, if that particular Bill had been drafted properly, this amendment would not have been required now. That particular Bill which turned into Act in 2006 should have contained a simple provision. When we are thinking of appointing people from the industry, it is obviously understood that they would be holding some offices. If we are to appoint some unemployed people, that is understandable, but when it is very clearly mentioned in the Act itself that persons from the industry and from various other fields would be appointed, when the original Bill was drafted, it should have incorporated all these provisions.

However, I have moved a Statutory Resolution opposing the imposition of the Ordinance for the simple reason that I have always felt that an Ordinance should be issued in a very exceptional situation where nothing

can wait till the Parliament is summoned. In this particular case, I really do not know as to what was the great emergency which necessitated the Government to issue an Ordinance. Therefore, I oppose the promulgation of this Ordinance.

Madam, since the Government has issued the Ordinance, I would like to know from my friend, the Minister of Health, as to whether they have taken all the steps necessary to appoint and operationalise the authority. If they have not done so, then even the purpose of issuing the Ordinance itself gets defeated. So, I would like to be enlightened as to whether there was an emergency which forced the Government to come out with this Ordinance.

Then, have they appointed the persons, who are going to be appointed? It was not possible to appoint them because the Act prohibited from doing so. Therefore, I would like to know whether it has been done and if it has been done what is the base on which such appointments have been made. This is very important for us to know because the Ordinance was already issued.

Madam, this particular Bill is essentially trying to look at three amendments to the Act. In fact, it is one amendment really. The amendment is so that the people holding other office can be appointed on the authority. As they are looking at the amendment, probably they have decided to relax the age and extend it to 62 years. But this is the third amendment which is following out of that, amending the definition sections itself. So, basically, they are amending one basic amendment.

As per the appointment committee, which is coming under section 6 and in which it is stated, the Cabinet Secretary would be heading the appointment committee. This is in the Act itself. Therefore, something like this, when they are going to find out people from the industry, which they have mentioned here, they are going to find out people from NGOs, which they have mentioned here, they are going to find out people who are good scientists, who are

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhū]

going to be appointed here, the committee's composition is essentially Cabinet Secretary, as they have already mentioned, which are the officers who will be appointed.

In fact, I would request the hon. Minister, though now it is part of the law, you cannot make changes, but whenever they are making a search committee of this type and particularly when they want to find out a talent available in the country, they should not be restricting themselves to such types of the provisions in the Act itself. Now, even if they want to do they cannot change it because the Bill is now being passed. Of course, I am also responsible for this because we have done it in the collective wisdom of this House. But, my request would be that if they want to have a search committee, they can empower the Government to decide who will be in the search committee.

Madam, I was looking at the definition section, section 3 sub-section J. If you look at it, this particular law is really welcome. In fact, we all have supported it and I even welcome the amendment. But at that particular time, we never realised about this particular amendment, which I am seeing now, mentions, 'only those food articles, excluding those which are used by animals'. There the hon. Minister has stated that the animal foods are exempted. Does he mean to say that the animal life is not important as human life?

Therefore, I would urge the hon. Minister to look at this provision in section 3(j) that he should really try to make sure that even this Act does not cover it, maybe he needs to really bring a legislation to make sure that even the animal food, which is consumed by the animals and which is packaged food, is included in this. In this particular section, the hon. Minister has not even talked about the packaged food, he has talked about a very broad spectrum, a broad definition of what food really means. In fact, section 3(j) defines what really food is. In that he has already mentioned this. So, my request would be that he should

also try to cover, in some form or the other, the animal food as well.

Madam, what is really important is, when we are really doing it in this particular manner and when particularly we are going to set standards, which is the basic purpose of this law, we must go in for voluntary compliance. We should not do it in a way that we will have now more inspectors, who will be running around and trying to find out.

The hon. Minister may please talk to all the associations, manufacturers and try to set such standards, which will be very stringent; set standards in a way what could be implemented in next six months, what could be implemented in next two years and what could be implemented in next five years. So, there should be a phase-wise application and he should set up a good regulatory mechanism. If they find somebody who is not following the standards, they should take stringent action against him. But I would urge upon him to try to involve all those who are actually involved and they may call it SRO, Self-Regulatory Organisation or something like this. I would request the hon. Minister to really do it.

Madam, labelling is extremely important which is going to be a part of this. In fact, today, I was surprised to read, in either Hindustan Times or the Times of India, a very big news item saying that if you are consuming wine then your brain will be affected. Till yesterday, we were told that if you take a glass of wine everyday, your heart is protected. So, now your heart is fine, but your brain is in problem. So, we would really like to know from the hon. Minister that he must come out with labelling in way that will bring out all these facts in a proper manner because the wine industry says that you drink wine and keep fine, but now wine is not fine and risky whisky and all that. Then how do you really survive. Of course, I do not take alcohol, but we should try to bring out something for the knowledge of all the consumers because labelling is extremely important.

I read somewhere the statement of the hon. Minister that all the processed food will now contain information like how much is the content of HDL, LDL and items like that. If that is what it is, then I would request him to come out with that very soon. All processed food must contain that information because now-a-days, we cannot just help to just play with the food which really is going to cause problems later on.

Madam, neutrastical is another important aspect of it. Pharmaceutical industry is growing and so is neutrastical industry at the same time. But we really need to set very high standards even now. I know this is not really part of this particular Bill, but the drugs which are manufactured, which are sub-standard, which are spurious are really in a way very harmful to patients who consume them. So, I think, along with this, there is a need to bring out a proper understanding whereby all the food items, neutrastical, pharmaceutical will be covered by this.

Most importantly, I know the limitation of the Central Government. We do not have an apparatus to work in all the States. So, essentially, you can set standards but adherence to the standards will be again the responsibility of the State Governments. So, I think, the hon. Minister must take steps to strengthen the State machinery. In fact, I made this point when I was speaking on the Budget. In fact, there is no provision for strengthening various State machineries. When they are creating such regulatory framework at national level, they are expecting that this will happen since they have passed a law. It is not going to happen. Therefore, the States will have to be strengthened. I would request the hon. Minister to tell us how the State strengthening machinery would take place.

Mostly importantly and lastly, Madam, we really need to act at source, where it is manufactured because it becomes very difficult at the other end, that is, distribution. So, they must find out how many factories will be permitted to manufacture such types of products which are covered by this law. Same is the case with pharmaceuticals. You

know, there are some States which are very notorious, which manufacture spurious drugs and the same drugs are then distributed all over the country. In fact, there are some shops in Delhi where somebody will tell you outside not to go to these shops because they sell spurious drugs. It is also known very well. So, at the distribution end, it is very difficult to control, you must try to control it at source and definitely it is required.

My last request to the hon. Minister would be to tell us in how much time he is going to set standards for all major items and that too as I requested to do in a phased manner, that is, first, it will not be as stringent, second will be more stringent and third will be very stringent. I think, we should try to do that as quickly as possible and I would request the hon. Minister to enlighten the House about the time frame in which this will happen.

DR. R. SENTHIL (Dharmapuri) : Thank you Madam, I rise, on behalf of the Pattazhi Makkal Katchi Party, to support the Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

This short Bill has got only two very important objectives. One is to fix the age of the chairperson at 65 years. It is too obvious to justify and I think, it does not need any explanation. The other objective is to include part-time members to be members and chairperson.

This is a very important amendment, Madam. As many of our hon. Members have earlier pointed out, we need specialists, in fact, technocrats in this highly specialized agency and the members of the authority are basically experts from farming, manufacturing and food processing technologies. Hence, when you make it mandatory that they have to be full-time members, you will not be getting experts.

Here, I want to make an analogy with the Medical Council of India. In Medical Council of India Act, if you want all the members to be full-time members, obviously you will not be having experts because the Medical

[Dr. R. Senthil]

Council of India members are experts in their own field with their own commitment. But as part-time members, they contribute a lot to the specialized field. Like-wise, here also, only specialists must be there. I think, this amendment fulfils that objective and hence, I support this Bill.

Madam, I also want to put on record my thanks to the hon. Minister and his officials for helping out the SAGO manufacturers of Tamil Nadu. The PFA provides for certain limitations on certain substances in the SAGO, like cyanide and chloride. There was some confusion in interpreting the norms and there was some problem faced by the SAGO industries. I did go to the hon. Minister to help them out immediately help them. I thought, it was my duty to record my thanks.

Madam, many hon. Members in the Parliament today mentioned the problems of junk food and packed food. In 1937, George Orwell mentioned in his novel: "We may find in the long run that tinned food is a deadlier weapon than the machine-gun." Madam, 70 years later, he could not have been more correct. That is rapidly becoming truth. What is more surprising is that food habits are changing very rapidly. In 1987-88, rural India spent 26 per cent on cereals; but in 2004, it was spending only 16 per cent. In the same period, spending on processed food and beverages went up from 4 per cent to 6 per cent. Likewise, a very poor person who has an income of only Rs. 225 per month, spends Rs. 6 on processed food and his richer counterparts who earn Rs. 950 per month spend Rs. 100 on packaged foods. This being the scenario, the NSSO data mentioned one very important fact that with the advent of the fast food culture, people eat more packaged food and fast food like pizzas, burgers, chips, and drink soft drinks. There is an exponential increase in the amount of fat consumed by the rural and urban poor.

This being the case, we should look at what is

happening in India. The incidence of diabetes is increasing rapidly. We now have the highest number of diabetics in the world. If the present trend continues, by 2025, 25 per cent of the Indians will be diabetics. This being the scenario, we need some very strict legislation to check the junk food. Our hon. Minister has always been voicing this concern in all the fora he is attending. As our Members are suggesting, I think, not only we should be displaying the various components of the food, their calorific value and other facts, but also like having a pictorial warning for cigarettes, we should be having a pictorial warning on junk food highlighting the problem of the junk food.

With these few words, I welcome this Bill.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur) : Madam Chairman, I rise to speak on the Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Bill, 2008 brought in the House by the Government. Despite existence of separate laws related to production, storage, distribution of food items, when Food Safety and Standards (Bill) was brought in the year 2006, the Government had said at that time, that it is comprehensive and essential bill, but within two years an amendment bill was brought and an ordinance in this regard was promulgated on 7 February, 2008.

The hon'ble Minister may kindly explain as to what was the need to bring this Bill when we still have three weeks of the Budget session why did the government show such a haste.

Through this Amendment Bill, they have tried to re-define 'Member', as part-time Member and repeal section 5 of the Act, so that the Chairperson and ex-officio Members could hold analogous posts elsewhere. Through this amendment Bill, they have tried for the backdoor entry of their own people who are holding other posts elsewhere. It should simultaneously be explained if the Members so appointed would be experts in their credential.

Madam, Ministry of Health is a very important Ministry. It has brought an amendment through an ordinance over a very small issue. Our colleagues said that slow poison is being given to the people through food, which is leading to so many problems. Excessive use of chemical fertilisers in drugs and edible items to augment production is resulting in the spread of several diseases. The food being prepared at home lacks nutrition and vitamins. It has adverse effects on little children in the house. I was going through a finding of the National Institute of Nutrition of Hyderabad that several children in urban cities are malnourished owing to lack of vitamin A, B-1, and C and Niacin Polic Acid, iodine and iron content. Several cases of ill-effects of excessive use of chemical fertilisers in foodgrains, vegetables and fruits on the new generation are coming to the fore. If there would have been a discussion on all these issues through a Bill, it would have been better. Several diseases are spreading through food items that we use at home and what we give to our children.

The hon'ble Member who spoke prior to me raised the issue of synthetic milk. We come across such news in TV and newspapers that children are being given poison through milk. Use of chemicals even in soft drinks is putting the life of young generation and children in danger, if the Bill contained certain suggestions to reign in and to check this then we would have extended our unequivocal and unanimous support to the Bill. We support all the reforms being proposed through this Bill, however, it is suggested that such amendments should also be brought which should be for the benefit of the common man.

[English]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : Madam Chairman, I rise to support this amendment which has a very specific and a limited purpose and it is replacing an already promulgated Ordinance.

This Bill was piloted and navigated by our hon. very dynamic and young Health Minister who is so concerned about the health issues whether it is smoking or something

else. I was happy that one of the earlier learned speakers was talking about the adulteration and spurious drug which has been magnified and put in the Press out of proportion. Of course the menace is there. But I know that the Health Minister piloted a Bill about drugs and pharmaceuticals which is under consideration of the Standing Committee on Health. I am sure, when that Bill comes at the passing stage, most of the people from the Opposition would be very much satisfied and would thank the hon. Health Minister who is going to bring another good piece of legislation. Like his other commitments, I must thank him that he has piloted, tabled many other Bills like Clinical Establishment Bill where for the first time in the country somebody has thought of regularizing the medical establishment. The major cause or concern is that there are half-baked kinds of nursing homes where there are no facilities; there are no properly trained doctors and no nursing staff. We need to regulate; we need to have some kind of a monitoring system.

This is another Bill which the hon. Health Minister has tabled and is under the consideration of the Health Committee, that is, the Paramedical and Physiotherapy Bill. So far in this country, nobody has thought about regulating the services of paramedical staff, technicians, radiographers, perfusionists, opticians and the whole lot of people who support in the medical treatment of a man.

One of the most important Bills is waiting to be passed in Parliament. I wish it comes in the next Session. I would like to submit to the hon. Health Minister that the Medical Council (Amendment) Bill would revolutionize the trend of medical education in this country. I would just like to take this opportunity to congratulate the young and dynamic Health Minister who, for the first time, has thought of all aspects of health-related problems, and when he got this particular Bill passed in Parliament, everybody endorsed with one view that it was high time that the country thinks about the adulteration in food.

Madam, we are ashamed when we read in the newspapers day in and day out about this. Only two or

[Dr. Karan Singh Yadav]

three days back, they have busted a factory where adulterated vegetable or adulterated ghee is being produced. Just now, one learned Member was talking about adulterated milk. That is some thing which we want to give to our children in the purest form. But there also, there is adulteration of chemicals. Even in the milk, which comes from cows and buffaloes, there also we have adulteration. A dose of oxytocin is being given to a cow or a buffalo so that it can produce large quantity of milk, and that gets mixed up with those deadly chemicals. This is a time that one should have thought about it. This Act, which was passed in 2006, by constituting this Authority of Food Safety, would fill up that gap.

The purpose of this Bill is just to seek permission of this House so that the members could be part-time. I can certainly understand the people who are technocrats, who are scientists, who are experts in their fields, may not be too happy to be associated with the Food Safety Authority on a full-time basis. So, I think, that latitude one has to give to a person who cannot be totally bound down. But what is expected is that there is a good infrastructure in terms of the Authority, good infrastructure in the State, good laboratories in the State, good analytic experts in the States, and they can take the samples. Above all, one needs to sensitize the public. They must know that there is a Department and there is an authority which has come up. If the people send proper samples to the representatives of the Authority, then their complaints can be taken care of.

I am sure that with this kind of legislation, the future is very bright and we will see that our countrymen get unadulterated food, unadulterated milk, unadulterated ghee, unadulterated *masalas* and unadulterated sweets during the festival time.

With these few words, I support this Bill and thank the hon. Health Minister for having brought this Bill before this House.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara) : Madam Chairman, I rise in support of the amendments to the Food Safety and Standards Bill 2005.

The Bill envisages consolidation of eight laws governing the food sector. Further, it establishes food safety and standard authority to regulate the sector. This is a welcome initiative by the Government of India.

This law intended to enforce through State commissioners for food safety and local level officials. It actually provides heightened accountability to every manufacturer to identify any food article so as on distributor and the seller. The text of the Act and its efficacy is in its implementation at the ground level. There I am concerned in the provision of entrusting the enforcement to the local level officials because, it eventually open a new space for rampant corruption.

Madam, Universal Standardization of every food product and its ingredients is very important in ensuring food safety. Fool-proof monitoring and uncompromising enforcement is a pre-requisite for the same. Experience shows that big companies are still in a position to maneuver with every loopholes in the law to continue with their vagaries in adulterating food items is a day to day experience in India. The enthusiasm and the energy in this exercise to enact a competent law with regard to food safety should be with that goal. But I am forced to express my apprehensions in this regard considering the prevalent lacunae and lapses in the administration mechanism in our country. Basically this is an issue dealing with the life and health of the common people in India. We should bear it in mind that the present day market psyche is lead by the profiteering without any respect to ethical and moral values. The controversy over the aerated drinks is a case in point. There are many other examples. Even the vegetable, fruits and other articles we eat are not free from exposure of lethally chemicals and pesticides. Hazardous chemicals are being used for the colorings of fruits and vegetables. Dangerous substances are added to give more colour and weight in spices etc. without any control and regulation.

Before concluding I want to mention some key issues involved in this legislation. They are:

1. The unorganized sector such as street vendors may have difficulty in adhering to the law with regard to specification on ingredients, traceability. But both organized and unorganized food sectors are required to follow the same food law.
2. Quality standards of potable water using in preparing or manufacturing food should be ensured through competent and required safety standards.
3. This Bill excludes plans prior to harvesting and animal feed from the purview thus the Bill does not control the entry of pesticides and antibiotics into the food at the source.
4. The power to suspend the license of any food operator is given to a local level officer. This offers scope for harassment and corruption.
5. The Bill envisages that the State governments have to bear the cost of implementing the new law. However the financial memorandum does not estimate these costs.

With these words I conclude and thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Madam Chairman, I express my gratitude to you for providing me an opportunity to speak on the Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Bill, 2008. As referred to in this Bill, the then hon. Minister has introduced it in the House after making amendments in the Food Safety Standards Act, 2006. What was the compulsion in these two years that it had to be enforced in the year 2008? The hon. Members apprehend some purpose of the government. It is also mentioned in our Constitution that it is the responsibility of every

government to ensure good and quality health, education and food to everyone in the country. Particular reference has been made to availability of healthy food. This Bill also refers to special attention to be paid to storage, distribution and selling of food items.

16.49 hrs.

[SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL in the Chair]

Food Authority is proposed to be set up under a Chairman who should not be more than 65 years of age and Member not to exceed the age limit of 62 years. Through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister that the Members so appointed should be experts. Only then the objective of this Bill would be fulfilled. Secondly, the issue raised by Suresh Prabhuji that we make all kinds of arrangements for human being, however, we should also pay attention to birds and animals in addition to human beings, without which no life is possible. Just now, some hon. Members raised the issue of chemical adulteration in milk. Animal gives us milk which is consumed by human beings for healthier life. The way we have made arrangement in regard to human being, we should have also made arrangements for animal and birds.

Secondly, we should also maintain special monitoring against adulteration at the manufacturing sites of products. We shall have to pay special attention to the quality and quantity of products. The objective of this Bill will be fulfilled only if he pays attention to these things. I would like to request that experts should be appointed in the authority provided for in this Bill, only then the intention of this Bill would be fulfilled. With these words while extending my support to the Bill, I conclude.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir I do not wish to say much in regard to the amendment proposed in this Act, however, it appears that this Act is not entirely about the foodgrains consumed by the human beings. Overall it appears that it relates to human beings and animals both since animal food also finds mention at some places. Not only this, it also affects

[Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan]

the entire environment in the sense that frequently we come across scenes of animal exploitation, how the quantity of milk is increased by giving injections to cows or buffalos. Seriousness on the part of the government is missing in this Bill. The nominal amendment brought by the hon. Minister does not appear to be complete. There after another amendment could be in regard to labeling. I do not know if this amendment has been brought with the intention of replacing someone or after the rebuke from the Supreme Court of India that it was brought in haste, simply to show that we are doing something. It does not matter, however, one thing he should also keep in mind at the time of setting up of authority which he often forgets that whether there are any experts, scientists of food technologists and do they, actually play an important role in decision making, because such policies do affect everything somewhere or the other should keep it in mind. It happens several times because when I was a Minister I realised that when Nutrition Board was constituted, there was no nutrition expert in the Board, but only officers. What one would understand? No offences meant against the officers. I hold them in respect, however, there should be some technical experts too having knowledge about what we wish to implement defacto.

A point which comes to my mind that I fail to understand the basic meaning of monitoring food quality because now the prevention of Food Adulteration Act her also got absorbed in it. So what action are we taking for monitoring quality of food and the basic infrastructure which extends up to the State level. We have done nothing to provide infrastructure and have brought only a small amendment. The seriousness on the part of the government is missing. The issues are very big, however, we need to pay attention as to how we would do justice to the consumers, how would a small consumer would get right product and justice. It is possible that after the enactment of this Act, even the small vendors may have to go for registration to run their businesses. That means they would

have to get their profession registered. This is good thing that the quality food will be ensured at each and every level. But, through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister one thing that on many occasions it seems to me that the fresh hot pakodas being fried at the small stalls are more safe in comparison to junk food, so this aspect also needs to be paid attention. One thing I fail to understand as to whom you want to protect. In reply to a question you had stated that *[English]* "Final Notification regarding regulations for labeling and disclosing the ingredients of the contents" *[Translation]* For this purpose, perhaps, you have constituted some committees and then you say that you will bring some separate amendments and notifications to start the process. I want to know as to what we intend to evade? *[English]* Why we are not doing it? *[Translation]* Whom we are afraid of? What kind of pressure is on us because so many MNCs are now coming and, thus, our market is going to be saturated? Many things are being imposed on us, that is why I have said that those things are affecting the whole environment. It is okay that this is a small amendment. You know very well as to why and what you have done; but one thing I have stated that there must be some scientist or a technical person who may have understanding of all these technicalities. Now it is up to you whether or not you are accommodating such a technical person. You should make this amendment and I am not bothered about the age whether it is 65 or otherwise because you might have taken the decision after due consideration, but the question is why this decision could not be taken earlier. If it did not strike in your mind even after one year of consideration, then, I feel what I have said earlier, I am not levelling any allegation; you see the face and then come out with amendment. I sometimes feel so, but I may be wrong. I am not levelling allegation, but when it so happens it is natural that such things come in mind. So, these things should be paid some attention and the Government should be serious about it because this Act is not merely an Act, but it can become a global issue tomorrow. This thing should be kept in mind to some extent. This is my request.

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar) : I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Bill, 2008 that has been brought before the Parliament. I congratulate the Hon. Minister for Health and Family Welfare for this.

In the modern world, the Food Safety and Standards are very important. When we are having a global competition, in order to compete and to lead a happy life, we should have good health. To ensure good health, our food materials should be of good quality with care for maintaining standard. Unfortunately, now-a-days, we are not getting quality food and pure drinking water.

I come from a rural area. I am healthy as I got quality food right from my childhood days. In good old days foodgrains were grown without using fertilizers and pesticides. That is why the quality of food was very high. But now, the longevity has come down from 100 years to 60-65 years. Our children are not getting real quality food; drinking water is also not available as pure one. As a result, our people including children and women are suffering from various diseases. Diseases related kidney and liver are on the increase due to non-availability of pure drinking water and rampant contamination. Even though, we are having many laws to prevent substandard type of food being sold, we are not taking care to maintain quality and standard. The tasty powder they sell is nothing but poison. It does not dissolve. It will affect the kidney.

Many a times poor people like vendors or shopkeepers, who are selling pakoda, gobi Manchurian and other food items on the roadsides are caught. But the persons and industries, who are involved in producing spurious food items are left free. Therefore, such industrialists should be punished and their industries should be sealed. Therefore, the Government should enforce the laws of the land properly. Recently, I have come to know that the Government proposes to give mid-day-meal to all the

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

deserving school children in the country. I would suggest that packed-meal should not be distributed to the students as we cannot ensure quality of such foods.

I support this Bill on my own behalf and on behalf of my J.D. (S) Party. Let me congratulate the Hon. Minister for bringing this Bill. With these words, let me conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views. Many of our learned colleagues have expressed their views on this Amendment Bill. This Bill has been brought to make an amendment to the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. This Act was passed in 2006, but it was not implemented in the country. Even though the House had passed it and it was assented to by His Excellency, the President, but it could not be established as a law and could not be implemented in the country. In this context, I would say that at that time such a situation emerged in the country where large scale adulteration has been reported from the market and such an effective Bill was brought so that it could be checked. But I do not know for what reasons this law could not be enforced.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in his reply to a question raised by an hon'ble Member on 16.03.2007, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare had stated that the Government would notify it in the gazette after the constitution of the food Authority in consonance with the Act. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what was the need to give such a reply when it was not to be implemented. Then it was stated that a committee would also be constituted under the chairmanship of a cabinet level secretary. The committee was constituted. At that time adulteration of pesticides in some cold drinks came into light. A Joint Parliamentary Committee was constituted to investigate this matter. After the report was submitted, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was given the responsibility to take action in this regard, but unfortunately no action could

[Shri Ganesh Singh]

be taken so far. Meanwhile, a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition was filed in the Supreme Court of India. While expressing its strong displeasure towards the Government of India, the Apex Court observed that when the Food Safety and Standards Act had been enacted by the Parliament itself, then, what was the reason that it could not be implemented all over India. The court directed the Solicitor General to file his reply by the 5th of September by taking information from the Government of India as to what were the reasons that this Act could not be implemented by the Government. Although I do not know for what reasons Mr. Minister has done this job to bring in an amendment to this Bill through the ordinance. He may be right in his way, but it does not seem to me that it was necessary. Today the Most important thing is that once a law is enacted it should have been implemented in the whole country with immediate effect. After that as and when an amendment was required, it could have definitely been brought in.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say that this issue does not relate to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare alone. It also relates to the Ministry of Food, Supply and Consumer Affairs. This issue concerns not only with the human beings but with the animals also, as stated by several hon'ble Members. Our concern is how to check the adulteration in this country. At present, there are lots of commodities in which adulteration is being carried out. But, we be not have an effective law due to which we are not in a position to get the culprits punished. State Governments are indeed taking their own course, but they, too, lack such an effective law so that the adulteration could be checked over there. There are so many examples before us. Once I had raised a question in the House about the seizure of water mixed petrol in a tanker supplying petrol to army. At that time, this news was published in all the newspapers of the country. I do not know what action was taken by the Government in this regard. 25 quintal khoya prepared from synthetic milk was seized in Ghaziabad. I do not know what action the Government has taken in this

regard. 'Rail Neer' is manufactured by the Railways. Many a time complaints have been received in this connection, but I do not know as to what action has been taken so far. On several occasions even the consumer items have been found adulterated, such as ghee made up of animal fats, spices mixed with the horses' faeces, turmeric laced with gerua colour and so on. I do not know how many things are being adulterated in this country. The Government should take action by enacting an effective law, but it remains a mute spectator. Today there is a big challenge before the country that if we cannot give the quality food to the consumers, then, what is there that we can give them? Millions of children are falling sick because lots of spurious medicines are being manufactured in this country. Some of the factories are not winding up only because they are manufacturing spurious medicines. The news is published in the newspapers, enquiry committee is constituted, its report is submitted, but no action is taken. I do not feel that some effective steps will be taken to protect people from this serious situation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the need of hour is that country should have a stringent law to deal with this situation. Complaints have been received many a time against Pepsi Cola.

First, it is closed down and then revived. Then after some days how the quality got improved in not known. The instance of the Supreme Court notwithstanding, the permission to revive Pepsicola after the closure and not enforcing the 2006 Act in a way indicate that the Government has been in the grip of big industrialists and capitalists. Hence, the laws framed in the interest of the public are not being enforced.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to request that the quality of wheat being imported and distributed to the poor is not fit for human consumption. The Chief Minister of our State Shri Shiv Raj Singh Chauhan himself got the sampling of wheat made after conducting a raid at FCI. As per the report of the sampling, this wheat is

not fit for human consumption. Thereafter a Minister made a statement that the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh had no right to raid FCI and the sampling of wheat conducted. I would like to know the intentions of the Government of India? We are importing poor quality wheat and distributing it to our consumers here, shouldn't this practice be checked?...*(Interruptions)* Approximately 55 samples out of 60 collected from Mumbai were found not fit for human consumption. Such samples of poor quality wheat came to the fore, yet it was not checked. Today, the adulteration practice is flourishing across the country. It is the responsibility of the Government of India to check this adulteration practice and make pure and quality products available to the common consumers. I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I have great regard for the Health Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not only you, everybody has great regard for him.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : But I will have to state some hard facts. Now it has become a practice for this Government to issue an ordinance for anything and everything, whenever the House is not in Session, and that too on the eve of the Session. Here is a case that ordinance came into effect on 7.2.08 while the House was convened on 25.2.08.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, what is its relevance?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : The Session commenced on 25.2.08. I presume that the Central Cabinet might have taken the decision to convene the Budget Session well in advance. After taking the decision to convene the Budget Session, is it proper to issue an ordinance?

MR. CHAIRMAN : When the Bill was being introduced, at that time the merit of issuing the ordinance should have been raised.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, it is violation of constitutional propriety and democratic norms.

Now I would tell you what the emergency was. I have gone through his statement of reasons. Now in the statement of reasons, he has stated that the circumstances prevailed and the circumstances existed for issuance of ordinance. I do not know what circumstances existed. I do not presume that the circumstances which existed in AIIMS are applicable here also. Here, there is no Dr. Venugopal who has appeared on the scene! Then, what was the temptation to issue an ordinance, within those 18 days. I simply put it to you. He has not mentioned a word, not made a whisper...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : At the time of introduction, this should have been discussed. Already the Bill is introduced and we are at passing stage.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : It is too much. By no stretch of imagination, we can presume that there was an exigency which forced the Government to resort to Article 123 of the Constitution. That is one thing.

Take the other things also. This is an amendment to the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 passed by this House. That Bill was moved and piloted by him only and that Bill was passed here. Now he has come with an amendment to the original Bill which we had passed in 2006. Probably due to oversight, it might have been left that the presence of eminent persons in the Food Authority is essential. That situation was there and existed when the original, principal Act was passed. Probably he might have forgotten. So, he could not take eminent persons as members of Food Authority as no full-time officer will come because they will be connected with some other organization. Due to this reason, the eminent persons may not be coming forth for this purpose. The Government thought it better to convert 'full-time' into part-time'. That is the gist of the Bill. Even assuming it for the argument

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

sake that the Minister might have forgotten that aspect, then the view of the Government changed. What was the necessity to issue an ordinance? He could have waited till 25.2.08 and we could have passed an ordinary, normal Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we are not discussing the constitutional validity; we are discussing the amendment.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Please hear me. Do not get agitated. You are thinking of something else. Do not think about that....(Interruptions) I am a supporter of this Government. There is no doubt about it. So, you do not get agitated....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not getting agitated.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : He could have contemplated that thing when the principal Act was passed. That he did not. Human-beings make errors. So, I am prepared to accept that due to omission, he did not mention about part-time members in the Committee. Now after some time, the Government was of the view that part-time eminent members should be in the Committee. It is all right. I have no objection to it. For it, is it necessary to take away the powers of this House? This is a Bill to replace an ordinance and we have the present Bill here and we have no other go. Now nothing can be said because it was moved in Rajya Sabha and passed there. So, it is fantastic to assume that we can make amendments. We cannot. Our hands are tied. Rajya Sabha has already approved and passed the Bill. We will have to pass it here also. Where is the scope for discussion? Can we make an amendment or can we adopt the Statutory Resolution? Now the Statutory Resolution will become a farce, since the Bill has already been passed by Rajya Sabha....
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you have any objection to the amendment? Already the Bill is passed in Rajya Sabha.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : What is the meaning of discussing the Statutory Resolution here when it has been passed in the Upper House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : At the time of its introduction, nobody raised the question of validity. Do you have any objection to the amendment?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : The hon. Member will have to withdraw the Statutory Resolution. Can the Resolution be adopted? No....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Radhakrishnan, are you supporting the amendment?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, this is a committed legislation and our hands are tied.

I accuse the Government. I do not have any grudge against the Health Minister. I appreciate his services. ...
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can guide them for future.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I appreciate the services of the Health Minister, but I advise him not to be a party to such unparliamentary practice. After convening the Session, do not issue any ordinance. Now, this House was convened on 25.2.08. You have issued an ordinance on 7.2.08. That is what I had to say. My dear Ambumani, do not be a party to such things and do not issue ordinance after the Government has taken a decision to convene the Session of Parliament, and that too just 18 days before that.

This is what I have to say. This will go on record. It will become a precedent for the future generation. When you are not here and I am also not here, the future generations will get to know what these people were doing.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is a good suggestion. Your argument is valid for future also.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : This makes it explicitly clear that they are issuing ordinances even after convening the House. This is too much.

With these words, I fully support the Bill. There is no doubt about it. I have no objection to it. It is very essential that eminent persons should come in Food Authority, but I think that the way it was done is not appropriate.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have put forth your arguments.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Radhakrishnan, you have already put forth your arguments.

The next speaker is Shri Prabodh Panda. I would request all the hon. Members to kindly conclude their speeches within five minutes each because there are six more hon. Members who wish to speak on this issue. Thereafter, the hon. Minister has to reply to the discussion, and we have to pass this Bill today. Therefore, please cooperate with the Chair by being brief while making your speeches.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore) : Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I stand to support the Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Bill, but I would like to make some comments and observations with regard to this amendment while supporting this Bill.

In this august House when the original Bill was moved for adoption, at that time, several Members including myself

participated in the debate and we said that this Bill is not sufficient as so many things are to be discussed in it. We all felt that there should be a complete Bill, but that suggestion was not accepted and considered at that point of time, and the Act was enacted.

There is a Sanskrit proverb that says : "Kitra Kyom Kriyane Dhenva Ya Na Sute Na Dughtom" It means, what is the use of a cow that does not give milk or even produce a calf? After a long gap the Government could realize that this Act is not sufficient, and that an Amendment was required to it. Accordingly, this Ordinance was promulgated, and now it has been passed by the Rajya Sabha. Now, we have nothing more to say and only to put the rubber stamp on this Amendment Bill.

I would like to ask this, through you, from the hon. Minister. Does he feel that even this measure is sufficient? Does it give sufficient teeth to this Act? What are the constraints and main problems in it? There are insufficient numbers of laboratories. Even the small markets are extending to the block and village levels, and the food materials are being sold in different parts of the country in villages and even in blocks, small towns, and footpaths also. I think the Minister has visited the city of Kolkata where on the footpaths itself huge number of small sellers sell food articles. What would be the mechanism to maintain food safety and standard there? It has to be judged and assessed as to what sort of mechanism has to be there.

They will again come in this House as it would require further necessary amendment to this Act. I think that we should sit and discuss this matter in detail, and bring some comprehensive amendment. On the other hand, we could repeal this one and bring a new one so that sufficient teeth would be given to it.

The issue of contaminated food articles is not only related to the restaurants...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, you have already taken more than five minutes. Please conclude your speech.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA : What about the poor people and the ordinary people who purchase food materials from streets and small shops? What would happen to them? The farmers also sell their products including fruits in the market, and in most of the cases they are contaminated and spurious.

17.25 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

As regards soft drinks, when the NDA Government was in office and Madam Sushma Swaraj was the Minister, at that time the problem of residue of pesticides in drinks came to light. A Joint Committee was set up, and they had made certain recommendations. What happened to them? How did the Government respond to them? What had happened after it? Who was responsible for this contamination? What sort of measures has been taken against them? This is not known to us, and we are quite in the dark about it.

I am not against this sort of amendment, but I think that this is not sufficient. The idea is very good, and all that you want to do and the object is also very good, but more needs to be done in your actions and operations. I would say that a comprehensive Act should be brought so that sufficient teeth are given to it, and such mechanism should be extended to the ground-level also. Further, more and more laboratories should be set up not only in the capital cities, districts, towns, and block levels, but even in the Panchayat-level also so that the purpose will be served to a great extent.

With these words, I once again support this Bill, but I want to record my reservations and my comments in this regard.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Bill, 2008. Large scale adulteration in food

items is going on in the country. The hon. Minister has brought this Bill with the intention of providing more teeth to the Act so that the practice of adulteration could be effectively checked in conformity with suitable norms. With such an approach we can well appreciate the efforts of the hon. Minister which are to provide relief to the common man.

Sir, we all know that a plethora of laws are enacted, however, in absence of proper implementation of these laws, everything becomes useless. We are living in such a situation where one comes across cases of large scale adulteration in food items so frequently that they are becoming unsafe for consumption. One would come across adulteration in every food item. Adulteration in food items like vegetables, pulses, rice, wheat, ghee, milk, cold drinks and chocolates etc. has been a common sight.

Sir, mid-day meals a very popular programme of the Government, however several such cases have come to the notice where the children fell sick after consuming mid-day meal. It is a common sight and it has been frequently reported by the newspapers. I feel that only laws alone cannot streamline and ensure safety of food items the way these are becoming unsafe. We will have to enforce them properly. As long as we do not ensure proper enforcement of the laws adulteration in food items would continue. The result of adulteration in food items is that people are falling sick in the country on large scale. There is adulteration in water too pointed out our colleague Shri Ganesh Prasadji. I think the Government has good intentions in bringing this Bill and wants to provide food security to the common man. I feel that the Government should pay attention towards proper enforcement of the law.

Sir, there is shortage of laboratories in the country. I know that a laboratory has been set up in my constituency Patna in the first phase. I went there and saw it. It is in decrepit state. There are no proper equipments. The laboratory is in dilapidated condition. Now, I do not know if the Government has taken any step for its modernization. As far as I know, the laboratory is understaffed. I feel that

if a laboratory has been set up, it should be properly monitored and equipped. However, it has been assigned the task of collecting only samples. These standard laboratories have been set up to detect as to where adulteration is taking place?

Sir, hon. Members were discussing the spread of diseases from food items junk food in particular being distributed through open eateries. We have no control on them. I would like that some concrete efforts should be made and concrete efforts should be made and comprehensive laws should be framed and amendments is necessary should be made to this effect. The onus also lies on the State Government. Legislations are enacted, however, the onus of its enforcement lies on the State Government. The Union Govt. cannot do much in this matter. The Union Govt. can bring in legislative, but its implementation is the responsibility of the Union Govt. The Union Government and the state Government in a joint sitting including the Minister should evolve a strategy, which I understand, they would be doing to put in place a legislation. Owing to large scale adulteration, people are falling sick. The spread of diseases like blood pressure and diabetes among people is the result of adulteration. We will not remain healthy if adulteration continues. All kinds of fertilizers and chemicals are used for cultivating the food crops. However, there is a need to look into its side effects. Unless, we pay attention to all these things, the mortality rate will continue to increase and so will the diseases.

Sir, do you come across any healthy person today? One would still find longevity among the older generation. However, ever since adulteration in food items has begun, pure food is not available and if unadulterated food is not available diseases are bound to follow. Today, children between the age group of 10-11 years are also suffering from heart ailments and diabetes. Now, even the villages have become unsafe. One would still find fresh air and water there, however, the food items are being adulterated. There is adulteration everywhere. People living in urban areas are suffering from diseases, even the villages now

are no exception. That is why, I would request the hon. Minister of Health, since he is steering such an important portfolio, that the onus of looking after the health of population of 100 crore lies squarely on him and he can take all possible effective measures for this purpose. With this hope that this Bill would take the shape of a law and remove the food insecurity, I extend my support to the Bill. With these words, extending my vociferous support to the Bill, I conclude.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on behalf of my party in support of the Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Bill, 2008....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you go to your seat or speak from here itself?

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Sir, he has told me to come forward...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to take the permission to speak from there, otherwise, you have to go back to your allotted seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Sir, I was there, however, he told me to come forward. If you ask I will go there.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : Sometimes, Ministers are also not speaking from their own seats.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Sir, please permit me to speak from here.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now that you have requested me, I permit you to speak from there please go on.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House should run as per rules and I am the Member who follows the rule the most.

Sir, his name is Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss and my name is also Ramadas and as a health Minister he has brought a commendable Bill. The laws regarding the adulteration have been formulated earlier also, however, there is a need to take strict action against the traders who are involved in adulteration. People also fall ill due to adulteration so there is a need to enact law in this regard. The term of the Chairman of the Food Authority is 3 years. There are members in the Authority, however, the persons belonging to SC and ST categories should also be appointed member of the Authority.

Sir, the food items which are served to the students in the schools also remain adulterated. So, I would like to submit that it is very important Bill and this Bill should have been moved first in Lok Sabha as has been said by Radhakrishnan but first it was introduced in Rajya Sabha. This Bill should have been passed first in Lok Sabha then it should have been referred to Rajya Sabha. It is a very important Bill and I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki) : Sir, this Bill was mainly brought in to fix the tenure of the Chairperson of the Food Authority, and the full-time and part-time members and also, of course, to replace the Ordinance which was issued earlier. This Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 was only implemented in bits and pieces. It was admitted by the hon. Minister. We are at a loss to understand why it is taking so much of time to implement such an important law which affects, of course, the health of our citizens and mainly the generations which are coming up.

Sir, the hon. Minister is on record in January, when the U.S. Health Secretary visited, when he said that it would take at least two to three years to form this particular

Authority which we are discussing now. The main aim, of course, I hope is to form this Food Authority which will oversee the enforcement of this very important piece of legislation.

Sir, a critical component of this legislation is that of the insistence on the declaration and labeling of the ingredients of the food items. This legislation, we hope, will provide for a better and stricter regime, to check adulteration of food and beverages and will insist that all food items will be labeled as to the details of its ingredients and its contents. That is the only way a consumer can get information on the ingredients of a particular food item and also to make an informed judgment about its purchase.

Sir, it is very important that labeling is properly done. Adulteration is now spreading like a virus. We do not know which food item is not adulterated in this country. That is the case with imported food items also, specially that of GM foods which is being imported in large quantities into this country. In fact, a sizeable portion of the processed food imports contain products of GM crops and its derivatives. The countries which export them, mainly the US and the European countries, do not distinguish or segregate between GM and non-GM varieties or insist on its labeling. The consumer is at a loss, totally uninformed about the contents of food that is being produced and marketed in this country and also being imported in large quantities and measures.

So, Sir, the main point is how we will give teeth to this Authority that is going to be formed. I am sure that the Minister is going to explain all that.

When we discuss adulteration, certain alarming information has to be shared with the House. People were mentioning about milk adulteration. We feed our young children with milk. It has come to light that after diluting the milk with water, to give it the original fatty look insects like earthworms, leeches and centipedes are being put into milk. It is a very dangerous situation. That is the milk which

we are feeding our children with. We know it very well because we are deficient in milk. In fact, milk comes from Tamil Nadu and there have been complaints. I am not making any accusation. Milk produced in Kerala also is being adulterated. It is not a question of any particular State.

We do not have enough testing facilities. Merely forming an Authority is not going to help. We must have modern testing facilities. When we form an Authority and insist on labelling, it can in a way indirectly help the farming sector also. I would like to cite the case of vanilla in this regard. Vanilla is used in ice creams to give it taste and flavour. Ice cream is consumed mostly by kids and younger generation. Vanilla is a very critical component of ice cream. Synthetic vanillim is being used in large quantities in our ice cream industry. Natural vanillim is good for health but it is slightly expensive. Synthetic vanillim is a by-product of petroleum. It is carcinogenic and dangerous to health. All children cutting across the age and financial barriers consume ice cream. So, slowly we are injecting poison into their bodies.

A suggestion which came from the association of vanilla producing farmers that the Government should insist on the manufacturers putting a label on the ice cream about the kind of vanillim used in their ice cream. I would request the hon. Minister to immediately issue orders to that effect. If it is done, it can indirectly help our farmers. Vanilla which used to fetch a very good price once has absolutely no takers now. We made a lot of efforts and now finally Amul has decided to use natural vanillim in its ice creams. If this labelling condition is enforced and this information is given as to whether synthetic vanillim is used or natural vanillim in various products, people would naturally prefer products containing natural vanillim. So, it can do good to our health and indirectly help our farmers. I would request the hon. Minister to immediately pay attention to this fact.

I would like to congratulate the Minister for coming up with this amendment Bill, though a little belated, for setting

up this Authority. These rules should be very strictly enforced so that it will help our countrymen.

Mention was made about promulgation of Ordinance. In fact, it should be avoided to the maximum extent possible. There is nothing wrong in using this power in unavoidable circumstances. I am sure that our dynamic Minister will take care of all these suggestions.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Mr. Chairman, I do not have anything to say to oppose the spirit of the Bill. However, I would like to question the Government as to why it failed to implement the Food Safety and Standards Act which was enacted in 2006? Why has the Government acted in such a lethargic fashion in this regard? This concerns the consumers of the country; it concerns the children of the country; it concerns the exports and imports of the country and it concerns everybody. It has varied applications in our country. The Act of 2006 was a very good legislation. This amendment has been brought to create the Food Authority and to give it a permanent Chairman and a panel of members so that it could be effective.

I am sorry to state here that this Government has reduced the budget for consumer awareness by about Rs.10 crore from 2005-06 and 2006-07. The budget for consumer awareness has to be increased so that more consumers can come to know about the standards of food safety and about how safe is what they are consuming. That is a part of the labelling.

I thank the Centre for Science and Environment that they conducted tests and put out the result, during NDA Government, on pesticide residues in soft drinks. It is the irony of fate that the judgment which came out later said that the water which those companies use has got natural pesticide residues. With the excessive use of chemicals and pesticides in agriculture, today even the ground water contains a lot of pesticides. This has to be corrected. This requires proper infrastructure throughout the country. In every District of the country we should have water

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

testing and food testing laboratories so that the consumers at the grassroots level get to consume the right kind of food.

Our friend from RJD Shri Ram Kripal Yadav was mentioned about food poisoning in mid day meal scheme. The hon. Minister of Health must assess what the calorie intake in a mid day meal for a child should be and what nutritive value a child requires for healthy growth of his body and mind. These things have to be taken into consideration.

Animal feed, which is excluded from the original Bill, should be included in the Bill. We feed our animals which in turn give us milk and milk products for the consumer. There are new diseases which are coming to light like bird flu, chikungunya, foot and mouth disease in poultry and animals. Residues of pesticide are found in meat also. A lot has to be done. Ours is a big country of 110 crore people. We have to protect the poor people living in Scheduled areas. We all know what happened in my District Kaliahandi. Last year there were diarrhea deaths in that District. Because people there drank contaminated water, hundreds of people died. I thank the Minister for taking immediate steps to control the situation. He sent a Central team there for which I am thankful.

There is another problem that has arisen in my District which I would like to mention. I have given a notice for that under 'Zero Hour'. That relates to brain malaria. That does not come within the ambit of this Bill. So, I will raise it during the 'Zero Hour'. I hope that the Minister will take proactive action in solving that problem.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, food adulteration is a very serious crime. People who are involved in such cases are playing with the health of the people of this country. Law in this regard should be made very strict and people indulging in this crime should be brought to book.

Suitable number of Food Inspectors, Sanitary Inspectors should be appointed to keep regular checks in the food market. Mixing of artificial colours, chemicals and essence should be regulated as per the norms and guidelines of the Government. The CFTRI centres should be opened in every district of the country to monitor foodstuff. Health Departments of the State Governments should be given more powers and proper education should be given to the officers and wide publicity should be given about the impact of food adulteration, public health and the prevention of food adulteration laws also.

Selling of foodstuff in open areas — they are selling *vada*, *dosa* and *idli* and also 'cut fruits' — should be banned as it spreads many diseases. Imported food items and fast food items should be regularly checked because now a days, markets are full of imported food items and fast food items should be regularly checked because now a days, markets are full of imported food items and fast food without unhygienic packaging. Nutritional value of the food items should be given more importance.

Food is the necessity of life. The basic fact is that people love eating food in their homes. But sometimes, once in a day or a week, we consume food outside our homes. No wonder the food we get outside is very tasty and mouth-watering, at the moment when we eat but the consequences we face will be for life. Now a days, Blood Pressure is rising, Sugar diseases are rising; Even 13 year old boy is dying due to cardiac arrest. This is a very important issue and hence, I want to bring it to the attention of the Union Government Minister.

Food served outside is a source of income for *dhabawallas* or roadside vendors. Food is something which concerns the whole nation, right from the farmers to the *Chatwala*. But the primary concern which arises here is this. What we consume is safe for the body or not? I want to know whether it is healthy for the body or not. We have to discuss this aspect of food served outside by *Dhabas*, hawkers, roadside stalls, *Rehadiwallas*. In India only, we are allowing freely to sell outside. In foreign countries

like Singapore, Malaysia and United States, they are providing shops to those who open shops outside and the food items are properly checked by the authorities concerned.

We consume food made on the roadside every other day but we never think about the conditions in which the food is prepared. The other important point is, the BPL people and those people whose profession is at the lower level, they consume more from the roadside. Autorickshaw drivers puller, and lorry drivers only take roadside food served on the highways. There is no doubt that food served at such places is of sub-standard quality and unhygienic. Pulses, grains and oil used are all of below quality and very cheap to buy. Not only that, owners of such eateries use today's food for tomorrow to earn extra profits. If the prepared items of today are not sold, they sell them for the next day at the cost of human lives. The conditions in which the food is cooked is pathetic as well. The food is usually cooked in open with complete disregard to the fact that it is on the road with thousands of vehicles plying and spewing smoke or they are cooked near a nullah, which is very unhygienic and which becomes a cause many a time for an epidemic in the past.

The Government should pass a resolution for the strictest implementation of food standards so that this grave threat can be stopped. Sub-standard foodgrains and pulses are yet another important point. I would suggest that if the food grains and pulses are of substandard level, it should be curbed at the production level itself. For that, we have to compensate the farmers so that they do not bear any loss and they would be able to meet the shortfall. The State Governments should be given more authority by the Centre to use foreign exchange for the import of food grains depending on the situation through the State Trading Corporation, NAFED, etc.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly conclude. You are reading from the written speech.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : In 2006, the Food Safety

and Standards Act had received the Assent of the President of India. The objective of the Act was to bring all the laws relating to food under a single Act, that is, the Food Standard and Safety Act, 2006 (FSS Act). This will result in setting up of a Central Food Authority which will regulate and monitor the manufacture processing, distribution, sale and import of food so as to ensure safe and wholesome food.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. You are reading the whole speech. It is not permissible.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : The Government have to appoint the Food Commission of Safety and effectively and efficiently implement the Act. District Committees should also be constituted by the State Governments to check this menace. The other initiatives of the Act are analysis of food through recognition and accreditation of laboratories, research institutions, etc. I would take only a minute.

It also provides setting up of food safety, appellate tribunals on the lines of Consumer Courts for adjudication of matters under the FSS Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have made your point. You are reading the whole speech which is not permissible.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : With a few lines, I would end my speech.

The Central Government shall have the power to issue directions to the food authority for obtaining reports and returns of its operations...

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am calling the other hon. Member, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Sir, I will complete in a minute.

It shall have the power to make rules with respect to the services and recruitment for the food authority....
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I am calling another Member and your speech will not go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Food should be made available to all the citizens of the country...*(Interruptions)* Though 'food' is a State subject, the Central Government should give suitable directions so that people may live in good health without any diseases, without BP, without sugar diseases....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy. It will not go on record, Shri Aaron Rashid.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing the Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Regarding sticking to the time, I am seeking your cooperation also.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : The Supreme Court had reportedly pulled up this Government for not notifying the Food Safety Act, 2006 and failing to implement it despite the Presidential Assent to this Act a year ago. This Act is meant for regulating packaged food products, including cold drinks.

Sir, at the moment, just merely six per cent of the samples lifted by Prevention of Food Adulteration Inspectors failed in laboratory tests is definitely an indication of collusion between the officials and the traders. The lackadaisical approach of this Government to the enforcement of food laws does little to protect either the consumer or the consumers' interest or their health.

Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister and to the hon. House as to what food we are taking. A survey has been conducted wherein it was stated that in all the packaged food we are taking, for example,

*Not recorded.

in milk, there is an addictive of Oxytocin. Our Health Minister is fortunately a doctor and he knows better. Of course, at the moment, he is not present. He knew as to what is the impact. I do not want to tell the impact. In milk, there is Oxytocin; in coffee and tea, coal tar dye; in *dal*, coal tar dye; in turmeric, lead Chromate; in sweets, Metanil yellow, Rhodamin B, in Pickles, Copper salts; in Saunf, Malachite green; in Vanaspati, Rancid, Animal Fat; in Lady's fingers, coffer Sulphate; in Brinjals, Carbofuran, in Cauliflowers, Phosphomidone II, Methyl Parathin III; in salt, Rangoli; and in Dhanias powder, Horse Dung.

We can see in all the above mentioned packaged food, we are taking all these adulterated items which are harmful for the entire mankind. These are checked in the Food Adulterated Checking Laboratories. There are not enough laboratories and facilities of refrigeration across the country and at the disposal of the Government.

18.00 hrs.

There is lack of refrigeration facilities in the labs and so, whatever sample that are taken are going waste; they are not able to keep them in a proper way. We do not have sufficient number of food testing labs — this is also one aspect why the packages are not properly checked. The basic need to ensure food quality is to have the labs to check the food quality. At this moment, there is no sufficient number of food labs. I want to know what type of action the Government is taking to have sufficient number of labs in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please hear me now. The time is 6 o'clock now. We may have to extend the time. I have to take the permission of the House to extend the time up to the passing of the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time of the House may be extended till the passage of the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Let us dispose the Bill and then, we shall see for 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : It is very surprising; it is because the Government is not having any business and that is why, they are continuing with this Bill for the last 3-4 hours. It is a very strange thing. The House should be adjourned till the 15th April. Why should it unnecessarily continue with this?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you agree or not?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : We do not agree. It is now 6 o'clock; we should take up 'Zero Hour'....
(Interruptions) We can take up 'Zero Hour' now.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will take up 'Zero Hour' also, but after the passage of the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Since the Government is not having any other business, they are continuing with this for so long....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*...

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Mr. Chairman Sir, now 'zero hour' should be started...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Tripathy, you may continue.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : At present, due

*Not recorded.

to paucity of labs, testing of products is becoming difficult. Many small players, the small industries in the processing industry are witnessing a growth of about 10 per cent annually and they do not have the facilities for lab testing or quality testing. So, the small players do not maintain the quality standards because of paucity of testing labs.

So far as the soft drink is concerned, the recommendation of the Ganguly Committee is there on harmful effects of soft drinks, carbonated water, etc. which are to be checked. May I know whether the Government is taking any action on the recommendation of the Ganguly Committee so far as soft drink adulteration is concerned?

What is happening is this. There is no fear on the part of the defaulters because law is not so much stringent; they think that they can be free at any moment, even if they do adulteration. May I know whether the Government is also considering to make any stringent law? Maharashtra's position is ideal; it has made it cognizable and non-bailable. So, whatever Maharashtra Government has done, it should be implemented throughout the country. The offence should be cognizable offence and this should also be a non-bailable offence so that the defaulters will be scared to do adulteration.

India is reportedly importing wheat from USA, which is alleged to have the presence of dangerous weeds. Now, the Government is taking help from the USA, who is the master of adulteration and we are seeking help to set up the Food and Drug Authority. Now, the amendment has come and the Government is quite sincere to seek the help of USA to form this Authority. Otherwise, we do not have any qualified people, so, we are taking help from the US to make this Authority!

Lastly, I want to make a request to the hon. Minister. We are fortunate that the Minister is also a doctor, but we are unfortunate that he has no concern for the people. I do not know what the intention of the Government is in

[Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy]

bringing forward this amendment. But I say that a chemical specialist and expert should head this Authority so that we could ensure that proper checking is made, and the Authority will take proper action and judicious steps.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Mr. Chairman Sir, when we'll 'Zero Hour' be taken up...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. Let us give two minutes to 2-3 Members. Kindly cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey) : Sir, I rise to support the Food Safety and Standards Bill....(Interruptions)

I will not go into the details of the Bill...(Interruptions)
The Act was promulgated in 2006, but till now the FSS Authority should have not started functioning properly. This Act was promulgated to control or to ensure food safety and standard of food items that are consumed and sold in our country.

I would limit my deliberation to only 2-3 points. Recently in my constituency, some students in a particular school have consumed some confectionary from a shop, but they suddenly fell unconscious and developed sub-congenial hemorrhage. When the Health Inspector of the nearby PHC enquired, it was found that it was manufactured outside the State and it was outdated, but still it was sold in the shop. The Health Inspector could file a case against the shop-keeper, but not against the manufacturer. This is a thing that is happening.

There is one more thing. Everywhere and particularly in Kerala, we can see the coloured packets — *pan masala*

or *pan parag* — are being sold. The Narcotic Controlling Agency says that those products do not come under their purview, and say that they are not narcotics; they are still being sold everywhere. There are some additives that are added; some stimulant materials are put in it. These materials should be brought under the purview of this Act.

Most of the multinational companies are selling the materials all over the world. But the standard of the items are substandard.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. Shrimati Jhansi Lakshmi.

DR. K.S. MANOJ : We should standardize the quality of the materials that is sold outside with that sold in our country....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. I have called another hon. Member.

DR. K.S. MANOJ : Okay, Sir. I conclude. I support the Bill.

[Translation]

*SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Bobbili) : Respected Sir, I had given notice to speak in Telugu. I thank you Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on this historic amendment brought by the UPA Government. This amendment is intended to address the mass adulteration that is taking place in almost all edible items consumed by common people. There were 5-6 amendments to this law earlier. This is a very special amendment brought by the UPA Government. I fully support this Bill and thank our Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhiji. There was a special committee constituted for this purpose with 1/3 women and this is an indication showing concern for women. I thank the Government for reserving 1/3 of 22 members committee

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Telgu.

on "Food Safety and Standard Authority of India" for women. This shows the commitment of U.P.A. Government for the welfare and empowerment of women in key decision areas. This Government is working with commitment towards strengthening our administration and governance. I specially thank Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhiji, Hon'ble Minister for Health Shri Ambumani Ramadossji and Hon'ble Minister of State for health Smt. P.Lakshmiji. I would like to mention here that there should be clear indication of quality on the packaged foods coming from industries, firms and farmers. We should also take steps to keep an eye on food processing. Existing laws should be implemented properly not only at the Centre but also at the State level. Directions should be given to State Governments in this respect. Women should be involved in ensuring quality of food. I also request Hon'ble Minister of Health to promote yoga. With the changing times, we should have a different outlook and approach dealing with junk foods and obesity.

I thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, generally she speaks in English. She has today spoken in her another tongue, Telugu. It seems that the Government is giving an indication that elections are round the corner!

SHRI T.K. HAMZA (Manjeri) : Thank you, Chairman, Sir. I would like to lay stress on only one point. This is an amendment Bill and not an original Act. I can understand the feelings, if an Ordinance is promulgated on an original Act. This is an amendment Bill which has brought in to avoid promulgation of Ordinance.

I would like to submit one point on safety and standards of food. Though we have the Prevention of Food Adultration Act, adultration is going on. Even if to increase the taste if some other thing is added to the food it amounts to adultration. Anyway, Act is there but its implementation is in a very serious condition. The adultration is going on and that must be looked into.

Secondly, when we fix the standards, we should fix them according to the standards of Indian community. We cannot fix the standards for preparation of food as per the standards of America or England. Our own standards must be taken into consideration. We cannot impress upon our ordinary people handling food products to follow the American standards. The standards of the common people of this country may be taken into consideration while fixing the standards.

I agree and support the Bill. I congratulate the Minister for introducing this amendment Bill in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this ordinance has been promulgated after taking a decision to convene the House. It is not good. The hon'ble Minister should clarify it in his reply. We find adulteration in oil, petrol, sugar, wheat, rice, pepper, turmeric powder, water and the seeds which are sown by the farmers. Many hon'ble Members have discussed these points. I would like to present a serious point before the hon'ble Minister. The provisions made in this Bill appears contradictory to me. In para three of this Bill, it has been said that "the Central Government was of the opinion that the members of the Authority could be appointed on short term basis, as the appointment of prominent person as a member of the Food Authority will not be possible for the reason that they might be holding other posts in the industry/organisations that they represent." That is why section 5 of the Food Safety and Standards Act in which it is mentioned that "the Chairman of the Food Authority will not hold any other post" is being amended. There are two points in it. First is that this provision appears to me totally contradictory. The hon'ble Minister has to clarify the provision that the Chairman of the Food Authority will not hold any other post. Along with this the hon'ble Minister has not given any definition of the other post. I would like to know as to what does the other post mean. The hon'ble Minister should also clarify it in his reply, otherwise this provision will

[Shri Haribhau Rathod]

prove to be totally wrong. The purpose for which the amendment is being moved is contradictory. I would like that the hon'ble Minister should give clarification in his reply in this regard.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : Sir, firstly, I would like to thank all the hon. Members of the august House for supporting this amendment to the Food Safety and Standard Act, 2006.

Initially I had said that the initial Bill which was later formed into an Act was piloted by the Food Processing Ministry. After the Act was passed the Prime Minister asked the Health Ministry to implement the Act because the Food Processing Ministry was the promoting Ministry and the Health Ministry was a regulating Ministry not only here but globally that was the trend. Since then we have been trying to implement the Act and that is why we have partially notified the Act, when I said that we have notified the Sections of the Act; 4 to 10, 87, 88, 91 and 101. These Sections which are modified was for the setting up of the Authority. This entire Act depends on the setting up of the Authority to initiate the whole process. The Prime Minister had entrusted this job, as it is in the Act, to the Cabinet Secretary to form a Selection Committee to select the Members and Chairman. This Committee had 22 members excluding the Chairman. Under the Act the Committee should have a full time Chairman and his retirement age should be 65 years.

When the Cabinet Secretariat found that enlisting very prominent members who had reputations, experience, who had worked in the senior capacity in different parts at different levels not many were available. In fact, I would go to the extent of saying that even appointing the Chairman itself we were not able to get a good technocrat, a technical competent person. In fact, we have interviewed

the CFTRA Chairman in Mysore, the National Institute of Nutrition in Hyderabad but they are not willing. That is the problem we are facing.

So we are facing some practical difficulties, even though we had to notify this. I assure the hon. Members that as soon as possible, the Government will notify other Sections of the Act. It does not mean that there is no Act available today in this country to regulate the food or adulteration and all that. The Acts are there and these Acts have not been repealed. Today some of the hon. Members have said that since this Act has not been notified, there is rampant adulteration and other problems in the country. That is not a fact. There is an Act and once this Act is fully notified, the other Acts will be repealed.

Coming to the other Acts, in fact, there are so many Acts like Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954; Food Product Order, 1955; Meat Product Order, 1973; Vegetable Oil Products Control Order, 1947; Edible Oil Packaging Regulation Order, 1998; Solvent, Extracted and De-oiled Act; Edible Flour Control Order, 1967; Milk and Milk Products of 1992; and other Acts. All these Acts are there today to regulate the entire process of food in the country. It would take some more time because we have started the process.

A lot of Members have said why an Ordinance was issued. Remember initially I said that this is a small amendment but a very important amendment but because of the urgency of that, we had to bring an Ordinance. The Ordinance was promulgated, before Parliament was summoned. It is not that after the notification, we had brought the Ordinance as Shri Varkalaji has said. Before the Parliament was summoned, we had promulgated the Ordinance because we wanted to quicken up the whole process as the hon. Members have already said.

As part of committees and structures, we have a scientific panel for food additives for pesticides, for genetically modified food, for functional and nutraceuticals as part of this, contamination is a part of this, label is a

part of this and sampling is also a part of this. We have panels for all this. The Chairman of all the scientific panels are part of the scientific committee. We have both Central Advisory Committee and the Scientific Advisory Committee. This is the structure of this Authority and this Authority is a nucleus of this Act. Since this is a highest regulatory body for regulating the food of this country, that is why, we are showing this importance. Some of the Members are suspecting the intention of the Government and saying why it was delayed and all that. If we want to delay, we would not have brought this Act in the first place. The UPA Government is bold enough to bring out this Act to bring out the food authority and is also going to bring out the drug authority which has been pending for decades and decades. So, we want to regulate the entire food and drug structure of our country and that is why, we are trying to bring out these modifications.

Coming to hon. Members queries, I would just shortly go through them. A lot of Members have given a lot of inputs. I will put all these inputs to the Authority. Once the Authority is fully constituted and put in place, all these views of the Members will be put to the Authority and they will deliberate upon it and according to the merit and demerit, they will take a decision. ,

I would thank Prof. Rawat. He was also suspecting the intention of the Government why the Ordinance was brought which I have already clarified. He was raising the pesticide issue. This issue has been going round for some time. We had a Joint Parliamentary Committee and then other Committee was formed and then we had Dr. Ganguly Committee. Mr. Ganguly was the former Director-General of Indian Council of Medical Research. They had gone round picking up sugar and water samples. They have finally given their recommendation on what are the standards to be there and these standards were deliberated upon by the Central Council for Food Safety. They have now recommended to the Government of India and we would very shortly notify the standards for all the soft drinks. That is not a big problem at all. Some of the Members were suspecting the intention of the Government in this.

The Ministry of Health today is the crusader against tobacco, alcoholism, drugs, junk food, etc. It is for better health for the youngsters in our country. I have personally written to all the Chief Ministers of the country. I have written to the Governors. The junk food including Pepsi or Coke or any other drink for that matter, it detrimental to the health of society. There are two issues which I have said. One is the pesticide issue and second is the health issue. Pesticide is a short term issue which not many Members are willing to listen to. Health is a long term issue. Pesticide issue should be regulated. In fact, it is already regulated. We have picked up nearly 300 to 400 samples of all these soft drinks from all across the country and not one is found to have pesticides more than what the permissible level of packaged water is. It is not like pesticide is rampant. There is more pesticides in vegetables, milk products and water than in soft drinks. So, let us not harp upon the pesticides issue in soft drinks. This issue has been taken care of. We should talk about health aspects of these soft drinks and carbonated drinks because it is detrimental to the health of our children. Taking cognizance to our advise, in fact, some of the schools in Tamil Nadu recently have notified that no junk food including these to be sold in any of the education institutions. I believe in Kerala and Karnataka they have taken a lot of attractive steps like this which are very appreciative.

I would like to thank Mr. Rao for clarifying some issues on the part of the Government which were raised. He also told about street vendors' problem which is again a big problem in our country because millions of people use the street food which is inexpensive and is readily available. It can save time and money but the sanitation and quality has to be maintained. We have a series of programmes running to take care of street food and how to have clean and hygienic food. It is an inexpensive food but you can have clean and hygienic food. A lot of projects are running and I think there is money earmarked for advocating them to change their procedure and practices so that it will be a healthy food and hygienic food.

[Dr. Anbuan Ramadoss]

As regards punishment, under the Act we are having very stringent punishment of minimum seven years and maximum life sentence and Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 lakh fine. In the case of death, money will go to the relative of the person who has died due to consumption of adulterated food. He has asked why water is not brought under the purview. This is a good question and I would like to ask my colleagues here in this august House to deliberate on this concept. Personally I want water to come under that. Still we have a long way to go. The packaged water is already under this. In course of time we should set standards for the water which is supplied in our houses whether it is municipality or corporation or others. It is the intention of the Government but I need consensus of the entire House to bring water into that. Personally I feel water should be part of that. It has still a long way to go.

Shri Rewati Raman Singh spoke about adulteration and poor patients treatment and about Rashtriya Aarogya. It is a little bit digressing but we have schemes for Rashtriya Aarogya Nidhi for poor patients. The Prime Minister's Relief Fund, Health Minister's Discretionary Fund and all that Funds are there. We are trying to review the health insurance. When the National Urban Health Mission comes, we will be ensuring all the poor people, especially the slum population living in the urban areas and all will have health insurance free of cost and they would be getting better quality health care.

As regards food and vegetables, this also comes under the Act. Even though the primary food does not come because primary food is produced by agriculture. Mr. Panda talked about prosecution of cases. Under the PFA Act, there has not been much but I believe at least under this new Act, there will be more prosecutions and more enforcement. As regards death penalty, the world over they are moving away from death penalty. I do not think it is the intention of the Government to bring in capital punishment. But this

punishment is stringent enough so that it will prevent or deter anybody else from going into the issues of voluntary adulteration.

Labelling is one concept which a lot of Members brought in. I have been advocating that all packaged food products in this country should have mandatory labels. On the one side, you should have all the ingredients listed according to the weight. Secondly, the nutritional value of the ingredients like the carbohydrates or fat or protein all that should be mentioned. In fact, for the last one and a half years, I have been advocating that and we had a series of discussion. The draft notification was there and nearly the final notification and then there were some other recommendations and finally we are on the verge of notifying it within three months. But before that, we have been notifying that all packaged food products sold in India should have mandatorily all these nutritional value and list of ingredients on these packets.

Codex Elementaris is a global standard for food. We are harmonising with the Codex Elementaris. We have to harmonise our quality standard of food. That is precisely why this Act was there. GM Food was one issue. This will be addressed. This is a scientific panel and one panel is for GM food. We are deliberating on how we could address this issue of GM food.

Shri Prabhu asked about issuance of this Ordinance and what steps have been initiated since then. Since the promulgation of this Ordinance we have moved on to appoint the full Authority. The Cabinet Secretary is responsible for that. He also asked about the Selection Committee in the Act since this Act was piloted by my colleague. Then he also talked about Section 3(j) relating to animal feed. That is yet to be addressed. This is away from the purview of this Act. This issue will be put to the Authority whenever it is formed. I would definitely like to compliment the hon. Member for bringing up this issue. He also asked about self-regulation mechanism. The Government has subsequently strengthened the capacity of all the States. We had the World Bank funded projects, projects

of capacity building of drugs and food labs. We have central labs for food in almost all the States of the country. These labs are being modernised and upgraded along with equipment and manpower. They are trained and their scientific capacity is increased simultaneously. All these have been provided for and the Act has been strengthened. It is a simultaneous procedure. He also was asking about the time to set standards. I think, once the Authority is in place, I would like to assure you that we would know what all notifications will be there. I am sure the standards will be set according to the Codex Elementaris formula.

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan asked whether there is an intention of the Government to appoint anybody of her choice. I would like to tell her that if she has any choice of candidate, then she may forward that to us, I would be happy to recommend that to the Committee and if that candidate has the competence and quality, then we would post that candidate there. We have a little dearth of these people. I would like to tell all the hon. Members that if they want to suggest the names of competent people, they may recommend their names to the Health Ministry and we would forward their names to the Committee. We should not miss out on competent persons.

Sir, I have touched upon the other issues raised by the hon. Members. There was a question on modernisation of labs. We are in the process of modernising the labs. Vanilla was one other issue. Mr. Francis George had raised this point. It will be notified within the next three months to see whether it is synthetic or natural. That will be there... *(Interruptions)* There was a suggestion about Consumer Awareness Budget. It is a suggestion well taken. The Ganguly Committee had already made a recommendation about this. We are now in the process of setting it up.

Sir, these were some of the points that the hon. Members had raised. I would like to thank them for their

suggestions. This amendment will be useful for us. One more point I would like to make is about Yoga. We are trying to recommend to the Ministry of HRD to make Yoga mandatory in all schools so that our children lead a very healthy life. Now, I would like to request Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat to kindly withdraw his Resolution disapproving the Ordinance.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Armer) : Sir, the present amendment Bill concerning the health of the common people of the country is very important. So, I withdraw my motion of disapproval so it should not be circulated. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the time by which the Food Authority will be formally constituted and the locations of its Head office.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, it will be headquartered at Delhi. The process of setting up the Authority has already started. The Cabinet Secretary is responsible for that. It is the highest position and we are still pushing it. That is why there was the urgency for this Ordinance. I can assure the hon. Members that as soon as possible the Authority will be set up.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the pleasure of the House that the Resolution moved by Shri Rasa Singh Rawat be withdrawn?

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, as passed by Rajya Sabha be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 5 were added to the Bill.

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long
Title were added to the Bill.*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed".

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up Special Mentions. I have a long list of 50 Members who have given notices to speak during the Zero Hour. So, I would request the hon. Members to be brief so that everybody could be accommodated.

Shri G Karunakaran Reddy.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Mr. Minister of Health, when do you propose to take up the construction of AIIMS like hospital in the State of Orissa...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Swain, we have already taken up the Special mentions.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : You have been giving this assurance for the last four years... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*...

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government to the backwardness of the Hyderabad — Karnataka region in the State of Karnataka...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I am repeatedly giving notice however I did not get chance even once...(Interruptions)

SHRI REVATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad) : Sir, you please also give me.

[English]

Opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have your name and I will call you after him.

18.39 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV in the Chair]

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Sir, the Hyderabad — Karnataka region should be defined as a region consisting of precisely five districts of Bellary, Raichur, Koppal, Gulbarga, Bidar which cover most of the total area of the State inhabited by 13.16 per cent of its total population.

In the present scenario, from the following facts and figures mentioned about the socio-economic status of Hyderabad — Karnataka, it observed that this region is manifestly low and backward in comparison with other regions in the State thereby necessitating an urgent need for this region to be treated as a separate area for the purpose of redressal of continuing deprivation and backwardness.

*Not recorded.

Sir, the report submitted by the High Powered Committee for Redressal of Regional Imbalances in Karnataka State under the Chairmanship of Dr. D M Nanjundappa highlights the backwardness of the above mentioned five districts. It has been clearly mentioned in the Report that all the seven *talukas* of Bellary districts are backward *talukas*.

The Report clearly highlights the backwardness of the above mentioned five districts in education, agriculture, job opportunities, roads, medical services, industrial development, irrigation facilities etc. The immediate solution of the problem of backwardness of this region is awarding of constitutional provisions as contained under article 371 which is a long-pending demand of this region. So, I would like to urge upon the Union Government to take urgent steps to provide for the constitutional provisions as contained under article 371 to this region.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the subject on which I want to speak is very much important. Sir, the Vigilance Committee has been constituted for monitoring the funds which are given to the State Governments for spending in the districts. The meetings of the Vigilance Committee must be held once in three months as per G.O. of the Government of India. However, despite my repeated requests, the meeting of the Monitoring Committees has not been held in Allahabad even once in last 9 months. The D.M. has decided thrice and DM is its secretary. I had requested the hon'ble Speaker and he had also given assurance that he would give direction from here. What is the relevance of this Committee if the meeting of the monitoring Committee is not held even once in 9 months while it should have been held thrice during the above period. So, I demand that the said Committee be dissolved. I would like to request you that you should instruct the Government to take action in this regard. All the Members whether they are on treasury benches or in opposition are unanimous on it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members Shri Shankhial Majhi, Shri Rajnarayan Budholia and Shri Harikewal Prased are associated on the matter raised by Shri Rewati Raman Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to extend my thanks to you that you gave me an opportunity to speak on a very important issue. Today, there is serious crisis of drinking water and irrigation water in the country. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards my parliamentary constituency Chail where there is serious drinking water and irrigation water crisis. The situation in Bundelkhand is also not good where cracks have developed on the land surface and people have to cover upto 10 km. to fetch drinking water. I want that the Government should send a survey team there. Day by day the level of underground water is falling. The Central Government should send a survey team to conduct survey in Chail reserve constituency of Bundelkhand and should provide water to that area under the National Swajaldhara or Rajiv Gandhi Drinking water Mission so that drinking water and irrigation water may be made available for this area. the regulator the ULIP's stipulated participation should not exceed more than 30 per cent and 70 per cent should be secured investment.

[English]

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijayawada) : Sir, for six decades, Life Insurance Corporation of India has been in the business of life insurance. After the opening up of economy, a lot of private companies have come into life insurance. Of late, all the private parties have got permission from insurance regulator to invest bulk of their premium in Unit Linked Insurance Policy, ULIP, which is a stock market linked investment which is a high risk investment. Even though it has a promising yield or return of 36 per cent or 48 per cent, but there is an underlying

[Shri L. Rajagopal]

risk in it. When we talk of life insurance, it is primarily a secured instrument which has to be used during emergency. It should be handy for the public at times of emergency. But the regulator has permitted the life insurance companies to invest there and there is no limit on ULIPs. About 90 per cent of the business of the private parties is ULIPs now. In order to compete in the business, Life Insurance Corporation is forced to take up ULIP. They are also diluting their secured investment and going in for ULIPs. Because of that, the insurance sector and the people are affected. So, Government has to take steps in this regard and instruct the regulator that ULIP's stipulated participation should not exceed more than 30 per cent and 70 per cent should be secured investment.

[Translation]

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV (Gopalganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the issues related the farmers of the country. I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the scheme of waiving the loans taken upto 31.3.2007 is not going to benefit the people because the loan taken by them is repayed by them on time. The big landlords take huge loans and do not repay them, due to this, this scheme will benefit big landlords and stubborn farmers. But the poor and down-trodden farmers who respect the rule and repay loans on time will not get benefit of this loan waiver scheme. If the Government extends loan waiver scheme for loans taken upto 31.12.2007 and waive all loans be it of banks or cooperative societies of any level, then all the small and marginal farmers would get the benefit. Therefore, I would like to request the Government of India to waive all loans taken upto 31.12.2007.

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH (Aligarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on an important issue like agriculture. 80 percent people of India are directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture and are farmers. The Government

of India are giving assistance for improving economic condition of the farmers. Through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that the land of the farmers is being acquired in many states for construction of highways, industries and townships. The land of the farmers is being acquired for a pittance. Through you, I would like to tell the Government to formulate a national policy in this regard. The land of the farmers is being acquired and given to the private sector. The Uttar Pradesh Government is going to acquire lakhs of hectares of land in the name of the Taj-Highway, Ganga-Highway, and Haridwar Highway and it has already acquired the land. Through you, I would like to say that on one side the Government are trying to improve the economic condition of the farmers and on other side, it is acquiring agricultural land which is the main source of their livelihood. The population of the country is continuously increasing and our agricultural land is shrinking. If this goes on, then one day we are going to face dire shortage of foodgrains. The Haryana Government has given adequate compensation for land. It has given compensation to the tune of Rs. 20-30 lakhs per acre and one Member from every affected family has been given Government job, and housing facility. Either the Government of India should direct the state Governments to give this kind of facility or it should itself make a system or formulate a national policy to check the exploitation of the farmers.

My friend Goyalji lives in Ghaziabad. There also an Eastern-Peripheral-Expressway is being constructed and large chunks of land of village Rewra, Bandauli, Milk-Chakkarpur, Maryapur, Sultanpur etc. are being acquired. The farmers of Ghaziabad and Aligarh districts of western Uttar Pradesh have decided that if adequate compensation for their land is not given, they will not celebrate Holi. The Government are not paying appropriate price for 181.1 hectare of land of Aligarh. The rate of compensation decided for our Gautambudh Nager district should be paid for that land also so that farmers may not get dissatisfied and agitated and a situation like that of Nandigram may not arise. Through you, I would like to just submit to the Government that either a national policy on this matter

should be formulated or compensation and facilities for the entire acquired land may be given in Uttar Pradesh on the lines of Haryana.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack) : Sir, a dawn to dusk bandh call has been successfully observed in Gajapati district of Orissa protesting against the decision of Andhra Pradesh Government to construct a dam and diversion weir over the River Mahendra Tanaya near Melliaputti in Srikakulam district. The Government of Andhra Pradesh had mooted this proposal in 2005 but around 50 villages in Parlakhemundi area, Rayagada and Gosani blocks would be deprived of water from River Mahendra Tanaya if it goes ahead with the project. It would severely affect agriculture in the region as these villages depend upon the river for irrigation and also drinking water. Also, the Andhra Project would submerge 1100 acres of cultivable land in Gajapati district and would affect 860 families. It would submerge land in Akada, Manikapatna, Khambagaon, Dimirigaon, Bengasahi and Sankuda villages besides the approach road to the historic Mahendragiri Hills from Mandasa.

From Orissa side, a proposal is pending approval from the Central Government. Construction of a water reservoir over river Mahendratanya at Kaithapadar would irrigate a huge ayacut area in Rayagada Block and Parlakhemundi. This Rs. 100 crore project would also provide drinking water to Parlakhemundi town and would not submerge any village. This project has got technical clearance from the Central Water Commission and awaits the approval of the Tribal Welfare Ministry.

I urge upon the Central Government to intervene in the matter and restrain the Andhra Pradesh Government from taking any unilateral decision of constructing dams over riparian rivers.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue before you.

'Khair' trees are found in three states. of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal Catechu is extracted from these trees. The Supreme Court of India has imposed a ban on felling of these trees. An empowered Committee was constituted which was supposed to submit its report and the Forest Department did not take action in this regard. The farmers and Zamindars have their own 'Khair' trees, but ban on cutting these trees has been imposed across the board. This is our cash crop. If one tree is felled, four new trees grow up. If they are not cut for seven-eight years, they get dead and dry. My suggestion is that the Government of India should file an appeal with the Supreme Court to lift this ban, particularly in case of the Zamindars, so that the farmers and Zamindars of these three states who have been deprived of their livelihood may get some relief. You are aware that no crops grow in the hilly areas. These trees are our crops. No harm is caused by cutting down these trees, because if one is felled, four more grow. If these are not felled, the mother plants will get extinct.

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH (Aligarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also associate myself with the matter of Chaudhary Lal Singh.

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR (Kangra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also associate myself with this matter.

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want permission to speak from here.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Railways. A blatant robbery has taken place in Ratnagiri Express on the 11th of March, 2008. I have been continuously drawing the attention of the Minister of Railways towards the safety of passengers and trains. On the night of 11th of March, train no. 2166, Ratnagiri Express. Which goes from Banaras to Mumbai was stopped near Shankarpur Maziyari Station near Allahabad by firing at the train driver and the passengers traveling in A.C. Coaches were looted. Four men and three women were also beaten up and the robbers fled with a cash of around

[Shri Ganesh Singh]

Rs. 8 lakh. This is eighth such incident during the last five months. Earlier also, foreigner lady scientist was looted at the same place. The Ministry of Railways have careless attitude towards the security of trains. The track running through Jabalpur to Satna, Manikpur, Allahabad and Banda Jhansi is not safe. Therefore, such incidents frequently take place on these routes but the Railway Department is not paying any attention towards these incidents. Shri Laluji is talking about making the Indian Railways number one railway service of the world, but incidents like looting, stealing the belongings of passengers by imposters who offer intoxicated eatables to the passengers and also of rape, dacoity, assault etc. are daily taking place in the trains. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the failure of the Railway Ministry and demand strict action against the culprits.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, most of the people of Jalaun district of Uttar Pradesh are employed in the armed forces, be it CRPF, BSF or CISF. They are deployed on borders of the country but their families, their children continue to live there itself. Their children are not getting good education. I would like to demand the Union Government to open a Sainik School in the Madhavgarh Tehseel of the Jalaun district so that the children of those serving in defence forces could get good education.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch) : Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the Home Ministry to one very important issue of my district. It is regarding the Gadhuji-Santaipur road. The State Government of Gujarat had made a proposal for construction of Gadhuji-Santaipur road since very long. This road is very important from the defence point of view also. That is not being considered by the Government.

So, my demand before the Home Ministry is that this road should be constructed as early as possible. On this

road there is one very important heritage site, Dholavira. It is very important from the international and domestic tourism point of view. If this road is constructed, then the distance between Bhuj and Dholavira will be shortened by more than 200 kms. If one has to go to Dholavira, then he has to go via Rapar. It is more than 250 kms. If he goes from there, then the distance will be only 80 kms.

So, I urge upon the Government to see that the construction of this road is completed as early as possible. Otherwise, the escalation of the cost will go up. Comparing to previous estimates, now the estimates have gone up. So, I demand that this road should be constructed as early as possible.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha) : I associate with what Shri P. S. Gadhavi mentioned just now.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri K. Frances George, your matter has already been raised in the House and the leader of the House and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs have given the reply.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki) : But I was not called. I had given a notice, but I was not called. I will take just a minute to mention the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We cannot take up this matter again. There is no tradition of raising the matter again in the House.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : I know that. Then, I should also have been called. Members from all the parties were called. I was the only one to be left out. So, I should raise it now. I had given a notice. I had taken the pains to give a notice. Then, what is the point of giving notice in the House? Those hon. Members who did not give notice

were called by the Chair. I had given a notice on time, but I was not called. Now, you are also refusing a chance to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Tradition is tradition.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : The House had discussed it and the hon. Minister had read out a routine diplomatic statement in the House. Yesterday, the Minister of State of External Affairs had said that we have got limited options and we expect some leniency from the Pakistani Government regarding the release of Shri Sarabjit Singh. It is very unfortunate. It is a case of mistaken identity. The sentiment of the House was that the Government should make very pro-active intervention in this matter at the highest level with the Pakistani Government. Then only will we be able to get some relief in this particular case. A fresh dialogue has to be started by the Government with the new regime that is taking over in Pakistan.

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at present, the consumers are facing an acute shortage of LPG across the country. Today, LPG is not being supplied in proportion to its demand in any district of the country. I would like to cite the example of my parliamentary constituency where one can see long queues at LPG depots.

19.00 hrs.

After the whole day's long wait the consumers do not get even a single cylinder. There is need to check people engaged in illegal commercial use of LPG. Even today vehicles are being run on LPG cylinders.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your demand from the Union Government?

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA : I demand from the Union Government that the supply of LPG cylinders should be in proportion to its demand. There is a demand of at least 50 thousand LPG cylinders in my parliamentary constituency.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you would be aware that a clean Gange project was launched by late Rajiv Gandhi ji some 20-22 years back. So far several thousand crore rupees have been spent on this campaign. Right now my colleague, Vijay Singh ji was referring to a proposed one thousand kilometre long Ganga Express Highway Project in Uttar Pradesh which would cost Rs. 30 thousand crore. An expressway would be constructed along the banks of the river Ganga. Despite the fact that there is so much pollution in the Ganga river though measures being taken by the Government to check pollution, the Uttar Pradesh Government has come up with the idea of constructing an expres-way without taking permission from the Union Government. I had drawn the attention of the hon. Minister during a meeting of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. He said it was only a political move. In view of pollution, environmental and other concerns and the availability of Grand Trunk Road, the N.H. 24 that connects Delhi with Lucknow which could be strengthened, four laned and on which flyovers could be constructed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your demand?

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : No Cognizance was taken of the fact that the land on which the proposed project would come up is fertile and 2-3 crops can be grown on it. More over, a scientist from BHU also contended that it was no use to go for it. All the environmentalists and soil conservation experts belived that it would further pollute the water and aggravate the problem. I want the Union Government to intervene and take a decision only after conducting a feasibility study in this regard. I believe that nothing should be done which puts our farmers in trouble.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak in the zero hour. I want to raise a very important issue in the House. I belong to Vidharbha which is a part of Maharashtra today. Unfortunately, that area is more in

[Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul]

news on account of farmers' suicide cases. The Government has also identified six such districts namely Amrawati, Akola, Yavatmal, Washim, Buldhana, and Vardha. These are the areas where most farmers have committed suicide. A package was given for them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your party must have had an opportunity to raise it during discussion on the budget.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : This issue is beyond budget. Discussion on budget is over and that is why I wish to raise this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The budget has not concluded as yet. It has been referred to the standing committees for discussion.

SHRI ANADRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : I know it. I want to bring it to the knowledge of the Government that Vidarbha is a backward district. Agriculture is entirely dependent on rains there. They do not get remunerative prices for their crops. So, the farmers have to take loans from the banks or moneylenders and their failure to repay loans compels them to commit suicide. It has been provided for in the budget that farmers having upto two hectares i.e. five acres of land would be benefited. Unfortunately, people having more than five hectares in Vidarbha i.e. 67 per cent...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please put your demand.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : 67 per cent people of Vidarbha are not being benefited by it. So, the suicides would continue. I would like to urge upon the Government that the 5 acre ceiling thus imposed should be lifted in case of Vidarbha and there should be no ceiling. Every farmer should be freed from the burden of loan; only then these suicides would be checked.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shrimati Bhavana Pundalikrao Gawali, Shrimati Kalpana Ramesh Narhire and Shri Hansraj G; Ahir are associating themselves with him.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : It has been reported in the *Times of India* of 5th March, 2008 in the Mumbai Edition that there is a passport racket working through the Indian Consulate in Chicago. There have been a lot of complaints in the matter of issuance of passports regarding applications of NRI citizens throughout the country. In every State, in the Gulf as well as in many other countries whenever an application is put for issuance or extension of a passport, there have been a lot of complaints of corrupt practices. So, this may be looked into and the poor NRI citizens who are in such a plight may be saved from such malpractices.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA (Salumber) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I express my gratitude to you for providing me an opportunity to speak. At present, there are 23 Mada blocks and 11 Mada clusters in Rajasthan. I demand that the hon. Minister of Tribal Affairs expand those Mada clusters and areas by integrating them. The Government of Rajasthan has proposed 212 villages for this purpose. After assimilating them their population would be approximately 15,72,386. There are four such blocks in these cluster areas where tribals constitute 50 per cent population. The population of tribals in the proposed 212 villages is also more than 50 per cent. I request the hon. Minister of Tribal Affairs that the Mada cluster area in these tribal areas should be expanded alongwith these in the sub scheme area so that maximum benefit accrues to the tribal areas.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Punnu Lal Mohale - not present.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patan) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very serious issue. The BSNL landline and mobile service has got completely paralysed in my parliamentary constituency

Patna for the last several months. It is causing so much trouble to the common people who are either BSNL landline or mobile subscribers that despite trying 15-20 times they are unable to connect anywhere in the country be it Delhi or Patna. People are so fed up that they have now begun to get their BSNL landline or mobile phones disconnected. A few days back landline telephone at my residence was out of order. I lodged complaints continuously for four days, however, there was no one to listen. I feel the officers are doing it deliberately to encourage private companies' mobile and land line service. It appears that the officers are working in collusion. No concrete action has been taken despite my several complaints.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your demand?

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I drew the attention of the hon. Minister towards it three days ago, however, I got neither any concrete assurance nor any concrete action has been taken. A huge capital has been invested in this business and you are counting hopes on it, however, it is suffering a setback and common people, too, are facing difficulties. People give first preference to Government telecom service only. The Minister of Communications is requested to immediately intervene since the BSNL landline telephone service in Patna, Bihar has become paralysed on a large-scale. The hon. Minister is requested to restore this service in Patna and elsewhere. I demand an enquiry against officers who are found to be involved in it and to ascertain the reasons why the service has become paralysed. I can smell corruption in it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How. Minister Shri Shakeel Ahmed is also from Bihar.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : You are absolutely right. The Minister of State is from Bihar. At least his attention should be drawn towards this issue. Through you, I would like to draw his attention. We need his protection; he belongs to Bihar and keeps on visiting Patna. I would like him to issue instructions to the Government so that mobile service is immediately restored there.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not the only one on whom injustice has been perpetrated; there are five Chief Ministers of India as well. The hon. Prime Minister, before giving final shape to the draft National Mineral Policy 2007 had given assurance to the Chief Ministers of five States Shrimati Vasundhara ji, Shri Naveen Patnaik, Shri Madhu Koda, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Shri Raman Singh to consider the amendments proposed in the mineral policy in a meeting with the Central Government officers. There is a fruitful suggestion for the draft mineral policy. I demand that the Union Government should fulfill its commitment given to the Chief Ministers of the five States before giving final shape to the draft National Mineral Policy 2007 and take them and the officers in confidence. My sister, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shrimati Vasundhara Raje wrote several letters to the hon. Prime Minister, she is harassed. I want that the hon. Prime Minister should fulfill his promise. I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur) : I associate myself with this issue.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : I associate myself with this issue.

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA : I associate myself with this issue.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : It has already got the Cabinet approval. All the Members of Parliament are in dark...(Interruptions) We do not know what the National Policy is. So, the Parliament has been by-passed. We have not been informed. So, I urge the Government that let them place it on the Table of the House. What is the secrecy involved in it? Why has the Government suppressed that? We associate with it. We demand that the Government should immediately place it on the Table of the House so that we can discuss it.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal) : Mr, Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to raise a very important issue in the House. Some 250-300 years back, Reverend Baka Lakhi Shah Banjara used to reside here; in this very complex was the abode of nomads Raising Naik. When the Ninth Guru of Sikhs, Shri Teg bahadur ji was martyred in Chandni Chowk, he brought his body to this house and set his house on fire and performed the final rites here. He performed the final rites with full honour that is why a hall by the name of Lakhi Shah Banjara has been constructed in Gurdwara Rakab Ganj in his honour. Baba Lakhi Shah served pure water, constructed Sagar lake in Madhya Pradesh. 500 acre land on which Parliament House Building, President's House, Rail Bhawan and Prime Minister's office are constructed belongs to Baba Lakhi Shah Banjara. I demand that a statue should be erected in his memory and some space should be allotted for the purpose. A postal stamp should also be released in his honour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is statue committee for this purpose.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD : Sir, he sacrificed his sons. He lost his five sons in the struggle of 1857. I demand that due honour should be conferred on such a person.

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Taran Taran) : I associate myself with this issue.

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA : I associate myself with this issue.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri P. C. Thomas. You can raise only one matter.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : I have given two matters but I will raise only one out of the two.

Regarding the waiver of loans, one serious problem is being seen. Many poor farmers have, in the last minute or in the same year before 31st December, 2007 remitted small amounts towards interest. It may be, just because of compulsion or just because the banks have told them that otherwise attachment would take place. Many of them, without any source, have gone to the bank. They remitted small amounts to the bank towards interest. Now, those honest persons are left out. They are not going to get the benefit. Those persons who did not pay any amount, even the interest part, they only are coming under the waiver benefit. This is a very serious issue. The poor farmers, who have taken further debts towards payment of small interest, might have taken money from the moneylenders. So, they must also be included. At least, those persons coming in the same financial year must be included.

DR. R. SENTHIL (Dharmapuri) : Sir, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts of Tamil Nadu are essentially very dry districts. The water is scarce and there is a perennial drinking water scarcity. Even the available drinking water is having very high content of fluoride. Hence, the Central Government was contemplating on a permanent drinking water scheme based on the Cauvery River water. The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Kalaignar has recently announced the Hogenakkal Water Scheme based on the Cauvery River water. Many political parties in Karnataka had objected to this.

Last week one hon. Member from the BJP recorded his objection in Parliament. Those Members have three points for the objection. The first point they made was that any drawing of water from the Cauvery River is against the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's verdict. The second point they made was that any construction of a dam across the Cauvery is against the agreement made; it should be informed to the Centre and the other neighbouring State. The third point they made was that the present civil structure is going to be in the Karnataka border. All the three objections do not hold water. The Cauvery Tribunal's verdict does not cover drawing of water for drinking

purposes. It covers only drawing of water for irrigation purposes. The second point that Tamil Nadu is constructing a dam is again not true. Tamil Nadu is not constructing any dam across the Cauvery. What we are going to do is to just dig some wells for drawing water. The third point is also not true because we are not doing any construction within Karnataka border. Most importantly, politician after politician from Karnataka are visiting Hogenakkal. This is not fair. My only request is this. It is a very sensitive matter. People living on either side of the border feel insecure. So, I request them to be very sensitive and apply their mind to this. Drinking water is a human right. I would, therefore, request them not to raise the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri E.G Sugavanam and Shri A.V. Bellarmin are associated on this issue.

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi) : Sir, I am speaking on behalf of the Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam headed by Shri Vaiko, the leader of the Tamils.

I want to bring to the notice of the Central Government that the Tamilians in Sri Lanka are being killed indiscriminately as well as the fishermen on the borders of Sri Lanka. Even though our fishermen are within our reach, within the international border, they are being taken into their country. They are cruelly and brutally attacked and killed.

Recently, the attack has been near Katchatheevu Island where we have our own rights. Underwater mining has been done by the Sri Lankan Government which is against ethics. It is a threat to not only our fishermen but also to the passengers. Food and medicine were required for the Sri Lankan people. That was avoided and forbidden by the Indian Government which is to be re-assured. We want to take food and medicine for the people who are in need of it.*

There, the Member of Parliament Mr. Sivanesan was killed about ten days ago. Likewise, so far, four MPs have been killed there. Our Indian Government has not initiated any move to condemn it. Mr. Sarath Fonseka, the Army

Chief has come to India asking for some military assistance from the Government of India.

He has been the person behind the killing of Tamilians, but a red carpet welcome has been given to him which is injuring the minds of Tamilians. He has said "we will intensify our military attacks to liquidate the Tamil rebels, with the solid support of India."...*(Interruptions)* Till this day, no denial or no condemnation has been made by the Government of India.

Therefore, I would earnestly appeal and insist upon the Government of India to withdraw the radars supplied to Sri Lanka and to stop forthwith any form of military assistance to the Sri Lanka racist regime and protect the Tamils living there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except the statement of Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari.

(Interruptions)...*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the announcement made by the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development in this very House that Kendriya Vidyalayas are proposed to be opened in all the districts. He said it on the floor of the House in his statement. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that notwithstanding the fulfillment of stipulated norms by district Rajsamund in my Lok Sabha constituency there is no Kendriya Vidyalaya in that district and that entire area is tribal and backward area. I do not understand the policy of the Government for not setting up even a single Kendriya Vidyalaya there. If we take into account entire Rajasthan not a single Kendriya Vidyalaya has been sanctioned to Rajasthan. So I want that this kind of stepmotherly treatment should not be meted one to Rajasthan and Kendriya Vidyalaya should be sanctioned for the tribal dominated area of Rajasthan as well as for Rajsamund district.

*Not recorded.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, serious accidents take place between 120 km. to 140 km. stretch on National Highway No. 8 which goes from Delhi to Jaipur. Bahrur which is a sub-division is not full equipped with medical facilities owing to which there are lot of casualties in accident cases. So, I would request the hon. Minister to set up a trauma centre in Bahrur sub-division and provide blood storage facility and a mini-bank. This is my request to the hon. Minister of Health.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government and the hon. Minister of Health and hon. Minister of Agriculture in particular that the ban is imposed on the production and distribution of Kesari Dal as per the laws enacted by the Union Government in the year 1961 in this country. However, this ban on the production and sale of Kesari Dal has been lifted in certain States like West Bengal, Bihar, Chhattisgarh etc. At it is inexpensive and cost effective for the poor, there is large-scale production of this pulse in Vidarbha Konkan and Marathwada. Has the State Government of Maharashtra sent any proposal to the Union Government for lifting ban on Kesari Dal. Through you, I would like to say that for this purpose a senior scientist of Maharashtra Dr. Shantilal Kothariji is on hunger strike for the last 17 days and there is threat to his life...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have raised all the points.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, that is why I would like to say that the Government should take immediate action for lifting this ban in Maharashtra.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the health infrastructure in Thuamal Rampur and Laljigarh Blocks of Kalahandi District in Orissa has totally failed thereby leading to brain malaria deaths which can become an epidemic if it is not controlled in time. The

patient ward in Thuamal Rampur Hospital has broken down and the van which has been given for the Malaria Eradication Programme by the then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi is still there even today, but it has stopped functioning for the last one year. That vehicle should be replaced with a new mobile medical van and an ambulance should be provided so that the affected persons can come to the hospital for treatment. The tribal children have died of brain malaria there. Last year, there was a diarrhoea epidemic which spread to the adjoining districts of Raigada and Navrangpur where hundreds of people died and it also spread to the nearby tribal pocket of KBK region. So, I urge upon the Government to treat the KBK area as a special case and make a special purpose vehicle for eradication of malaria and prevention of water-borne diseases in the district immediately.

Then, there are no staff quarters in Thuamal Rampur Block Hospital. Thuamal Rampur and Laljigarh blocks are the only ITDP blocks in Kalahandi District of Orissa. Therefore, I demand that construction of staff quarters for Class III and Class IV employees and Medical Officer quarter should be immediately taken up there. I would also like to demand that a small Blood Bank should also be started there.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur) : Mr. Chairman Sir, after agriculture sector, the weaving sector provides maximum employment opportunities, but in the absence of any protection and publicity for this sector by the Government, it is in very bad state. Due to economic constraints, most of the weavers are relinquishing their ancestral occupation and are migrating to the big cities in search of livelihood. So far dozens of weavers have committed suicide. A weaver family in Azamgarh district has sold off their two years old son due to poverty. Last year, the Health Insurance Scheme for weavers, that was launched by Union Government was not beneficial to all

the weaver families, as they were unable to pay the fixed contribution due to poverty. After the loan waiver scheme for farmers, the weavers too were hopeful, that the Government will also show mercy towards their bad condition but they got disappointed because no special relief has been given to them in the budget and it is very likely that like farmers, the weavers can also take an unpleasant step in the state of depression. Sir, through you, I demand that the Government should waive off all kinds of loans of weavers and take some steps for improving their condition.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a matter of great concern relating to the members of the Fourth Estate, that is, media. The salary and service conditions of journalists and non-journalist employees in newspapers and news agencies are governed by the Working Journalists Act of 1955. Under the provisions of this Act, it is mandatory on the part of the Government to constitute a Wage Board every five years to revise the salary of the work force of newspapers and news agencies. As per the Act, the Government has appointed the Sixth Wage Board with retired Justice Shri K. Narayana Kurup as the Chairman of the Wage Board. Prior to this, the Fifth Wage Board was appointed in 1993, but its recommendations were implemented only in 2001. The tenure of the present Wage Board is three years. Till the tenure is over, the journalists and non-journalist employees have to wait for their salary hike. So, they demand that Interim Relief should be given to them. It is a genuine demand. Therefore, I demand that the Government should consider granting Interim Relief to the journalists and non-journalist employees of the media.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the funding package of Rs. 60,314 crore announced in the Budget to provide for the complete waiver of loans to small

and marginal farmers is receiving mixed responses in the country. In this regard, I want to make four points.

The first and foremost is the equity in waiver. The blanket ceiling of 2 hectares for full loan waiver is in no way helpful to all. Two hectares of dry land in a rain-fed area should not be equated with that of an irrigated area. So, the criteria for the waiver should be based on the productivity of the farm land.

Secondly, the blanket yardstick that the borrowings from credit institutions will alone be waived is practically an unwise stipulation because it is reported that a cursory survey reveals that only 22 per cent of the total farmers in the country are institutional borrowers and most of the remaining farmers borrow from local money lenders, neighbours and friends. A suitable mechanism should be, therefore, designed.

Sir, third one is the most important, urgent and in-depth consideration. It is an accepted fact that nearly 35 per cent of the farming community are landless agricultural labourers. They are living upon farm operations. For that they pledge their gold belongings, etc. and are getting loans from the institutions. Those loans also should be waived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing more should go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur) : Thank you very much, Sir. There is an alarming decline in the law and order situation in the North-Eastern India. Any moment, anything might happen. We have many insurgent armed outfits operating in the region. In that region, even the official bungalows of the Ministers and MLAs are being attacked with grenades and bombs. Moreover, recently one grenade was thrown into the precincts of the Assembly of Manipur. About seven people yesterday and seven today

*Not recorded.

[Dr. Thokchom Meinya]

were killed in Manipur. The situation appears very acute and out of control and not a single day passes without the news of killing human beings by human beings. Common men as well as security personnel are equally vulnerable. This should not be allowed to happen.

I am fully aware of the fact that Home is a State subject. Even then, the situation has become very acute. In such a situation, the Union Government should not become a silent spectator. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government, particularly, the Home Ministry should intervene and should extend all possible help and support to such a State so that such killings are stopped.
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing more should go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : Sir, a fresh outbreak of bird flu, with highly pathogenic H5N1 strains of avian influenza virus, has resurfaced in West Bengal and some other parts of the country. The samples were sent on March 6 to Bhopal Laboratory and they were tested positive.

Sir, this has created panic among the poultry farmers, including the tribals. In the first phase of its occurrence, lakhs of birds have been killed in West Bengal and other neighbouring States of Orissa, Assam, Bihar and Jharkhand as a preventive measure. By the order of the Government of India, State Government, have culled over 3.9 million chickens and ducks in the last month. The poultry farmers, including the tribal populace of these areas have sustained heavy financial losses and some of them have been ruined.

Sir, you know that these chickens and ducks are like

*Not recorded.

one of the family members of these tribals. Even in some of the bordering parts of West Bengal, Orissa and Jharkhand, there was not any detection of this virus. But for preventive measures, the Government of India directed to kill all the chickens of these areas and there is absolutely no compensation paid to these people. The tribal people have their only income through poultry farming. But the Government of India has not made any provision for the compensation of these poultry farmers and tribals. The Government of India has directed that they should manage with funds provided to states as assistance to States to control animal disease.

Sir, this is a general order and for any animal disease, funds are provided to States as Central assistance. But this particular case has come accidentally and lot of compensation is required. So, I urge upon the Government of India to make such provision for compensation to the poultry farmers and tribals so that they can revive their farming and live in a proper way.

Sir, the World Health Organisation has labeled it as one of the worst epidemics of the world. The UN Food and Agriculture has warned that the inter-State surveillance should continue because there is also the possibility of human infection. So, I urge upon the Government to take proper care and to provide assistance to them.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards an important issue. The post of Chief Postmaster General is lying vacant in the Postal department of Orissa. This is a very important post of our State. There are 1861 post offices and around 25 thousand postal employees in the State. As the post is lying vacant for last eight months, its charge has been given to CPMG of West Bengal.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a matter of great concern, that during last eight months he has visited Orissa only twice.

All files from Orissa are being sent to Bengal. This practice was in vogue during the British Rule, now same is happening in the Congress rule once again. There are two-hundred appeal files. The decision which has to be taken by CPMG in regard to lower level employees is not being taken. The business is facing recession. Many administrative decisions are not being taken and funds allocated in the budget for employees' programme and repairing of their quarters etc. are not being spent.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that the Government has CPMG in small circles, Shri Handiqueji has got it done for his area, but my area has

been neglected. Therefore, through you, I would like to demand that CPMG should be posted over there at the earliest.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 19th March 2008, at 11 a.m.

19.36 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on 19th March, 2008/Phalguna 29, 1929 (Saka).

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