

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Fifth Session**  
**(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



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**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**

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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### LOK SABHA

*Thursday, August 25, 2005/Bhadra 3, 1927 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

11.00 hrs.

#### OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

##### Misrepresentation by a Newspaper of Lok Sabha Proceedings about Judiciary

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, before I come to the Question Hour, I wish to refer to a headline appeared in a newspaper today wherein it is stated: 'Mind your job, Speaker tells Judiciary'. It is a deliberate misrepresentation about what was said in the House by the Chair. I once again, if necessary at all, express my highest respect for the Judiciary. To try to make misrepresentation of what transpired in the House is nothing but a breach of privilege. Naturally, it will not be taken lightly in future. But I wish to say and I am sure that House will agree with me that nothing like that happened yesterday. Moreover, I do not have to learn from others how to pay respect.

11.01 hrs.

#### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri B. Vinod Kumar, Q. No. 421.

##### Advertisements by OMCs

\*421. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) on sponsorship of various events and advertisement in Audio/Visual media and newspapers/periodicals since July, 2004;

(b) the justification for this expenditure when OMCs are enjoying monopoly on their products and consumers are subjected to high cost on fuel products;

(c) whether DAVP guidelines have been followed by these companies while releasing advertisements; and

(d) if not, the action being taken to avoid unnecessary expenditure through such advertisements?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

##### Statement

(a) The Public Sector Oil Marketing companies viz. IOCL, IBP, BPCL & HPCL incurred an expenditure amounting to Rs. 36.47 crores on sponsorships of events and Rs. 230 crores on advertisements in the Audio/Visual media and newspapers/periodicals since July, 2004 till July, 2005. The details of expenditure on sponsorships/ advertisements are given in the enclosed the Annexes.

(b) (i) OMCs no longer enjoy a monopoly and after the entry of private players in the retail business, there is intense competition for preserving and maintaining market shares. To ensure this, the companies spend approximately 0.1% of their sales/turnover on advertising. They do not advertise their regular products i.e. petrol and diesel. The focus of advertisements are premium and new products which are introduced by these companies. The advertisements are targeted at specific market segments under a defined strategy, which the companies follow.

Besides, some advertisements are also targeted towards increasing awareness on safety aspects of operating certain products, such as LPG.

(ii) In addition, companies have to advertise to meet statutory requirements for ensuring transparency and wide dissemination of information regarding selection of dealers for diesel, petrol & kerosene and distributorships for LPG, LDO and Lubes. Apart from this, expenditure is made on tender notices, staff recruitments, appointment of service providers, publication of statutory financial results. The breakup of the expenditure is placed in Annexure.

(c) and (d) With respect to PSUs going through the DAVP route, the status of the implementation of the recommendations of the Ninth report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (14th Lok Sabha) (presented on 14.12.2004) given to the Lok Sabha on 11.08.2005 by the Minister I&B, records "... in respect of advertisement of PSUs/Autonomous Bodies the problem is complex as some of the newspapers, particularly big ones, are not willing to publish PSU advertisement at DAVP rates.... DAVP is pursuing with the newspapers with newly constituted Rate Structure Committee to prevail upon them to accept advertisement of PSU/Autonomous Bodies for release to DAVP".

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting vide letter dated 31st May, 2005 has advised to route publicity work of PSUs through DAVP. These instructions have been communicated to all Oil PSUs on 13th June, 2005. Difficulties faced in implementing the advice has been taken up with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on 24th August, 2005 by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

In terms of the Industry practice, advertisements are released through their empanelled advertising agencies. Advertisements are need based. Rates are competitive. Hard negotiations precede contracts. Unnecessary expenditure on advertisements is avoided by meticulous planning at all stages.

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*Annexe*

*Sponsorship July 2004-July 2005*

Cos. Name	Sponsorship of Events (Rs. In lacs)	Advertisements (Rs. In lacs)
HPCL	224.67	3923.84
BPCL	287.32	6130.88
IOCL	3127.34	12712.22
IBP	7.38	236.00
Total	3646.71	23002.94

*Annexure*

*Details of Sponsorships by Oil Marketing Companies*

*July 2004-July 2005*

(Rs. in lacs)

	HPCL	BPCL	IOCL	IBP
Health	Nil	9.99	3.80	Nil
Education	10.15	26.97	23.27	0.30
Sports	64.55	67.93	2209.31	2.00
Culture	30.45	83.50	109.00	Nil
Conference/Exhibitions	78.29	95.18	110.73	2.46
Others	41.23	3.75	150.00	2.62

*Annexure**Sponsorship July 2004-July 2005***Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.**

Sl.No.	Name of Party	Particulars	Amount	Date
1	2	3	4	5
1.		Sponsorship of Ganakrishti Natya Utsav 2004	250000	
2.		Sponsorship of Maharashtra Mahotsav 2004	100000	
3.		Co-Sponsorship of Prayas Musical Evening	100000	
4.		Sponsorship of Vande Mataram-Saluting Freedom thru Music	150000	
5.		Sponsorship of Lecture Series by Vedanta Institute, Delhi	150000	
6.		Sponsorship of a Ghazal Event by Mr. Jagjit Singh	500000	
7.		Sponsorship of four day cultural protest against	150000	
8.		Sponsorship of cultural events in Noida by Sab Rang	150000	
9.		Sponsorship of a cultural event by Lokmchhanda cultural unit	100000	
10.		Sponsorship of Tyagraja Music Festival	600000	
11.		Sponsorship of Shreekeshttra Vasant Utsav at Puri	300000	
12.		Sponsorship of Ganakrishti Natya Utsav 2005	250000	
13.		Sponsorship of a documentary film on DD Malayalam	200000	
14.		Sponsorship of Elephanta Festival	1000000	
15.		Sponsorship of police art display	1200000	
16.		Sponsorship of Karthik Fine Arts	600000	
17.		Sponsorship of Kolkata Film Festival	300000	
18.		Sponsorship of Pooja Road Guide	500000	
19.		Sponsorship of 53rd All India Police aquatic and cross country cham	100000	

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Sponsorship of World Tour maruti vehicle for 'save the rainforest'		100000	
21.	Sponsorship of first India-ASEAN Car Rally 2004		9000000	
22.	Title Sponsorship of Santosh Trophy Football Tournament		2500000	
23.	Sponsorship of Asian Satellite Badminton International tournament		550000	
24.	Sponsorship of National Summit, 2004 of LBSIM		100000	
25.	Sponsorship of Indo-Pak Petro Cup Cricket for the Blind 2005		808249	
26.	Sponsorship of peaks of Freedom'05 The Himalayan Challenge		400000	
27.	Sponsorship of 13th Men's World U-21 Volleyball Championship'05		500000	
28.	Sponsorship of Syed Modi Badminton		500000	
29.	Sponsorship of Surjit Hockey		650000	
30.	Sponsorship of Beighton Cup		500000	
31.	Sponsorship of All India TT		535000	
32.	Sponsorship of Inter School Regatta		300000	
33.	Sponsorship of Calcutta Horse Show		400000	
34.	TNSA Coastal Nationals		300000	
35.	Sponsorship of Indian Oil Asia Cup & Tri-Nation series		195000000	
36.	Sponsorship of IIT Kharagpur Foundation Day		200000	
37.	Sponsorship of Pan IIT 2004		100000	
38.	Sponsorship of IIT Tech Festival		400000	
39.	Sponsorship of Inter School Quiz		200000	
40.	Sponsorship of Pratibha Samman Samroh		200000	
41.	Co- Sponsorship of the 11th Annual Oil & Gas Review Symposium		200000	
42.	Sponsorship of conference and award functions of scope & DPE		500000	



1	2	3	4	5
43.	Sponsorship of First International Conference on 'Renewable Energy'	100000		
44.	26th All India Public Relations Conference in Kolkata by PRSI	100000		
45.	Sponsorship of 9th Annual Management Convention	100000		
46.	Sponsorship of 14th NMG-2005 by AIMA	200000		
47.	Sponsorship of 38th National Conference of AITUC	1000000		
48.	Sponsorship of 8th CEO's Con. by IIIE	500000		
49.	Co-Sponsorship of Intl. Public Relations Festival'05	300000		
50.	Sponsorship of the 12th Annual India Oil & Gas Review Symposium & Intl.	200000		
51.	Contribution to activities of charitable trust	500000		loka shank
52.	Sponsorship of NCPEDP's Arts Ability National Festival	500000		NCPEDP
53.	Sponsorship of Tamana/Payal Jain Fashion Show	1450000		Tamana
54.	Sponsorship of yearly expenditure of Udayan Ghar	500000		Udayan
55.	Associate Sponsorship of fundraise programme by PFA	200000		PFA
56.	Sponsorship of Subah Savere Programme on DD channel	650000		DD
57.	Sponsorship of Bihar Eye Bank	250000		
58.	Donation to Grampanchayat Jhaskar for nursery school, Raigad	750000		
59.	Financial assistance to Desur village Primary school, Belgaum, Karnataka	630931		
60.	Construction of Classrooms at Nizarpur Prathmik Vidhyalaya	149000		
61.	Construction of Classrooms at Nizarpur Adarsh ME school	148000		
62.	To provide 75 wooden desks for Vadinar School, Vadinar	123200		

1	2	3	4	5
63.	To provide furniture to ROW's alongwith 3 panchayats, 5 hospitals, 5 schools, Sanganer	365232		
64.	Financial assistance for adoption of Ward No. 6 in East Zone of Coimbatore CMC, TN	500000		
65.	for Solid Waste Management Scheme			
66.	Financial assistance for installation of tube wells for drinking water in Paschim Madnapur	710136		
67.	West Bengal			
68.	Donation to Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Milan Mandir road, Dimapur, Nagaland for purchasing	292000		
69.	Medical van and equipments			
70.	Financial assistance to Ramakrishna Mission Sevashram for purchasing medical equipments	507500		
71.	Donation of one Tata Diesel 17 seater bus to Divya Mandir, Kirpalu Bagh ashram, Kankhal, Hardwar	480000		
72.	Financial assistance towards provision of One Phaco Emulsification machine to Dukh Niwaran	5,000		
73.	Samiti, a charitable medical health care, New Delhi			
74.	Financial assistance to the centre for Rural Development an NGO, Guwahati, Assam	700000		
75.	BKPL Patna Pump Station	190714		
76.	Water connection at Jotaghanshyam Nilmoni High School			
77.	CISF Sponsorship of 53rd All India Police Aquatic and Cross-Country Championship	100000		19.8.2004
78.	T. Srinivasa Rao Sponsorship of world tour by Maruti vehicle-'save the rainforest'	100000		9.9.2004
79.	ASEAN Sponsorship of first India-ASEAN Car Rally 2004	9000000		21.9.2004
80.	NICHE Sponsorship of Vande Mataram-Saluting Freedom thru Music	150000		23.9.2004
81.	AIFF Title Sponsorship of Santosh Trophy Football Tournament	2500000		4.10.2004

1	2	3	4	5
82.	LBSIM	Sponsorship of National Summit, 2004 of LBSIM	100000	26.10.2004
83.	Spandan	Sponsorship of four-day cultural protest against International terrorism	150000	11.10.2004
84.	Sab-Rang	Sponsorship of cultural events in Noida by Sab-Rang	150000	3.1.2005
85.	AICA	Co-sponsorship of Cricket Tournament for the Deaf	50000	25.1.2005
86.	Vintage Car	Sponsorship of participation of 1935 model Austin car by Prof. Ashok Kumar	75000	7.2.2005
87.	Triveni Mahotsav	Sponsorship of Triveni Mahotsav-2005	100000	9.2.2005
88.	AITUC	Sponsorship of 38th National Conference of AITUC	1000000	22.3.2005
89.	Cricket for the Blind	Sponsorship of Indo-Pak Petro Cup Cricket for the Blind 2005	808249	15.4.2005
90.	Swaralaya	Sponsorship of a two day Music and Dance festival Organised by Swaralaya	100000	20.4.2005
91.	Ganakrishti	Sponsorship of Ganakrishti Natya Utsav-2005	250000	9.5.2005
92.	People for Animals	Associate Sponsorship of fundraiser programme by PFA	200000	26.5.2005
93.	Moving Picture Co.	Sponsorship of Subhah Savere programme on DD Channel	650000	7.6.2005
94.	Sabrang	Sponsorship of cultural events in Mansarovar Park by Sab-Rang	150000	6.6.2005
95.		Sponsorship of 13th Men's World U-21 Volleyball Championship'05, Vizag	500000	22.6.2005

*Annexure**Sponsorship July 2004-July 2005***Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.**

Sl.No.	Name of Party	Particulars	Amount	Date
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ras Rang-Delhi	Classical & music fusion-Noida	100000	12.7.04
2.	Care Plus	Fuel money towards home care proj.	180000	6.7.04
3.	Secretary, ICAI	Conf-enrichment for excellence	100000	15.7.04
4.	Pandit Chaturial Memorial Socy.	Indian Classical musical-AMARJYOTI	125000	27.7.04
5.	Bombay St. Xaviers Society	MALHAR-2004	150000	11.8.04

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Bombay Gymkhana Ltd.	Cricket Tour to Kenya	100000	26.8.04
7.	Kalidas Festival	Kalidas Festival-2004 at Nagpur	200000	11.8.04
8.	SCOPE	Conf. on corporate governance-PSU	200000	17.8.04
9.	Sri Aurobindo Society, Dehradun	Devlp. of facilities at the centre	150000	17.8.04
10.	Consultancy Development Centre	int. Conf. on Dev. of Knowledge Infra.	200000	17.8.04
11.	Malabar Hill Citizens Forum	Sports facilities at Priyadarshini Park	100000	19.8.04
12.	Madhya Pradesh Badminton Association	All India Interstate West Zone Badminton	100000	11.8.04
13.	World Energy Council-IMC	19th WEC Congress at Sydney	500000	29.7.04
14.	FICCI	Rural Marketing Summit 2004	100000	8.9.04
15.	Special Olympics Bharat	2005 Special Olympics	100000	5.8.04
16.	Organising Secretary CISF	All India Police Aquatic Champion	100000	29.7.04
17.	Sri Thyaga Brahma Gana Sabha	Silver jubilee music festival	150000	4.10.04
18.	Confederation of Indian Industry	India-Asean Car Rally	2250000	11.10.04
19.	All India Football Federation	Santosh Trophy at New Delhi	10000000	12.10.04
20.	CSI-2004	Annual national convention CSI-2004	500000	5.10.04
21.	Petrotech-2005	6th Int. Petroleum & exhibition	5000000	11.10.04
22.	Indian Naval Benevolent Fund	Navy Nite 2004	500000	2.11.04
23.	U.P. Badminton Association	Int. Badminton Championship	300000	18.10.04
24.	Durand Football Tournament Socy.	Durand Football Tournament	100000	28.10.04
25.	Sufi Sant Baba Malang Ujjain	Urse Mubarak of Dargah Kalandar	200000	8.11.04
26.	Indian Institute of Chemical Engg.	Engg. Congress Chemcon-2004	500000	29.10.04
27.	T.N. Assn. for welfare of Phy. Handi.	Aids & appliances for disabled	100000	19.11.04
28.	ISTD 2004 World Conference	IFTDO World Conference & Exhibition	500000	19.11.04
29.	Apollo Cancer Institute	Breast cancer patients benefit event	200000	25.11.04
30.	National Centre-promotion of employment for disabled people-NCPEDP	Cultural event for world disability day	250000	19.11.04
31.	Comet Media Foundation	Theme pavilion at Bal Vividha Fest.	100000	2.12.04
32.	FICCI	3rs Asia Gas Buyers summit-2005	500000	9.11.04
33.	GOVPIKA	Documentary of sacred groves Kerala	500000	9.12.04
34.	Royal Calcutta Turf Club	BSF Cup 2004-2005	100000	9.12.04

1	2	3	4	5
35.	Centre for Environmental Research & Education	Nation-wide environmental related project of CERE	100000	10.12.04
36.	BSPCA	Musical fund raising event-BSPCA	150000	7.12.04
37.	PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry	Conf. on Emerging Opportunity in Oil & Gas sector	100000	16.12.04
38.	Billiards & Snooker Association	Asian Billiards Champ'ship 2005	500000	28.12.04
39.	Bennet Coleman & Company	FUN-DA-MENTAL Quiz.	300000	18.1.05
40.	Welingkar Institute of Mgt. Devlp.	Welingkar Int. Speaker series	100000	7.2.05
41.	BSPCA	Fund Raising Event	100000	15.2.05
42.	Dignity Lifestyle Trust	Medical Equipment-Health Clinic	100000	21.2.05
43.	Sri Aurobindo Centre	Projects of Rural-Urban Integration	100000	23.2.05
44.	SUKARYA	Fund Raising Cultural event	200000	24.2.05
45.	Aurobindo Centre for Rural-Urban Integration	Various projects of the centre	100000	23.2.05
46.	Petroleum Sports Promotion Board	Open Masters Golf Championship	1033563	18.3.05
47.	All India Trade Union Congress	National Conference in Delhi	500000	19.1.05
48.	Bombay Chamber of Commerce	Conf. on Energy Options 2005	100000	21.3.05
49.	Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Seva Evan	Supply of solar photovoltaic system	100000	4.4.05
50.	Indian Veteran Hockey Association	Veteran Hockey Masters Tmt.	100000	5.4.05
51.	Ramakrishna Mission Students Hom.	Centenary Celebrations	100000	12.4.05
52.	Swaralaya	Musical Festival	100000	15.4.05
53.	Association for Cricket for the Blind	Indo-Pak Cricket Cup for Blind	295500	20.4.05
54.	Bombay Hockey Association	All India Gold Cup Hockey Tmt.	100000	26.4.05
55.	Rotary Club of Delhi South East	Chetna-Fund Raising Initiative	200000	26.4.05
56.	IIM Bangalore	Anusmaran 2005 Alumini Reunion	200000	9.5.05
57.	Institute of Internal Auditors-Bombay	Annual Conference event	100000	31.5.05
58.	TERI, N. Delhi	TERI Corporate Awards	500000	26.5.05
59.	Foundation of Indian Industry & Foundation	International Conference	500000	6.6.05
60.	RKM Students' Home, Chennai	Centenary Building Projects	100000	12.4.05
61.	Udai Society	Udai Mud Challenge Rally	100000	24.5.05
62.	Mac Krishi Jagran	Rural India Trade Expo	100000	23.6.05
63.	ASC Centre & College, Bangalore	245th Raising Day of Army Corps	200000	22.7.05

*Annexure**Sponsorship July 2004-July 2005***Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.**

Sl.No.	Date	Parties	Amount	Category
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jul-04	Oil Asia Symposium Division	192000	Conference
2.	Jul-04	Indian Oil Review Symposium	300000	Conference
3.	Aug-04	Scope	200000	Conference
4.	Aug-04	Rajmata Mahila Mandal	100000	Event
5.	Aug-04	Vedanta Inst, Mardras	100000	Conference
6.	Sep-04	Org. Secy.	100000	Sports
7.	Sep-04	Thane Mayor Var Marathon	100000	Sports
8.	Oct-04	Greentech Foundation	200000	Conference
9.	Oct-04	Indian School of Petroleum	150000	College Fn
10.	Dec-04	Pt Chaturial Memorial Centre	250000	Event
11.	Jan-05	Petrotech 2005	5000000	Conference
12.	Jan-05	Pune Fest	200000	Event
13.	Jan-05	BCCI	300000	Conference
14.	Jan-05	NPMP Awards of Excellence	130885	Event
15.	Nov-04	UP Badminton Asso.	300000	Sports
16.	Nov-04	NASEOH	100000	Cause
17.	Nov-04	CIL	2250000	Sports
18.	Sep-04	All India Football Federation	100000	Sports
19.	Dec-04	Wushu Association of India	300000	Sports
20.	Dec-04	NCPEDP	250000	Cause
21.	Jan-05	India Energy Forum	200000	Conference
22.	Jan-05	Ashirwaad	100000	Event
23.	Dec-04	Computer Society of India	200000	Conference
24.	Jan-05	All India Olympic Association	200000	Sports
25.	Jan-05	Bikers for Integration & Cons	200000	Event

1	2	3	4	5
26.	Jan-05	Thane City Badminton	100000	Sports
27.	Jan-05	Poona Women's Council	300000	Cause
28.	Jan-05	Anugraha Drishtidaan	100000	Cause
29.	Jan-05	Cathedral of Holy Name	100000	Cause
30.	Dec-04	Delhi Malayalee Sangam	100000	Event
31.	Jan-05	Bishan Bedi Cricket Coaching	250000	Sports
32.	Dec-05	IIM Ahmedabad	250000	College Fn.
33.	Jan-05	FICCI	300000	Conference
34.	Jan-05	Parikarma Humanity Foundation	300000	Event
35.	Jan-05	India Energy Forum	200000	Conference
36.	Jan-05	University of Mumbai	100000	College Fn
37.	Feb-05	PHD Chamber of Com & Indu.	100000	Conference
38.	Feb-05	Himalaya Nature Adv. Foundation	100000	Conference
39.	Feb-05	Rotary Club Airport	150000	Event
40.	Feb-05	Indian Institute of Chemical Engg.	300000	College Fn
41.	Feb-05	Fine Arts Society	200000	Event
42.	Dec-04	Him Jyoti Foundation	200000	Cause
43.	Mar-05	Pune International Marathon	200000	Sports
44.	Mar-05	Civil Services Golf Society	300000	Sports
45.	Sep-04	NPMP Awards of Excellence	130685	Event
46.	26.04.05	The Maha Fire Service Personnel Welfare	100000	Cause
47.	26.04.05	Indian Veteran Hockey Association	150000	Sports
48.	11.05.05	PSPB	1030874	Sports
49.	11.05.05	Garden at HP<DI-Nigdi	550000	Cause
50.	10.05.05	Sukarya	300000	Event
51.	06.06.05	People for Animals	150000	Event
52.	21.06.05	Hridayesh Arts	150000	Event
53.	21.06.05	The Institute of Internal Auditors India Bombay	150000	Conference

**Annexure***Sponsorship July 2004-July 2005***IBP Co. Ltd.**

Sl.No.	Name of Party	Particulars	Amount	Date
1.	Nasik Mahanagar Budhibal Sanstha	Chess Tournament	200000	

**Annexure***Details of Expenditure of Advertisement by Major OMCs**July, 2004-July, 2005*

Sl.No.	Item	HPCL	BPCL	IOC	IBP
1.	Total advertisement & sponsorship costs (Rs. In lacs)	41.48	64.18	153.17	2.43
1(a)	As % age of total sales/turnover.	0.055%	0.10%	0.11%	0.02%
2(a)	Expenditure for ensuring transparency. Advertisement for appointment of dealers, distributors, etc. as %age of total advertisement expenditure	3.25%	16.3%	5.68%	76.66%
2(b)	Expenditure on tender as %age of total advertisement costs	8.08%	1.5%	7.02%	13.70%
2(c)	Expenditure on advertisement for recruitment of staff (officers/workmen and service provider) as %age of total advertisement costs	2.5%	0.15%	0.54%	1.03%
2(d)	Expenditure on statutory advertising like publication of financial results etc. as %age of total advertisement costs	3.35%	0.91%	0.71%	2.43%
2(e)	Corporate and product advertisements and miscellaneous.	82.82%	80.26%	86.05%	6.18%



SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Sir, my main intention behind raising this question is to attract the attention of the hon. Minister towards the wasteful expenditure made by the oil companies in the area of advertisements. We are hearing the news that oil prices are going to be increased. So, in this scenario, I raised this question.

I understand from the reply of the Minister that there is hardly any control over the free release of advertisements. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Ministry is formulating any regulatory authority to scrutinise the advertisements before issuing them.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I regret to say that the expression "wasteful expenditure" is inappropriate to the realities that have been presented in the utmost detail to the hon. Member in my written reply. I have pointed out that the total expenditure on both advertisements as well as sponsorship by HPCL is 0.055 per cent of its sales turn over; of BPCL, it is 0.1 per cent; of IOC, it is 0.11 per cent; and of IBP, it is 0.02 per cent. How can it possibly be true to say that this is wasteful? In terms of the jobs that they are required to do, their expenditure on both advertisements and sponsorship constitute a minute fraction of their total turn over.

With respect to essentially the second part of the hon. Member's question, the question of advertisements being released through the Government's DAVP has a history that goes back to 1959 and 1965, leave alone the current Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology of Fourteenth Lok Sabha. Even at that time, the running theme through all this is that there are problems about autonomous public sector undertakings as distinct from the Government Departments or Government Ministries or Government organisations. For the first three, there is no difficulty but for commercial organisations, they have to operate in the market place and we have had all kinds of specific problems which have arisen in using DAVP rates.

The first problem, of course, is that the Rate Structure Committee is still to finalise and have approved their recommendations by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. So, we do not know, at this stage, in the oil public sector companies as to what are the rates. Also, many newspapers say that unless an advertisement carries a Government logo, they will not accept it at the Government-ordained DAVP rates. We have also problems with respect to corporate confidentiality because what is

shared with DAVP comes into the public domain. We have the problem that DAVP is able to release quickly from a location in Delhi, but if you wish to release from Barauni or from Digboi, then it is not so easily possible to do it quickly from Delhi.

In the light of all these, while these issues are under consideration with the Government on the basis of the realities of the market place, I do not think it would be necessary to bring in a regulator. We can discuss these matters on the basis of a realistic assessment of what the market is saying and what are the intentions of the Ninth Report of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha of the Committee attached to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Sir, in the reply it is mentioned that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting *vide* their letter dated 31st May, 2005 has advised to route publicity work of PUCs through DAVP. There was a meeting held on the 24th of August, 2005 and certain problems of the Ministry were discussed in that meeting. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the difficulties faced by the oil companies with the DAVP have been sorted out, if so, whether the Ministry is going to follow the guidelines hereinafter.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: The letter that was issued yesterday specifically drew the attention of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to the fact that the recommendations of the Rate Structure Committee constituted in this regard have not yet been furnished to our Ministry and ought to be furnished at an early date. But beyond that, we are still going to continue our correspondence to bring to their attention some of the points that I have mentioned on the floor of the House.

A great advantage of questions being raised in the House is that it gives use the opportunity to take stock of the situation and I am grateful to the hon. Member that by posing this question he has enabled us to get to grips with the nitty-gritty of, what is obviously, a knotty problem.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the CEAG Reports for the year 2002-2004 and 2003-2004 have pointed out a wasteful expenditure of more than Rs. 100 crores including the expenditure incurred on advertising. I would like to ask the Minister

If the Government proposes to take any action in view of the said CEAG Reports?

*[English]*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, this question of what the C&AG has said constitutes a completely separate question. I would not wish to commit myself without having had an opportunity of looking at the specific C&AG report that he has in mind.

I do not believe that the expenditure that is being undertaken on advertisements and sponsorships could be characterised as wasteful when it constitutes no more than 0.1 per cent, in many cases even less than that, of the sales turnover of companies that are operating all over the country and operating on a vast scale in a highly competitive atmosphere. They are no longer monopolies as they used to be and therefore, we need to understand that when their product advertisements constitutes more than half of their total advertisements and these product advertisements are not for regular products like petrol and diesel but for other kinds of products where there is a lot of competition in the market, it is not possible for us to advise them to restrict their expenditure on regular commercial advertising. What we could ask them to do is that if we can specifically point out to the cases that are wasteful, then they should not do that.

Since a huge number of requests are received from hon. Members of Parliament for such advertisements and such sponsorships, I do not think we can accuse, Sir, the hon. Members of this House of advising us to indulge in wasteful expenditure.

MR. SPEAKER: There should be more sponsorship for sports events.

*[Translation]*

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Minister has given a detailed reply to the question. It has been pointed out that thirty five crore forty seven lakh rupees have been spent under the sponsorship Head and Two hundred and thirty crore rupees have been spent under the advertisements and audio-visual Head. Mr. Speaker, all the private companies have been passing the burden of expenses incurred on advertisements onto the consumers by pushing up the prices of petrol and diesel. I would like to ask the hon. Minister if in view of

the above points he would consider formulating a policy or programme to ensure that all advertisements are sponsored and routed through one agency so that the consumers are not forced to bear unnecessary costs.

*[English]*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I am obliged to point out that the under-recoveries of our oil companies ran last year at Rs. 20,000 crore and, this year, if we do not do anything about it, they could amount to Rs. 40,000 crore. So, compared to Rs. 40,000 crore, the amount of Rs. 230 crore constitutes a tiny sum. I do not think that by restricting expenditure on advertisements below Rs. 230 crore, we would be able to significantly hold down any proposed hike in fuel prices. I think what the hon. Member ought to appreciate is that we are spending so little money on advertising compared to the vast amount of money that is being spent by way of subsidies and cross-subsidies on protecting the consumer from the full impact on domestic prices of spiralling and volatile international prices.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has given an exhaustive answer.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any central guideline with regard to the sponsorship and advertisement? For example, is there any guideline to say that such percentage must contain social issues like removal of illiteracy, empowerment of women, protection of girl child, basic rights of unorganised labourers and rights of the disabled persons. If not, I want to know whether the Government is prepared to consider a central guideline to be issued to the marketing companies that in the matter of sponsorship and advertisement, such percentage must contain social issues.

MR. SPEAKER: You should also add sports to it.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, we do attempt to deal with social issues and in particular, I would say that we wish to give utmost attention to labour issues and that is why, at the request of one of the leading Members of our House who belongs to a major Leftist Party, we sponsored the All India Trade Union Conference at the rate of Rs. 1 crore because we have a number of members who quite rightfully belong to the AITUC. Sir, I could give a large number of other specific details.

MR. SPEAKER: You can supply them to him.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: But I assure you that this kind of labour issues and social issues will receive our support. The Him Jyoti Foundation is doing outstanding work for literacy, especially for girl children in Uttaranchal. These are the kind of causes which receive our support. With deference to you, Sir, I think, we are spending a little too much on sports events. I would like to see whether we can drag them much more towards trying to put money into major social causes. We would be happy to get the advice of the hon. Members from the Leftist Parties and in particular the advice of Comrade Rupchand Pal.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, this Report should not be neglected.

MR. SPEAKER: From the Chair, I have prompted it thrice. But he is referring to one only one sports. Probably, he is fond of that.

#### **Strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions**

+  
\*422. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:  
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is taking any steps to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions in order to bring economic reforms in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to restructure various centrally sponsored schemes to give more role to Panchayats;

(d) if so, the details of the schemes which are proposed to be directly implemented by the Panchayati Raj Institutions;

(e) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(f) the details of the centrally sponsored schemes which are currently implemented by the Panchayati Raj Institutions; and

(g) the funds allocated by the Union Government thereon during each of the last three years and current year?

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

(a) and (b) Article 243G of the Constitution provides for the devolution of powers to Panchayati Raj Institutions, including Gram Panchayats, to empower them to function as "institutions of self-government" for the twin purposes of (i) making plans for economic development and social justice for their respective areas, and (ii) implementing programmes of economic development and social justice for their respective areas, and (ii) implementing programmes of economic development of social justice in their respective areas, for subjects devolved to PRIs including those matters listed in the XI Schedule, and subject to such conditions as the State may, by law, specify.

A joint programme of action has been chalked at the Seven Round Tables held from July to December 2004 between the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj and State Ministers of Panchayati Raj to ensure that on the basis of Activity Mapping, Panchayats at various levels are devolved with functions, funds and functionaries to enable them to emerge as institutions of self-government in accordance with Part IX of the Constitution read with Article 243ZD of the Constitution. This has been followed by two meetings of the Committee of Chief Secretaries and Secretaries Incharge of Panchayati Raj in April and June, 2005 and the first meeting of the Council of Ministers of Panchayati Raj at Kochi on the 5th and 6th August, 2005. The meeting focused on the measures taken by the States/UTs for Activity Mapping in order to ensure effective devolution of funds and functionaries commensurate with the devolution of the functions. A Joint Statement of Conclusions was adopted at the meeting. It was unanimously agreed that the States would fix milestones in Activity Mapping and expedite the issue of necessary orders to operationalise the devolution of funds and functions for devolved activities to different tiers of the Panchayati Raj System. A copy of Joint Resolution may be seen at Annex-A.

The Government is launching an initiative for the creation of Rural Business Hubs to draw upon local resource endowments and felt need of the people so as to give a fillip to village enterprises that add value to existing economic activities in rural areas. Under this joint

initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), Uttaranchal, Kerala, Karnataka, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Haryana, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Assam have been initially selected as pilot States for the purpose of facilitating the establishment of such Rural Business Hubs. Representatives from the Ministry/CII have been assigned the responsibility of taking up the facilitation process in the states concerned for Rural Business Hubs to be established in association with Panchayati Raj Institutions. Local CII offices in the states concerned would be actively involved in facilitation at the State level. The first MOU in this regard has been signed between ITC, several fruit processing units and Panchayat representatives from several blocks of Nainital District in Uttaranchal. A copy of the MOU is given in Annexure-B.

The core areas identified for development of Rural Business Hubs are in the field of renewable energy including bio-gas, bio-fuel from *Jatropha* plantation and solar energy, Agro Industries, Agro Processing and Rural Industries including Khadi & Village industries and Textiles, handlooms and handicrafts.

(c) to (e) In pursuance of the directive circulated by the Cabinet Secretariat, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in consultation with the other Ministers concerned and the Planning Commission, is examining new Centrally Sponsored Schemes and guidelines for existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) with a view to ensuring the centrality of Panchayats in the planning and implementation of matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule read with Article 243G of the Constitution. Results of such review are at Annexure-C.

(f) Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) gives a central role to the three tiers of Panchayats to plan, select works and implement the programme of employment generation.

The SGRY is being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development through Panchayats at the levels of District, Block and Village. The main objective of the Scheme is to provide additional wage employment in the rural areas as also food security, along side the creation of durable community, social and economic infrastructure in the rural areas. The resources are allocated in the ratio of 20:30:50 among District, Intermediate and Gram Panchayats respectively. Other schemes assign roles to Panchayati Raj Institutions in varying measures and States

are given an option to implement CSS through the Panchayats. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme mandates and assigns the principal role (see Section 13(1) of the Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha to the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

(g) Details of the funds allocated in respect of Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) are at Annexure-D.

#### ***Annexure 'A'***

*First Meeting of the Council of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj held at Kochi on 5 and 6 August, 2005*

#### **Joint statement on Conclusions arrived at the meeting**

In order to operationalise the provisions of Article 243G of the Constitution, which provides for devolution to empower Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to function as institutions of self-government for making plans and implementing programmes for economic development and social justice the first Round Table of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj held at Kolkata in July 2004 resolved as follows, under the heading, *"Effective Devolution of Functions."*

"the essential step is the identification of activities related to the devolved functions with a view to attributing each of these activities to the appropriate tier of the 3-tier system," (Item III),

"On the basis of the identification of activities relating to devolved functions, and through the application of the principle of the subsidiarity, States/UTs may review/undertake time bound activity mapping with a view to completing this exercise within the fiscal year 2004-05;" (Item V),

"With a view to promoting a measure of irrevocability of devolved functions, devolution may be routed through legislative measures or, alternatively, by providing a strong legislative framework for devolution through executive orders." (Item VIII).

The First Meeting of the Council of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj reviewed the progress in this direction and noted that while in some states, the preliminary work has been completed in terms of the assignment of functions to the three levels of Panchayats, in several more, the matter is pending at the finalization stage.

However, in most States, there is a need to take several more substantive steps in the direction of reforms for strengthening Panchayats in the true letter and spirit of the Constitution. To this end, State Ministers of Panchayati Raj reiterated their commitment to address itself the resolutions of the Kolkata Round Table with all deliberate speed and resolved to accord priority to the specific following steps:

- i. Internal discussions with State departments will be expedited so as to finalise the consensus on activity Mapping within the state. The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj will be informed of the time line for completing this work.
- ii. With respect to those areas where there is a general consensus as to the devolution of functions and activities to all levels of Panchayats, States will expedite the issuing of necessary orders to operationalise the same. Copies of Government orders/Gazette Notifications will be intimated to Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- iii. It is desirable for States to fix milestones in Activity Mapping, and take preparatory steps through dissemination of draft frameworks prepared to the Panchayats, so that they are in a state of preparedness to assume their new responsibilities. The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj may be kept informed of steps being taken in this direction.
- iv. Training programmes for Panchayat members should include special sessions on the scope and implications of Activity Mapping, particularly with reference to their roles in planning and implementation. The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj will extent financial and technological assistance, if asked.
- v. Particular emphasis will be given to training and orientation of officials of various line departments, so that they better understand their role in the changed context of devolution of activities to Panchayats and are better equipped to assume a facilitatory role. The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj will extent financial and technological assistance, if asked.
- vi. For effectively performing the functions devolved to them through Activity Mapping, the Panchayats would need a matching transfer of

funds in respect of the devolved functions. This will require the entrustment of all schemes pertaining to the activities devolved upon Panchayats to the respective levels through the creation of a Panchayat Sector in the State Budget. The State Ministers undertakes to take steps in this direction, so as to meet the deadline agreed upon in the Kolkata Round Table to operationalise the transfer of schemes to Panchayats in the budget of 2006-07. The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj will take into account progress in this regard in the administration of the Panchayat Empowerment Incentive Fund after this is established.

- vii. For Panchayats to effectively plan and implement the functions that have been devolved upon them it is necessary that funds pertaining to these schemes are transferred to them without delay or diversion. As part of this process, States need to put in place systems that are capable of tracking transfers of funds to panchayats, both through Banks and treasuries. This would particularly ensure tagging and tracking of releases—and expenditure of 12th Finance Commission Grants. To this end, Union Ministry of Panchayat Raj will work in close association with the Government, to put in place the required hardware and software.
- viii. States will furnish Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj, details of Activities devolved to Panchayats so as to build a national database in this regard, which would also be of considerable use in devising policies and schemes at the Central level.

The challenges in sustaining the pace of reform will require effective support and close coordination with the Central Government. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj would continue to support and coordinate activity mapping and make the specific following steps.

- i. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj will pursue the devolution of Central funds through united block grants, and systemic reform of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, including the establishment of a Panchayat Empowerment Incentive Fund to bring these in conformity with the constitutional provisions for good governance at the district and sub-district levels as set out in Part IX read with the relevant articles of Part IXA.

- ii. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj agrees to support initiatives in computerization and e-governance of Panchayats in Uttaranchal as part of the National e-Governance Plan.
- iii. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj will continue to provide technical support, wherever necessary, for Activity Mapping. In addition, the Ministry would also provide support for the preparation of material for training programmes that would necessarily follow Activity Mapping in States.
- iv. Fact sheets furnished by States on Activity Mapping and details of innovations and best practices will be disseminated on the National Panchayat Portal.

### ***Annexure 'B'***

#### ***Memorandum of Understanding***

In pursuance of the suggestions made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India at the conference of Chief Ministers on "Rural Prosperity and Poverty Eradication through Panchayati Raj" at New Delhi on 26 June 2004 and as proposed jointly by the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the Government of Uttaranchal and the Confederation of Indian Industry, in order to achieve sustainable economic growth, and for ensuring fair, remunerative and progressively increasing rates of returns to the farmers for their produce by enhancing their global competitiveness, by implementing better farming practices resulting in better productivity and quality, and to check wastage of valuable fruit due to lack of processing and cold chain facilities in (name of the block) Block, District Nainital, Uttaranchal, the establishment of a 'Rural Business Hub' is proposed.

Whereas (Name of the fruit processing unit)

is already, in association with the local Gram Panchayats of the (name of the block) Block, processing locally available fruit into jam and potentially other processed products. The marketing is however limited to the surrounding areas only and therefore the production of the processed products is small. For the procurement of local fruit and the production of the processed products to achieve a scale that would be suitable to improve economic conditions and the standard of life of the people at large in the block, it is necessary that the Panchayati Raj Institutions of the (name of the block) block, District Nainital, Uttaranchal, and (name of the fruit processing unit) tie-up with a major agri-business and marketing entity to explore, develop and implement strategies and action plans to grow the fruits and processed fruit products industry of so that it can enjoy a growing consumer franchise in markets throughout the country and abroad while paying due attention to environmental concerns and sustainable development objectives.

To this end the Zila Parishad of Nainital District, Uttaranchal representing the Panchayati Raj Institutions in (name of the block) Block, at the village and block levels of Nainital District, Uttaranchal, (name of the fruit processing unit) and ITC Limited hereby enter into this Memorandum of Understanding to explore the possibilities and steps necessary to develop the proposition.

Broadly, the following are contemplated to be the primary areas of focus:

1. For Panchayati Raj Institutions and (name of the fruit processing unit):
  - a. Horticulture, fruit farming, plucking, primary storage, etc.
  - b. Processing, manufacturing, packaging, labelling of the packaged product and use of benchmark technology to do the same.
  - c. Implementation of quality standard.
  - d. Cost and efficiency management.
  - e. Any other activity related to or consequent to the above activities.
2. For ITC Limited:
  - a. Strategy advisory services.
  - b. Marketing advisory services, Branding advisory services, Pricing advisory services, and where possible operating services/transactions.
  - c. Demand forecasting and analysis advisory services.
  - d. Suggest new product ideas.
  - e. Suggest international best practices relating to quality, safety and hygiene standards.

In developing this proposal and in accordance with their respective areas of focus as stated above, the parties will explore the scope of the following areas/matters:

- (i) Proposed commercial and contractual arrangements between M/s (name of the fruit processing unit), ITC Ltd or its associates/affiliates/partners and local Panchayati Raj Institutions to organize the growing and plucking of fruit on a scientific basis, bearing in mind the best technological practices available, and emphasizing upon the development of the region's competitive advantages, along with employment-generation and income-enhancement for the people residing in the Block.

- (ii) Developing the use of optimal means of transporting the plucked fruit to the processing unit(s).
- (iii) Developing optimal arrangements for the storage and preservation of the fresh fruit at the processing unit(s) and/or cold chain facilities as required.
- (iv) Establishing/accessing processing units as required within the Block or at other places till the Block's scale merits further investments, to ensure sustainable growth with consequential impact on employment-generation and income-enhancement, bearing in mind the imperatives of enhancing competitive advantages and economies of scale.
- (v) Enabling/providing for technological up-gradation at the farm, handling and factory, combined with strict quality control and optimisation of output.
- (vi) Developing strategies and enabling their implementation for risk mitigation in various forms to ensure that the local produce is put to several different uses and in several different markets, thus achieving a measure of income stability for the region.
- (vii) Developing a distinctive logo/brand for the processed food products from the Block, by creating a geographical identity.
- (viii) Methods and means to generate of awareness about the products through advertisements, social groups, awareness programmes, etc.
- (ix) Strategies for marketing the processed products from the Block, as distinct products and enable wide distribution of the products, in India and abroad.
- (x) Enabling the development of know-how and imparting training in farming, manufacturing/processing activities and implementation of quality standards. Plans to obtain expert advice and share knowledge.
- (xi) Strategies to provide necessary support and/or advisory services to extend training to the farmers and local groups and for improving farming practices, harvest practices, handling and procurement of fruits/raw materials.
- (xii) Co-ordination of research and development in the area of fruit growing, horticulture and processing.
- (xiii) Implementation of best international practices for health, food safety, hygiene, HACCP Certification and traceability in all the operations.

The Neemrana Group will also make its best efforts in transferring know-how and catalysing the establishment and growth of other fruit processing units in the area.

Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding pledge to give priority to the interests of kisans, khet mazdoor and other residents of the Block and to continuously consult with the Panchayati Raj Institutions and the Gram Sabhas in their area of co-operation to towards achieving the objectives outlined in this Memorandum of Understanding.

Signed in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttaranchal and Hon'ble Union Minister of Panchayati Raj at Dehradun on 13 August 2005.

(name of the unit)	ITC Ltd.	Local Panchayat Representative
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### ***Annexure 'C'***

***Table-A: Examination of New Schemes of Various Ministries by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj***

Scheme	Brief Details of MoPR's comments	Outcome
1	2	3
<b>Ministry of Agriculture:</b>		
National Horticulture Mission	Implementation through Panchayats.	States given the choice of involving Panchayats in planning and implementation of the programme. Secretary Panchayati Raj is a member of the Executive Committee at the National level.

1	2	3
Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms	Institutional arrangements to ensure centrality of Panchayats in planning and implementation.	States to devise structures similar to Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) in the implementation of the Programme.
<b>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare:</b>		
National Rural Health Mission	Convergence and rationalization of funding of various schemes pertaining to Health. Panchayats to be made central to implementation.	Accepted in principle. Specific areas of convergence of approach in rural health, giving specific roles to Panchayats at all levels is now to be recommended by separate Task Group set up for the purpose.
<b>Ministry of Rural Development:</b>		
National Rural Employment Guarantee	Planning and implementation through Panchayats; Officers supporting implementation to be accountable to Panchayats at the appropriate level.	These measures have been incorporated into the provisions of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which has been passed by the Lok Sabha.
<b>Ministry of Power:</b>		
Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidutikaran Yojana	Panchayats to be involved in management of distribution of power and electrification in rural areas either individually or as franchisees of distributors/Electricity Board	Sustainability of rural electricity supply through collection of the cost of electricity from the beneficiaries will be achieved through franchisers with appropriate involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions.
<b>Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources:</b>		
Non-Conventional Energy Sources	In Non-Grid areas Panchayats to be involved in generation and distribution of electric power using non-conventional means.	Separate Sub-Committees/Standing Committees within the Panchayats will manage generation and distribution of power using non-conventional energy.
<b>Department of Women and Child Development</b>		
Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)	While implementing the revision of cost norms, the three tiers of Panchayats should be involved on the basis of activity-mapping.	Suggestion noted for consideration by the Department of Women and Child Development.



**Annexure 'D'****Financial and Physical Performance of SGRY**

Sl.No.	Year	Financial Performance (Rs. in crore)				Physical Performance		Employment Generated For SCs/STs	% of SCs/STs Wages
		Central Allocation	Central Release	Total Funds Utilised	Total Wage Employment Generated*	Works Completed (Lakh Nos.)	Foodgrains Released (Lakh MT)		
1.	1999-2000	3479.10	3421.70	4217.88	5465.40	6.98	0	2992.68	54.76
2.	2000-2001	2907.50	2472.84	4086.46	4786.86	10.22	0	2639.76	55.15
3.	2001-2002	3743.60	3788.69	4192.07	5229.78	11.07	34.51	2860.13	54.69
4.	2002-2003	3552.53	3684.64	5000.01	7482.93	14.16	45.26	4146.13	55.41
5.	2003-2004	4120.25	4121.04	5957.75	8560.24	16.89	49.97	4852.26	56.68
6.	2004-2005**	4495.25	4496.19	5911.88	8137.75	16.06	50.00	4519.86	55.54
7.	2005-2005 <sup>§</sup>	5396.50	2298.66	NA	NA	NA	30.73	NA	NA
Total		27694.73	24283.75	29366.05	39662.96	75.39	210.47	22010.82	55.49

Note: 1. Included the figures of SGRY-I & II \* = Lakh Mandays

2. works completed during 1999-2000 relates to JGSY as works completed under EAS are not available.

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the dream of bringing about a betterment in the conditions of the rural areas by means of empowering the Panchayats has been fostered since the time of Mahatma Gandhi and was carried forward by Rajiv Gandhi. Panchayats have always played a prominent role in the rural areas. The rural population has become enthused at being given the chance to participate in the Panchayats and this has been reflected during the Panchayat elections. Every village ought to have a small but powerful government comprising of the rural population. The Union Government has started 29 schemes for the rural areas such as SGRY, SGSY, PMGSY, IAY, Samagra Awas Yojana, Annapurna Yojana, DPAP etc. on which nearly 38 thousand crore rupees are spent annually. Yet, it remains to be seen how the Panchayats in rural areas are proposed to be run.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Recently, a meeting of a meeting of the Council of State Ministers was held in Kochi in August, 2005 where certain suggestions had been given. I would like to ask the government if those suggestions. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You just cannot go on like this without putting a question. He has given the entire information. You put a question. What clarification do you want? You cannot just go on like this.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: I am coming to the question. Have the announcements made and the suggestions given by the Government in the meeting of Council of State Ministers been implemented and are some of the suggestions yet to be implemented? What steps does the Union Government proposes to take regarding such suggestions and by when are the said steps likely to be taken?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the recommendations of the Council have been received on 6-7 August of this year. I would like to state for the information of the House that only 17 days have passed from 6 August to 25 August today. I feel that the State Governments and other departments of the Union Government need to be given some time to act upon the

said recommendations. We want that it should be controlled by the Committee of Secretaries. We shall see at to how far we have been able to implement our recommendations, in the second meeting of the council which we hope to get organised within this year in Bhubaneswar.

We should examine the other centrally sponsored schemes dividing them into two parts—one which are continuing since long and the other which are being newly formulated. The schemes being formulated after 2004 in which we try to contribution are brought under Ministry of Panchayati Raj. You all would have seen that in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill passed last week by this House many amendments were made on account of our contribution. It has been decided that we shall send our representatives to the 20 Ministries mentioned above and try to change those numerous old schemes so that the role of Panchayats may become central and they could be implemented.

**SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention what the Hon. Minister has just said that Gujarat Panchayat Parishad has complained about the schemes launched at Panchayat level by the Central Government in Gujarat. Because the district level officers like DDO, TDO, Director of DARD etc. act according to their whims and wishes without taking single-level panchayats into confidence. A lot of complaints have been received from there. Whether the central government will examine those complaints or issue directions so that Panchayats continue to play important role.

**SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have received a lot of recommendations from Gujarat Panchayat Parishad. I think they have prepared the recommendations diligently. We have sent those recommendations to Gujarat Government to receive their comment. I intend to go to Gujarat in the month of September around 14-15-16. I shall be grateful to Hon. member Jashubhai, if he accompanies me on that tour so that I may present his view before Hon. Chief Minister of Gujarat having understood it.

*[English]*

**SHRI HITEN BARMAN:** Hon. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the Question, the hon. Minister has stated as follows:

"The Government is launching an initiative for the creation of Rural Business Hubs to draw upon local

resource endowments and felt need of the people so as to give a fillip to village enterprises that add value to existing economic activities in rural areas."

Sir, I would like to know, through you, from the Minister whether there is any concrete proposal for setting up Rural Business Hubs in the State of West Bengal. If yes, in which district are they proposed to be set up? if not, is the Minister or the CII contemplating of initiating such a proposal for West Bengal?

**SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR:** Sir, West Bengal has been included among the States where pilot projects in respect of Rural Business Hubs are proposed to be undertaken. Our views have been communicated to the Government of West Bengal, most particularly at the Kochi meeting of the Council of Panchayati Raj Ministers, where the hon. Minister of West Bengal for Panchayati Raj was personally present. I am hoping that now from his side we will be getting details of which are the blocks and which are the products or skills particular to those blocks which he would like us to pose to the Rural business Hubs Council which is co-chaired by myself and Shri Sunil Munjal of the Confederation of Indian Industry. Thereafter, we will attempt to bring major industrial or business houses of India in contact with local operators as well as local panchayati raj institutions to realise such Rural Business Hubs. In this context, I would like to especially draw the attention of the hon. Member to Annex 'B' of the response which I have given in writing where we have presented the copy of the Memorandum of Understanding prepared for the first Rural Business Hub which is expected to be established in Ramgarh block and adjoining blocks of Nainital district. This is the pioneering initiative. We would greatly appreciate the contribution which Members of Parliament, including Shri Hiten Barman, might make towards our realising more and more of these Rural Business Hubs around the country based on this model Memorandum of Understanding which I have circulated through Annex 'B' to my written answer.

**SHRI TAPIR GAO:** Hon. Speaker, Sir, in the answer at the very outset, the hon. Minister has rightly mentioned about more devolution of powers to the panchayati raj elected representatives. Centrally sponsored schemes of the Government of India should be routed through panchayats. In respect of my State, Arunachal Pradesh, devolution of power has not taken place to the panchayati raj elected representatives. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps the hon. Minister is

going to take for such States and Union Territories where there is no power devolution to the panchayati raj elected representatives.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I am very happy to inform the hon. Member that his predecessor in this House in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, who is today the Minister-in-charge of Panchayati Raj in Arunachal Pradesh, the hon. Shri Jarbom Gamlin has given me the strong assurance that all the lacunae, which do admittedly exist in Arunachal Pradesh largely because the first round of elections was held only recently and was almost immediately followed by a change of Government in his home State, will be addressed. I am hoping that in the month of October, I would be making a visit to Arunachal Pradesh, and at the conclusion of that we will arrive at a joint statement with the Government of Arunachal Pradesh on what are the important key steps to be taken in the immediate future. But the work programme of the Government of Arunachal Pradesh in this regard will be based, as indeed will have to be the work programme of all other States, on this Compendium of Resolutions at the 7th Round Table, a copy of which I have circulated earlier to every single Member of Parliament. I would request all Members of Parliament, including the hon. Member who has asked this supplementary, to harass their respective State Governments to ensure that these recommendations which are consensus recommendations are implemented as soon as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prasanta Pradhan, put your supplementary.

SHRI PRASANTA PRADHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Panchayati Raj idea is very established, popular and decentralised one regarding the utilisation of water for the purpose of drinking, agriculture, fisheries, social forestry, etc. We are mostly dependent on underground water by digging oil tube well, deep tube well, and mini tube well. So, in future, there will be crisis in the country. I have a question to hon. Minister. Will the hon. Minister in-charge formulate a programme throughout the country for using surface water instead of underground water for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, drinking and other purposes through Panchyats?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, the schemes with respect to rural drinking water are being sponsored by a whole panoply of Central Ministries. These include the Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, and above all, the Ministry of Rural Development. Apart from

several modifications to such Central Schemes and individual Schemes of State Governments, it is our hope that we will be able to rationalize all these Schemes with the aim of ensuring the centrality of Panchayati Raj Institutions in their planning and implementation. I am deeply convinced that once we get the institutional structure right, that is, once we ensure the centrality of the PRIs, we will be able to achieve more efficiently than hitherto the noble goals of these Drinking Water Missions.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister has told in his reply that the Government is launching an initiative for the creation of Rural Business Hubs to draw upon local resource endowments and felt need of the people so as to give a fillip to village enterprises that add value to existing economic activities in rural areas. Rural Business Hubs are being set up on joint initiative of Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Confederation of Indian Industries and NCCI and some of the states have been selected for this. I welcome your selection of states which includes Uttaranchal, Kerala, Karnataka, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Haryana, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Assam, etc.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question?

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I want to know as to what is the basis of their selection? On what criteria these have been selected? There are many other states in the country for example—Bihar is a backward state, where the condition of villages is very bad. There is no commercial centre at all there. Would you like to select such states? Would you like to set up Business Hubs in Bihar and other backward states for the development of villages?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I want to include all the states and union territories in it. I do not have any objection if some effort is made from Bihar and someone contacts me. But we have not included Bihar for the time being, as presently it is not being governed by an elected Government. I was hoping that we shall contact the Government which will come in power after election. ...*(Interruptions)* I do not have any problem, if any suggestion is made to us from Raj Bhawan. We

have not included it, as it is a democratic effort.  
...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: But why should Bihar suffer for it. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I do not have any problem. If Ram Kripalji places any proposal before us. If he does so, we are almost ready to implement the same. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister is not against Bihar. They will be set up there after election.

[*English*]

Hon. Members, we have decided to allow only four supplementaries. But in view of the importance of the subject, I am allowing a few more hon. Members. Please be brief to the point so that we can have more questions.

Now, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav to put the supplementary. I am saying that relevance and brevity both are great virtues.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Zila Parishads are the nodal point of Panchayati Raj System. The schemes formulated by the Government are implemented and the funds provided are utilised through Panchayats. But the situation is that the indirect elections were held for the members of District Panchayat after the enactment of that law. When hon. Rajnath Singh was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has suggested to conduct direct elections for the Members of District Panchayats. But today people who are wealthy and have criminal background influence the Members of District Panchayats by bribing them with vehicles and money upto to Rs. 50 lakh and thus an undeserving person become the Chairman of Zila Parishad. I would like to know from hon. Minister whether he would bring an constitution amendment bill for holding direct election of the Chairman of District Panchayats so as to fulfil the objective with which the Panchayati Raj bill was introduced and enacted.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I think it is our duty to put the constitutional provisions into practice. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been pin pointed that all the elections of District Panchayats are held indirectly. This criticism is

unfounded. Sir, in your state this system is being followed for years and you can appreciate that if we start holding direct elections in each district which is generally comprised of the constituency of two MPs, how much money one will have to be spent on such elections. That is why we gave serious thought to it and concluded that if you do not agree with the constitution, then I leave it for you to see whether majority will support your view or present system in this House. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mayors are elected directly and certain good political workers may be exception but good political. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Your suggestion is for changing the law. The hon. Minister has given reply to your question. No doubt, all the proposals are constantly under consideration.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Such people come only to few places.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: That is why we want to know whether he would like to bring an constitution amendment bill in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singhji please speak, but except Bihar.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has told in his reply that he is going to contact 20 departments and wants this work to be done under Panchayati Raj System. At present mainly the works of Wealth, Education, Rural Development Departments are being carried out. Since the Panchayati Raj System has been implemented, a problem has cropped up in many states especially in Bihar. Earlier BDO used to respect the representatives of Panchayats and at present there is incessant tussle between BDO and Pradhan alleging each other for demanding higher percentage. In such circumstances I would like to know whether a committee at central level has been constituted to monitor and find out as to when extent funds being provided have been utilized.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you constitute any committee?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, sorry I shall not accept that allegation till production of any evidence in this regard. You all know that. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Hon. Minister do not have any kind of knowledge at all? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. I again request you to please sit down. This is most regrettable.

[*English*]

This is very important time period.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you talking? What are you gaining by speaking that way? There are several provisions here to correct a wrong question, you please submit a notice for it. You have the right to ask question and the Minister has the right to answer. If you do not like the reply then how the House will run in this manner.

[*English*]

You say you will consider this.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we raise questions for seeking its reply but hon'ble Minister is giving impractical reply.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: No, please. Then I will stop. I will go to the next question. I am allowing many more hon. Members. If it is misused, then I will go to the next Question.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please be quite. I know all of you are concerned for Panchayat. Therefore, all these allegations are coming.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Hon. Speaker, Sir, we are prepared in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj that

the complaints received by members personally or the lapses brought to our notice by the members of the Standing Committee or advisory committees, should be inquired into. It is our daily job to remain in contact with the State Governments and their representatives attended our all the round table conferences and all the recommendations are thereafter forwarded to the State Governments and no State Governments has raised any objection thereto. But saying here that everything is being done by us, is not correct and it should not be taken so also. I strongly feel that it would be improper. But still if there is any evidence then it should be brought forward and at the same time, the implementation of Panchayati Raj is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments especially in the matters of law and order.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Q. No. 423. You are misusing the opportunity. Q. No. 423.

Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot. Mr Sibal will answer. I was going to give more opportunities but you have been misusing it. No, I am sorry. I will not allow misuse of this. Yes, hon. Member, put your supplementary.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I gave the opportunity to your leader to speak.

[*English*]

I have got 27 names here. You expect 27 plus 2 ordinary questions. How can I allow twenty nine hon. Members to put their supplementaries on one main Question?

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You please ask your leader not to raise his hand.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Panchayati Raj system is very important in India. Panchayat is an important agency for implementation of the Central as well as State Governments' schemes. It needs to be discussed in detail.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow a full discussion one day on Panchayat. You come with a proper motion.

[Translation]

but you people are not doing that.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Sir, tell me any date.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We can fix second day of the Winter Session.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Why can you not fix day after tomorrow?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is O.K.

[Translation]

#### **Uplinking of T.V. Channels**

\*423. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of television channels operating in the country at present;

(b) the number of companies permitted to uplink T.V. channels from India during the last three years;

(c) whether a number of proposals of various companies seeking permission to uplink their T.V. channels from India are pending with the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

(a) The Ministry has so far permitted 161 private TV channels to be uplinked from India. Besides, a number of channels that are uplinked from abroad, are also available for viewing in India.

(b) Forty four (44) companies have been permitted to uplink their TV channels from India since 1st August, 2002.

(c) and (d) As on date, proposals of the following 24 companies are at various stages of scrutiny:

1. Lok Prakashan Ltd.
2. Positive TV Pvt. Ltd.
3. Winning Edge Communication Ltd.
4. Bollywood Infotainment Pvt. Ltd.
5. Kohinoor Broadcasting Corporation Ltd.
6. SAB Samachar Ltd.
7. Dakshin Media Gaming Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
8. In Cablenet (Andhra) Ltd.
9. Value Vision Broadcasting Pvt. Ltd.
10. Brindavan Television Network Ltd.
11. Jain Studios Ltd.
12. New Delhi Television Ltd.
13. Coaxswain Technologies Ltd.
14. Raj Television Network Ltd.
15. Times Global Broadcasting Co. Ltd.
16. Yash Satellite Industries (P) Ltd.
17. Sangeet Bangla Network (P) Ltd.
18. Avanti Media Pvt. Ltd.
19. Mavis Satcom Ltd.
20. Global Broadcast News Pvt. Ltd.
21. Channel Bharat Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.
22. Independent News Services (P) Ltd.
23. TV Today Network Ltd.
24. MD TV Pvt. Ltd.

(e) No definite time frame can be indicated.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker Sir, I had asked as to how many channels are operating at present, the hon'ble Minister has not given complete information about it. He has just told that 161 channels

have been uplinked. Perhaps, there is difference in the terminology somewhere. I wish to know from hon'ble Minister as to how many Indian and foreign channels are operating in the country.

*[English]*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have mentioned in our reply that 161 private channels are functioning in our country which are uplinked from India. there are almost an equal number of channels which are being downlinked from abroad but they are not registered.

*[Translation]*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker Sir, I had asked the hon'ble Minister as to how many channels are operating in the country but the hon'ble Minister repeated the same reply that 161 channels have been uplinked. Uplinking and how many channels are operating are two different connotations ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: He is saying that.

*[Translation]*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: He has not told about the number of T.V. channels operating in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Truth will be repeated.

*[Translation]*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: The hon'ble Minister has not given any information as to how many T.V. channels are operating.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Can you give us?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: These 161 channels are only the channels which are operating and uplinked from India, and almost an equal number of channels are being downlinked from abroad but they are not registered in India.

MR. SPEAKER: How can he say so?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: There cannot be more specific answer on that.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to your second supplementary.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Laughs.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for this laughter.

*[Translation]*

This is also good.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, reply is not being given to the question asked. You may ask for reply later on. You may allow half-an-hour discussion.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You may be satisfied with the second answer.

*[Translation]*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: There is a provision in the Cable Regulation Act that prohibits the display of obscenity in programmes and advertisements showing consumption of narcotics while granting permission for uplinking. Such rules are being bypassed despite them being in black and white. Day after day obscenity is being displayed through the programmes being aired by all the TV channels in the whole country. I would like to ask the hon. Minister about the action taken by this Government in this regard, the number of complaints received by him in this regard alongwith the action taken in regard thereto? Uplinking of channels has been allowed without following the rules and regulations. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever you are saying will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you speaking? Hon. Minister will give you reply only after you take your seat. Shri

Ganesh Singh ji, please take your seat. You should come here and choose who will ask the supplementary question.

*[English]*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in fact, we have a Programme and Advertising Code which is applicable to all the channels that are uplinked from India, and that Programme and Advertising Code is implemented effectively. By and large, all those channels which are uplinked from India follow a Programme and Advertising Code.

*[Translation]*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have authorised Kapil ji to reply as an acting Minister but it seems that he has not been able to do his homework well.

MR. SPEAKER: You may give Half-an-Hour discussion on it.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Hon. Minister is a very good lawyer and I respect him.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You have to be a little sympathetic towards him.

*[Translation]*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Perhaps he may not have found time for preparation.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You do not annoy any *vakil*. You may have to go to him one day.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, though we find, over the years various people generating programmes are in a position to show that they have adhered to the Programme and Advertising Code, in actual practice they do not. This is one point which we have to consider very seriously because what is before us is altogether a different picture.

But my question would be confined to one point and that is, there are various programmes which are not uplinked from India but are generated in India. The

programmes are created here and they have their mechanisms to uplink the programmes from elsewhere and, therefore, they obviate the necessity of the imposition of our codes or our law on them. Nevertheless, those programmes are beamed into India and are shown in every household in India. What are we planning to do about that and are we able to do something about that in the present law or will we have to amend our law for that?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, let me just bifurcate this into two issues. One is the news and current affairs programmes, the other is the entertainment programmes. As far as news and current affairs programmes are concerned, by and large, now the news and current affairs programmes are generated in India and uplinked from India, but there are some channels which are allowed to take these programmes, send them across and then they are uplinked from abroad. Those also are registered in India. Then, there are entertainment programmes that, perhaps, are uplinked from abroad. I think what we need is, by and large, a Broadcasting Regulatory Authority Act. The Government is considering ways and means, actually contemplating that legislation and as and when that is finalised, we will bring it before the House.

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that presently there are 161 TV channels in India which require separate dishes to be installed for watching them. Lot of expenditure needs to be incurred on them. Therefore, I want to know from the hon. Member whether there is any scheme of the Government under which we can watch all the channels through the single Indian ISRO satellite and thus save crores of rupees to be spent on installation of separate dishes and showing channels through foreign satellite?

*[English]*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, in fact, we have strict guidelines to this effect. Many channels which are shown in India have got private arrangements with other satellites and what we do is that we ensure that those satellites are coordinated with INSAT. As long as they are coordinated with INSAT, the Government's policy is, they are allowed to show the programmes in India and I do not think there should be a change in that policy because in that process more and more investments are being made.



SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a number of channels which are already operational in India are telecasting programme sand propagating violence and indecent exposures of women. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether the Government will agree to impose a precondition before issuance of licence to them so that no such programme is telecast. If not, I would like to know the proposals of the Government to ban such programmes.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, the real problem arises in respect of programmes which are generated outside India and have nothing to do with India, but then are shown through cable television network within the country. Most of the issues that the hon. Member is talking about is pursuant to that generation of those programmes outside India. The problem is that we have no such guidelines in place so far in order to regulate those programmes. We are thinking of having downlinking guidelines, to put them in place to ensure that both obscenity and violence are taken care of and they are regulated. As and when we bring the Broadcasting Regulatory Authority Bill before this House and that becomes a law, these issues will be squarely addressed and I compliment the hon. Member for having raised these issues.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Koya.

DR. P.P. KOYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, can I give the chance to my neighbour, my colleague? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you like to put a supplementary?

DR. P.P. KOYA: Yes Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I did not say 'Kya', but only 'Koya' ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this, new things are coming up?

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: What is the problem? I cannot understand.

DR. P.P. KOYA: Sir, I have no problem. Anyway, let me start.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good neighbourliness, but it is not permitted here. Then, you do not want to put a question. Very well.

DR. P.P. KOYA: I am asking the question, Sir.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask. What is this, it has come up as a new method.

[*English*]

DR. P.P. KOYA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister regarding giving permission to the channels. It is clear from the question and the answer given that there are so many channels which are waiting for permission to uplink and downlink. What is the main criteria on which they are giving permission or they are turning down the permission?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the policy is laid down by the Government of India, and the policy framework is this. For companies who want to get registered in India, the foreign equity—that is the FDI—allowed is 26 per cent, and 51 per cent share of the company must be held by Indian shareholders. so, 51 per cent equity control by Indians and 26 per cent FDI can come in, and three-fourths of the Management or three-fourths of the Board of Directors must be Indian Directors. Within the parameters of this framework, the policy is being implemented.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that information of all kinds is being exchanged in the whole country through various channels whether it is a news channel or some other channel. The secret activities in the country, whether it is making preparations for 15th August or such other acts which should not be shown by the media, is seen by both the people as well as the terrorists. News channels are showing things which should not be shown. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he will put a check on TV channels so that such programmes are not aired/telecast? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This question pertains to uplinking. What are you doing?

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Whether action will be taken to prevent showing the activities of our intelligence agencies on TV?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Same answer will be there. Mr. Minister, you have already answered a similar question.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: It is a similar question, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. He has answered a similar question.

Dr. Koya, now I am giving the chance to your neighbour. Do not talk amongst yourselves.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, channels having uplinking facilities are exhibiting obscenity. I would like to know, through you, from the hon. Minister whether they have any measure to prevent such broadcasting by way of filing prosecution under the penal provisions.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the Government of India policy is concerned, we do not allow any uplinking of any kind of obscenity. Most of these obscene programmes are coming from outside which are then shown through cable network television to people. Within the agreements that cable network television people have, and within the code of conduct that they are to follow, one of the conditions—both in the licence agreement and the code of conduct—is that any obscenity is subject to the laws in India, and the laws in India are the penal code. So, those people can be prosecuted

under the penal code. We want to do more than that. We want to be in a position where we can in fact cancel that licence. When the regulatory Act will come, we will also be in a position to cancel the licence. Once the law is made—the law has to be made—we will also be entitled to cancel the licence.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to compliment the hon. Minister for helping his colleague.

*[Translation]*

#### **Rail Connectivity to Ports**

\*424. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received some proposals from some major ports authorities in the country to provide better rail connectivity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### **Statement**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of the proposals received from major ports and action taken by Ministry of Railways are provided in the table below:

Major Port	Project	Action by Ministry of Railways
Mumbai Port	Construction of Dedicated Freight Line between Kurla-Wadala cost to be borne by Port Trust.	On request of Port Trust survey has been taken up.
Cochin Port	Rail connectivity to International Container Transshipment Terminal at Vallarpadam island.	Survey has already been conducted by Ministry of Railways. Cochin Port Trust has been advised to execute the project at their own cost in view of project being financially unviable.
Ennore Port	Attipattu-Puttur New Line	Survey has already been completed. Project is financially unviable.

However, Ministry of Railways under National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY) had identified certain works for strengthening the Port connectivity. These works are being implemented by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL). Some of the major project, which will strengthen port connectivity of major ports include Panvel-Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) Double Line for JNPT Port; Nergundi-Cuttak-Raghunathpur Double Line, Haridaspur-Paradeep New Line & Banspani-Daitari New Line for Paradeep Port; Hassan-Mangalore Gauge Conversion for New Mangalore port; Gandhidham-Palanpur Gauge Conversion for Kandla Port; and Panskura-Haldia Double Line for Haldia Port.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is my first supplementary. Out of the many demands made by the Port Authority to give connectivity to their ports, their proposals regarding Cochin Port and Ennore port has been rejected questioning their commercial and financial viability. I would like to ask from Hon. Minister as to what was the view of Port authority in this regard? Has Railway conducted any such survey to increase its commerce or finance? Paradeep in Orissa handles the maximum quantity of goods. The waiting list for railway wagons required by ships is longest here Hon. Minister have facts regarding this and he also gave a reply in this regard. Will hon. Minister try to complete at war footing the Banspani-Daitari, Nirgaundi-Cuttak-Raghunathpur, Haridaspur-Paradeep lines connecting Paradeep by allocating special funds for this purpose?

[*English*]

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, the first part of the Question relates to Cochin and Ennore. These are the projects which have been evaluated only to find that they are uneconomical. In regard to Ennore, the rate of return is. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You have said that. No reason can be given.

He wanted to know when will you take up the Paradip project.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, the hon. Member knows very well about this. Out of six projects related to Paradip, two have been completed. In regard to Haridaspur project, out of 86 villages, land acquisitions have been completed in respect of 46 villages. We have spent already Rs. 28

crore. A Special Purpose Vehicle is being formed. The Memorandum of Understanding has been reached in which the stakeholders—the Orissa Government, the Railways through RVNL—are participant in the Special Purpose Vehicle. That will also be taken up as soon as land acquisitions are over.

Regarding Nergundi and other projects, these projects will be completed by 2006. Regarding Keonjhar-Daitari project, it is in progress and will be completed in a reasonable time.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the new line Bimalgarh-Talcher which connects iron-ore area to Paradeep, and also Rourkela Steel Plant, the Ministry of Railway allocated five crore rupees two years ago which has not been spent so far. Is the Ministry paying special attention to connect all these four projects by also including this project? By which time funds will be provided and by which time the work will be completed? I would like to know this from hon. Minister?

[*English*]

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, regarding the Talcher-Bimalgar project, first of all let me clarify that it is not a port connectivity project. However, I would like to give some information. This project costs about Rs. 726.96 crore. We have made a budget allocation of Rs. 5 crore. Already field location survey has been completed. So, this work will be in progress as and when the resources are made available. As of now, a sum of Rs. 5 crore has been allotted this year.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Sir, there is a proposal for laying a railway line from Obulavaripalli to Krishnapattanam to connect Krishnapattanam port, which is a newly developing port in Andhra Pradesh. Preliminary engineering and traffic survey and other two other surveys have been conducted and all have found that the proposal is viable and profitable.

Sir, as per the railway norms, for laying a railway line around 14 per cent rate of return is required whereas this project will give around 16.48 per cent rate of return. As it is a viable and profitable project, why is the Government delaying this project? I would like to know when the Minister is going to sanction money for this project.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, I share the concern of the hon. Member. In fact, that is a viable project. It is going to cut short about 100 kilometres, and the Memorandum of Understanding is being processed and is in the advanced state. I assure the hon. Member that it will be signed very shortly and the project will start.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mahtab, please be brief.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I have a very pointed question. The Minister has just said that Nergundi-Raghunathpur line connecting the Paradip port will be completed by 2006, which is not a fact.

There is no money in the Budget, and the second railway bridge over River Mahanadi is yet to start. They do not have the money.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Where is the money? I would like to know where from the money would be provided for the construction of the second railway bridge over Mahanadi.

MR. SPEAKER: Where is the money for this project? The Finance Minister has come.

SHRI R. VELU: As I have already told, this is a Port connectivity project and only a small portion is left. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is his responsibility to get the money. Why are you bothered?

SHRI R. VELU: I will find the resources.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia. This is the last question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Panskura-Haldia line connecting Haldia Port has become over-saturated. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government is considering to take up the work of doubling of this line under Rail Vikas Nigam.

MR. SPEAKER: You say 'yes' or 'no'.

SHRI R. VELU: We will definitely take it up. These are in two phases. The first phase is going on. It will be completed. As soon as it is completed, the second phase

is proposed to be taken up. I assure the hon. Member that your request will be complied with.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ananth Kumar, I am sorry. I will give you chance next time. You see, I am being rightly commented upon that I speak too much although as a Speaker, I should not speak. But you see, why I have to speak. In the absence of the Leader of the Opposition, it seems that I have to speak.

Question Hour is over.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[English]*

### Agreement between Oil India Limited and Venezuelan Company

\*425. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil India Ltd. and a Venezuelan Company propose to start a pilot project on heavy oil exploration in the Jaisalmer-Bikaner Basin and to prepare blocks for crude oil exploitation in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether any talks have been held between representatives of these companies;

(c) if so, details and outcome thereof; and

(d) the time by which the works on these projects are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) On 29.11.2002, Oil Indian Limited (OIL) entered into a contract with M/s. PDVSA-INTEVEP, the National Oil Company of Venezuela, to implement a pilot project on heavy oil exploration in the Baghewala field of the Bikaner-Nagaur Basin in Rajasthan. The Venezuelan Company is not associated with OIL in the exploration for oil and gas in any other block in Rajasthan.

The contract provides for consultancy services and technical collaboration, including supervision for detailed

engineering studies of the Baghewala block, leading to pilot plant experiment, design and the preparation of a development plan for heavy oil exploration in two phases.

PDVSA-INTEVEP have completed Phase-I of the pilot study and have submitted their final report covering integrated reservoir studies. Based on this report, OIL have initiated action to drill one pilot well in Phase-II and undertake further studies.

(d) The drilling of the pilot well is expected to commence by October 2005.

*[Translation]*

#### **Fleet Acquisition for Indian Airlines**

\*426. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH:  
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Group of Ministers (GoM) or a Committee of Secretaries to oversee the fleet acquisition proposal of the Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(d) the steps taken for speedy clearance of the acquisition proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

*[English]*

#### **Undercharging of Lease Rent**

\*427. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of undercharging lease rent from some private parties by the Airports Authority of India has come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the loss of revenue as a result thereof;

(d) the reasons for undercharging of lease rent from the private parties;

(e) the action taken against the persons responsible for such lapses; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A few cases of undercharging of lease rent by Airports Authority of India (AAI) have come to the notice of the Government on the basis of Audit Report. Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) Audit Para No. 4.1.4, Report No. (3) of 2001 indicates that at Hyderabad Airport by allotting space at a lower rate AAI had to forego revenue. Another C&AG Audit Para 2.1.1, Report No. (3) of 2004 (Commercial) indicates loss of revenue pertaining to lease agreement by AAI with respect to Hotel Corporation of India (HCI), a subsidiary of Air India which was subsequently disinvested.

(d) Fixation of land lease rate by the Hyderabad Airport at a lower rate was an irregularity. As far as the matter relating to Mumbai Airport Centaur is concerned, the Airport Centaur to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for an inquiry.

(e) For the matter relating to Hyderabad Airport lease agreement, investigation has been carried out and major penalty charge-sheet have been issued to the concerned officials. A recordable warning has already been issued to one official. In addition, action under Public Premises Eviction (PPE) Act has also been taken by the AAI. The Estate Officer has passed an order for eviction. The order has been challenged and party obtained stay. The matter is subjudice. In the matter regarding Mumbai Airport Centaur, a preliminary inquiry registration report has been registered by CBI.

(f) AAI has decided to appoint a Consultant to rationalize the whole policy of lease rental, escalation etc. A process of computerization of land record has also been started. The progress in this regard is periodically reviewed.

*[Translation]***Drug Addiction**

\*428. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:  
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHTO:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the growing menace of drug addiction in the country, particularly among children and students;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measure taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the growing menace of drug addiction;

(d) the funds allocated and released to Voluntary Organisations (VOs)/Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in this regard during the current year, VO/NGO-wise;

(e) the number of existing drug de-addiction centres in the country and the number of such centres to be opened during 2005-06, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(f) the details of proposals received from VOs/NGOs in this regard during the current year and funds allocated/released thereunder, VO/NGO-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) There is no authentic data to indicate that there is a

growing menace of drug addiction in the country particularly among children and students, as no timeline data for benchmarking is available. However, students at the secondary/higher Secondary level are vulnerable to slipping into drug abusing behaviour due to stress factors, peer influence etc. It is felt that educating them on the ill effects of drug abuse through appropriate inputs in the school curricula can help reduce the element of risk of succumbing to this vice. Efforts are being made to augment the curricula accordingly. Further to curb Narcotic trade and drug paddling in the country, the Narcotics Control Bureau conducts surveillance and enforcement at import and export points, land border, airports and foreign post offices etc. and also makes intensive preventive and interdiction efforts along known drug routes. Intensive publicity campaign has been launched to educate public about ill effects of drug abuse and smoking and also disseminating the provisions of the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003, especially the provisions relating to sale of cigarette and tobacco products to minors has also within a radius of one hundred yards of any educational institution. The Ministry also funds voluntary organizations that are running awareness programmes in the area of drug abuse prevention. These organizations covers schools and colleges under their outreach programmes.

(d) to (f) The funds allocated and released to VOs/NGOs during the current year, the number of existing drug de-addiction centres in the country and the details of proposals received from VOs/NGOs for opening de-addiction centres during the current year are given in enclosed Statement I, II & III respectively.

**Statement I**

*List of NGOs who have received grant-in-aid under the scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs Abuse) during the year 2005-06 (upto 17.8.2005)*

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Name and Address of the NGO	Name of the Project	Grant released during 2005-06 (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Peoples Action for Social Service, Tirupati West, Door No. 10-12, Maruthi Nagar, West Chittoor.	De-addiction Centre	3.40
2.		Rural Organisation For Social Activities (Rosa), Mantherivari Palem-Post Pitinavani Palem Mandal, Guntur.	De-addiction Centre	6.35

1	2	3	4	5
3.		Sneha Mahila Mandali, Flat No. 103, Satya Apts. Chappal Bazar, Kachiguda, Hyderabad	De-addiction Centre	3.40
4.		A.P. Girjana Sewak Sangh, Chandamamapet Nandigama-521185, Krishna	De-addiction Centre	3.40
5.	Bihar	Indian Institute of Rural Reconstruction and Social Change, East Gandhi Bazar, Jehanabad, Jehanabad	De-addiction Centre	3.40
6.		Alp-Sankhyak Avam Harijan Samaj Kalyan Kendra, Datta Kambal Shah Road, Muzaffarpur-842001, Muzaffarpur	De-addiction Centre	3.40
7.		Jagran, 55, M.I.G. Kanker Bagh, Patna+C41	De-addiction Centre	3.40
8.		Sister Nivedita Memorial Trust, Forum No. 18, Gandhi College, Jakkanpur, Panta-1, Patna	De-addiction Centre	3.31
9.		Youth Mobilisation for National Advancement, 303, Himgiri Bhawan, Anandpuri Boring Canal Road, Patna, Patna	De-addiction Centres-2	3.40
10.	Chhattisgarh	Society for Social Services, Bhilai, Drug.	De-addiction Centre	3.00
11.	Haryana	Haryana State Council for Child Welfare, Bai Vikas Bhawan, 650 Sector 16-D, Chandigarh	De-addiction Centre and Counselling Centre	18.95
12.		Indian Red Cross Society, Red Cross Bhawan, Sector-12, Faridabad.	De-addiction Centre	2.86
13.		Indian Red Cross Society, Distt. Red Cross Society, Fatehabad	De-addiction Centre	3.00
14.		Amar Jyoti Foundation, Jind, Assistant Treasury Office, 1st Floor, Jhulana, Jind-126102	De-addiction Centre	6.80
15.		Indian Red Cross Society, Red Cross Bhawan, Jind	De-addiction Centre	3.09
16.		Indian Red Cross Society, Red Cross Bhawan, Rohtak	De-addiction Centre	3.40
17.		Modern Education Society, Mandouri Road, Village Mandoura, Distt. Sonapat	De-addiction Centre	3.40
18.	Himachal Pradesh	National Council for the Development of Nature & Human Values and Prevention of Crime, Nahan	De-addiction Centre	3.32
19.	Jammu & Kashmir	Society for the Promotion of Youth and Masses, Mashwara Hospital, Kahnool Road, Jammu	De-addiction Centre	3.36
20.	Karnataka	Calm Society, 46, Hessarghatta Road, Dasarahalli, Bangalore.	De-addiction Centre	2.13
21.		Seva Sangama, No. 1163, 80, Feet Road, Prakash Nagar, Bangalore	De-addiction Centre	3.67
22.		Nittur Education Society, Nittur (B) Tq. Balki, Bidar	De-addiction Centre	4.59
23.		Sri Shakthi Association, Guttur Colony, Harihar-577601, Davangere	De-addiction Centre	4.72

1	2	3	4	5
24.		Sri Maitri Association, Sugar Factory Road, Doddabathi (P.O.), Davangere	De-addiction Centre	4.99
25.		Abyuda Centre for Humanity a Rural Development, No. 2516, 9th Cross, S.S. Puram, Tumkur.	De-addiction Centre	4.79
26.		Mother's Care Education Society, Bangalore	De-addiction Centre	3.67
27.		Priyadarshini Medical and Educational Trust, No. 1, Hosagalli, Main Road, Padarayanapura, Bangalore	De-addiction Centre	7.34
28.	Kerala	Calicut Dioceses Social Service Society, St. Michael's Church, West Hill, Calicut.	De-addiction Centre	3.08
29.		Pratheeksha Deaddiction Centre, Makkuttam Temple Gate P.O. Thalassery-670102.	De-addiction Centre	3.40
30.		Changnacherry Social Service Society, P.B. No. 20, Archbishop House, Kottayam, Changnacherry, Changanachary	De-addiction Centre & Counselling Centre	6.80
31.		Malankara Orthodox Syrian Mission Hospital, Kolenchery, Emakulam-682 311.	De-addiction Centre	2.92
32.		Nirmal Niketan Mukti Sadan, S.N. Junction, Tripunithura, Kochi-682 301.	De-addiction Centre	3.51
33.		Unity Group, Villor Road, Petta, S.N. Junction Tripunithura, Kochi,	De-addiction Centre	3.21
34.		Alcohol & Drug Addicts Research Rehabilitation, Pala, P.O. Kottayam-686 575.	De-addiction Centre	2.92
35.		Trada, Manganam, P.O. Kottayam-686018.	De-addiction Centre & Counselling Centre	2.92
36.		Social Action Forum, XII, 117 Aloor, Thrissur.	De-addiction Centre & Counselling Centre	3.43
37.		Sreeniketan Centre for Social Development, Chathanloor, Quilon-691572	De-addiction Centre	3.40
38.		Trivandrum Social Service Society, Trivandrum	De-addiction Centre	3.24
39.	Madhya Pradesh	Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Shiksha Samiti Gwalior, Ameja Market, Naugaja Road, Shinde Ki Chhawani, Lakshkar, Gwalior-474 001.	De-addiction Centre	3.51
40.		New Pratap Shiksha Samiti, Bhopal	De-addiction Centre at Seohore	3.62
41.	Maharashtra	Dharma Samanway Maharashi Shri Sant Gulabrao Maharaj Warkari Vikas Va Shikshan Sanshta, Karta, Tq Anjanganv, Surji, Amravati, Amravati	De-addiction Centre	6.80



1	2	3	4	5
42.		Jay Vishwakarma Sarvodaya Sanstha, N-9,L-152/04, Cidco, Aurangabad-431001, Aurangabad	De-addiction Centre	3.40
43.		Bharatiya Aushadhi Anusandhan Sanstha, At. Post. Khapa Tumsar, Bhandara	De-addiction Centre	3.36
44.		Janhitaya Mandal, C/o Paliwal Polyclinic, Bapupeth, Chanderpur-442403, Chanderpur	De-addiction Centre	3.40
45.		Navjivan Vidya Vikas Mandal, Dhule	De-addiction Centre	3.40
46.		Sri Tirupati Education and Cultural Trust Ramnagar, Wadibhokar Road, Deapur, Dhule-424 002	De-addiction Centre-2 (Dhule & Aurangabad)	3.40
47.		Gramin Jan Seva Shikshan Sanstha, Nardana, TL- Shindkheda, Dhule	De-addiction Centre	3.40
48.		Kagal Education Society, 115-A, Amrika Sadan, 'Khardekar Chowk, Kagal, Tal. Kagal, Kolhapur	De-addiction Centre	3.40
49.		Jeevan Rekha Pratiasthan, 2nd Floor Abbad Complex Ambajogai Road, Latur	De-addiction Centre	4.86
50.		Shree Ganesh Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Priyadarshini Chowk, Khadgaon-413 531, Latur	De-addiction Centre	3.40
51.		Sewa Dhan, Hospital Building Bharwadi, iv Floor, Andheri (W), Mumbai	De-addiction Centre & Counselling Centre	2.05
52.		Ekatmakta Samajik Shikshan Mandal, Dr. Gazhghate Bhawan, K-49, Ambedkar Nagar, Nagpur	De-addiction Centre	3.40
53.		Unnatishel Mahila Mandal, Ravi Bhavan, Ganesh Nagar Road, Nanded	De-addiction Centre	6.80
54.		Muktangan Mitra, Krishna Patrakar Nagar, Punr, Pune	De-addiction Centre-2 & Counselling Centre & RRTC	10.84
55.		Nehru Yuva Kendra, Sholapur	De-addiction Centre	3.23
56.		Ahilyadevi Shikshan Prasarak and Bahuudeshiya Mandal, Lambhade Bhavan, Sukrawar Peth, Washim-444505, Washim	De-addiction Centre	3.40
57.		Lokseva Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Chatari Tq. Umarkhed Chatari Distt. Yavatmal, Yavatmal	De-addiction Centre	3.40
58.		Bhagirathi Education Society, T.K. Krushnkamal Complex, Near Shivaji High School, Dhule-1.	De-addiction Centre	3.40
59.	Manipur	Manipur Rural Institute Society, Tera Bazar, Sapam Leikai, Imphal	De-addiction Centre	3.59

1	2	3	4	5
60.		Galaxy Club, Singjamei Mathak, Choughthem Leikai, Imphal	De-addiction Centre, Counselling Centre & RRTC	3.58
61.		Rural Health Organisation, Naorenithong Laishram Leirak, Imphal	De-addiction Centre	3.59
62.		Sumchinvum Women Society, Sunny Cottage New Lambulane Road, Imphal	De-addiction Centre	3.59
63.		The Centre for Mental Hygiene, Sangaiprou Airport Road, Imphal	De-addiction Centre	7.18
64.		Youth Development Organisation, Sagolband, Tera Bazar, Imphal-1	De-addiction Centre at Imphal East	3.59
65.		Peoples Welfare Organisation, Yaima Building, 2nd Floor, Paona Bazar, Imphal.	De-addiction Centre	3.59
66.		Rural Development Society, Rds Bhawan, Wangjungbazar, P.O. Wangjung, Imphal	De-addiction Centre	3.59
67.		Social Reformation and Development Organisation, Porumpat Soibam Leikai J.N. Hospital Road Imphal East Po Imphal.	De-addiction Centre	3.59
68.	Meghalaya	Khasi Jainita Presbyterian Synod, Church House, Mission Compound	De-addiction Centre	2.81
69.	Mizoram	Agape Moral Reformation Organisation, R.Z. Labuaia Building, 2nd Floor, T-74, Vanghlui, Republic Road, Aizawl	De-addiction Centre	3.59
70.		Mizoram Social Defence and Rehabilitation Board, Chaitang, Aizawl	De-addiction Centre & RRTC	5.01
71.	Nagaland	Prodigals Home, P.B. No. 148 Circular Road, Dimapur	De-addiction Centre	5.13
72.	Orissa	Rural Development Action Cell, at Ward No.-14 Tulasichaura, P.O. Baripada, Baripada	De-addiction Centre	3.40
73.		Nikhila Utkal Harijan Adivasi Sewa Sangh, Kharbela Nagar, Bhubneswar	De-addiction Centre	3.40
74.		Open Learning Systems, Plot No. 75, Samanta Vihar, P.O. Mancheswar Railway Colony, Near Nalco Chhak, Bhubneswar-751017, Bhubneswar	De-addiction Centre	3.46
75.		Project Swarajya, Ganesh Ghat, Bakharabad, Cuttack-753002, Cuttack	De-addiction Centre-2	6.70
76.		Arun Institute of Rural Affairs, At Aswarkhola, P.O. Karamul Dhenkanal-759014, Dhenkanal	De-addiction Centre	3.40
77.		Orissa Multipurpose Development Centre, 4/14, MIG-II, BDA Colony, Chandrasehkarpur, Bhubaneswar-16.	De-addiction Centre	3.40

1	2	3	4	5
78.		Bhairabi Club, at Kurumpada, P.O. Hadapada, Khurda	De-addiction Centre-2	10.21
79.		Jaikishan Youth Club, at Jankigarh, P.O. Gadasahi Via Kanas Distt Puri, Puri	De-addiction Centre	3.40
80.	Punjab	Indian Red Cross Society, Punjab Red Cross Bhawan, Sector-16-A, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh	De-addiction Centre-4 (Gurdaspur, Patiala, Mohali, Nawanshahar)	12.39
81.		Society for Rehabilitation of Handicapped and Persons Suffering from Social Evils, 417, Sector-44A, Chandigarh	De-addiction Centre-2 (Patiala & Fategarh Sahib)	6.80
82.		Dr. D.N. Kotnis Health and Education Centre, Salim Tabri, Ludhiana	De-addiction Centre	3.40
83.		Indian Red Cross Society, Distt. Branch, Mansa	De-addiction Centre	3.40
84.	Rajasthan	Nirashrit Mahila Bal Vikas Gramodhyog Shiksha Samiti, Pai Bagh, Bharatpur	De-addiction Centre	3.40
85.		Opium De-Addiction Treatment Training and Research Trust, 84, 1st Polo, Paota, Jodhpur-342 002.	De-addiction Centre-3, Counselling Centre-1 & De-addiction Camps	16.39
86.		Adarsh Bikaner Balshikshan Parishad, S-1 Shastri Nagar, Bikaner	De-addiction Centre	4.86
87.		Dantour Vikas Sarvajani Puniyarth Trust, Khajuwala, Bikaner	De-addiction Centre-2 [at Bikaner & Jaisalmer]	3.40
88.		Jaipur Rural Health and Development Trust, B-7, Shiv Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur	De-addiction Centre	3.51
89.		K.G.N.M.M.W. Educational, Research and Analysis Society, Mangal Pura, Khari Baari Road, Jhalawar-326 001.	De-addiction Centre	3.39
90.	Tamil Nadu	Indian Institute of Women and Child Health Trust, P.O. Sempatti, Dindigul-626 707, Dindigul	De-addiction Centre	3.40
91.		Athencottasan Muthamil Kazhagam, Mondaikad, Mondaikad	De-addiction Centre	3.40
92.		Sri Victoria Education Society Thanjavur, Enathukkanpatti (Post) Puthukkottai Road, Mathakkottai Village-613005, Thanjavur	De-addiction Centre	3.27
93.		Tiruchirapalli Multipurpose Social Service Society, Bishop's House, P.B. No. 12, Metapudur, Trichy.	De-addiction Centre	2.92
94.	Uttar Pradesh	Adarsh Janta Shiksha Samiti Karchana, Karchana, Allahabad	De-addiction Centre	6.80
95.		Dwaba Kalyan Samiti Allahabad, Gram-Tela, Post: Tela, Janpath, Allahbad	De-addiction Centre	3.40

1	2	3	4	5
96.	Gramya Vikas Sewa Sansthan, 20B, 4A/1, Allahapur, Allahabad	De-addiction Centre-2 (at Allahabad & Basti)	8.37	
97.	Indian Red Cross Society, Distt. Branch 53, Bahadurganj, Allahabad	De-addiction Centre	3.51	
98.	Parakh, Tharbildar, Pindi, Karchana, Allahabad	De-addiction Centre-2 (at Sonebhadra & Chitrakoot)	8.26	
99.	Archana Mahila Kalyan Samiti, Abhipur, Post Bhanmau, Barabanki	De-addiction Centre	3.40	
100.	Gangasukh Gramodhyog Vikas Sanstha, 484, Chahbai, Bareilly	De-addiction Centre	6.80	
101.	Nirvan, D-2059, Indira Nagar, Lucknow-226 016. (Centre at Bareilly)	De-addiction Centre	3.35	
102.	Social Welfare Organisation, Teachers Colony Road, Lallababu Churaha, Bulandshahr	De-addiction Centre	3.40	
103.	Smt. Kaushalya Devi Purva Madyamic Vidhayalaya, Shivpur Timrui Hadoi, Etawah	De-addiction Centre	4.86	
104.	Shanti Sarvodaya Sansthan, Shantiganj Tarabaganj Road, Gonda	De-addiction Centre	3.40	
105.	Saket Mahila Mandal Kalyan Samiti, Muttiganj, Nawabganj, Gonda	De-addiction Centre	3.40	
106.	Sarvajanik Shikshonnyan Sansthan, Nurmias Chauraha, M.G. Road, Hardoi	De-addiction Centre	1.80	
107.	Society for Urban and Rural Development, Vill-Kulhanamau, P.O. Kalechabad, Distt. Jaunpur	De-addiction Centre	3.80	
108.	Gramothan Jan Sewa Sansthan, Munger, Badshahpur, Jaunpur	De-addiction Centre	4.86	
109.	Hasrat Mohani Charitable Society, 88/441, Humanyun Bagh, Kanpur	De-addiction Centre	3.51	
110.	Jan Kalyan Sewa Samiti, 28 Adarsh Vihar, Bye-pass Road, Harjendra Nagar, Kanpur	De-addiction Centre	3.40	
111.	Akhil Bharatiya Azad Sewa Sansthan, Azad Villa, Daliganj, Lucknow	De-addiction Centre	3.51	
112.	Bharatiya Samaj Sewa Sansthan, Baraf Khana Mishri Ka Bagh, Lucknow	De-addiction Centre	3.51	
113.	Gram Sewa Niketan, C317295/23 Ashrafabad, Lucknow	De-addiction Centre at Kanpur	3.40	
114.	Jeevan Jyoti Society, F.1914, Rajajipuram	De-addiction Centre	3.51	

1	2	3	4	5
115.		Prema Samiti, Chinhet, Faizabad Road, (Near Goyal Sheet Grah), Lucknow.	De-addiction Centre	3.51
116.		Sarvajanik Shiksha Samiti, 565/180 Pooran Nagar Alambagh, Lucknow	De-addiction Centre	3.51
117.		Shaheed Memorial Society, E-1698, Rajajipuram, Lucknow	De-addiction Centre-2 (at Lucknow & Kanpur) and Counselling Centre	7.02
118.		Social and Economic Development Institution, C-2116, Indira Nagar, Lucknow	De-addiction Centre	3.51
119.		Akhil Bharatiya Mahila Udyog Kalyan and Shiksha Samiti, B-12A, Dhawalgiri, Sector-34, Noida	De-addiction Centre-2 (At & Noida Ghaziabad)	3.40
120.		Pratapgarh Mahila Kalyan Avam Shiksha Samiti, Devokali, Infront of Old Planning Office, Pratapgarh	De-addiction Centre	3.40
121.		Sri Gaanga Prasad Samarak Mahila Kalyan Sansthan, 32, Subhashnagar, Kunda, Pratapgarh	De-addiction Centre	3.40
122.		Prema Gramya Vikas Sansthan, Village Kuberi Khara, P.O. Icha Uli, Rai Bareilly	De-addiction Centre	3.40
123.		Ratan Gram Vikas Samiti, Jahidpur, Post Office Shahbad, Rampur	De-addiction Centre	3.40
124.		Shakti Sadhna Sansthan, Tarinpur, Distt. Sitapur	De-addiction Centre	3.40
125.		Khandwari Devi Shiksha Prasar Samiti, Chahaniya, Chandauli, Varanasi	De-addiction Centre	3.40
126.		Lakshya Service Foundation, Village Manduaiah, P.O. Manduaiah, (Near Police Station), Varanasi-221 103	De-addiction Centre	3.51
127.		Bhagirath Sewa Sansthan, Ghaziabad	De-addiction Centre	3.40
128.	Uttaranchal	Uttarkhand Gramin Vikas Samiti, Gwaldam, Distt. Chamoli	De-addiction Centre	3.40
129.	West Bengal	Elmhirst Institute of Community Studies, Baba Bithika, Andrews Palli, Shantiniketan, Birbhum	De-addiction Centre	3.12
130.		Drive for United Victory Over Addiction [DUVA], [Sir Syed Group of Schools], 71/C, Diamond Harbour Road, Calcutta	De-addiction Centre	3.30
131.		The Calcutta Samaritans, 53-B, Elliot Road, Kidderpore, Calcutta	De-addiction Centre, Counselling Centre & RRTC	3.52
132.		Vivekananda Education Society, 13/3, Kalicharan Dutta Road, Calcutta-700 061.	De-addiction Centre, Counselling Centre & RRTC	5.62
133.		Women's Coordinating Council, 5/1, Red Cross Place, Calcutta	De-addiction Centre	3.87

1	2	3	4	5
134.		Society for the Promotion of Youth and Masses, 33, N.B. Giri Road, Darjeeling	De-addiction Centre	3.37
135.		West Bengal Scheduled Castes, Tribes and Minorities Welfare Association, Rabindra Nagar, Midnapore	De-addiction Centre & Counselling Centre	6.80
136.	Delhi	Samaj Sewa Sangh, N-69/10, Gali No. 16, Brahmapuri, Delhi	De-addiction Centre	3.67
137.		Society for Promotion of Youth and Masses, B-5, 3054, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi	De-addiction Centre & Counselling Centre & RRTC	3.67
138.		Association of National Brotherhood for Social Welfare, 21-22, New Rohtak Road, New Delhi	De-addiction Centre-3	11.50
139.		Navjyoti Delhi Police Foundation, Khasra No. 99, Karala Majri, Delhi	De-addiction Centre & Counselling Centre	5.70
140.		Events Unlimited, Delhi	Observance of International Day Against Drug Abuse	2.16
141.		Aman Office Equipments, Delhi	Observance of International Day Against Drug Abuse	0.03
142.		Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation, Delhi	Observance of International Day Against Drug Abuse	0.15
			Total	603.76

**Statement II**

*The Number of De-Addiction Centres State-wise  
(As on 22.8.2005)*

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	De-addiction Centre
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15
2.	Assam	7
3.	Bihar	15
4.	Chhattisgarh	2
5.	Goa	1
6.	Gujarat	8
7.	Haryana	20

1	2	3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2
10.	Jharkhand	3
11.	Karnataka	25
12.	Kerala	22
13.	Madhya Pradesh	11
14.	Maharashtra	56
15.	Manipur	21
16.	Meghalaya	2
17.	Mizoram	10
18.	Nagaland	6

1	2	3
19.	Orissa	29
20.	Punjab	17
21.	Rajasthan	12
22.	Sikkim	—
23.	Tamil Nadu	22
24.	Tripura	2
25.	Uttar Pradesh	49

1	2	3
26.	Uttaranchal	4
27.	West Bengal	12
28.	Chandigarh	—
29.	Delhi	10
30.	Pondicherry	1
Total		387

*Statement III**List of New Proposals received from NGOs/VOs during the Year 2005-06*

Sl.No.	Name of the NGO	Project applied for
1	2	3
1.	Tribal Development Foundation, Itanagar	De-addiction Centre
2.	Mige-Nam Charitable Society, Itanagar	De-addiction Centre
3.	Health Consciousness Society of Arunachal Pradesh, Changlang	De-addiction Centre
4.	AGUS, Sivasagar, Assam	De-addiction Centre
5.	National Institute of Medical Science, Silchar, District Cachar	De-addiction Centre
6.	Mahila Vikas Sanghatan, Shimla	De-addiction Camps
7.	Kandaghat Samagra Vikas Samiti, Solan	De-addiction Centre
8.	Eco Club, Siwani, Distt. Bhiwani, Haryana.	De-addiction Centre
9.	Saraswati Sahitya Sangatan, Kharan	De-addiction Centre
10.	Medicare Evam Research Foundation, Bhopal	De-addiction Centre
11.	Shri Parswanath Bal Mandir Samiti, Indore	De-addiction Centre
12.	Red Swastik Society, Bhopal	De-addiction Centre
13.	Gurukul Sanskrit Shikshan Samiti, Seedhi	De-addiction Centre
14.	Social Awareness and Rural Development Organisation, Imphal East	De-addiction Centre
15.	Indigenous Progressive Forum, Kangpokpi	De-addiction Centre
16.	Indigenous Progressive Forum, Kangpokpi	De-addiction Centre
17.	Voluntary Health Association, Jowai	De-addiction Centre

1	2	3
18.	Indian Red Cross Society, Shillong	De-addiction Centre
19.	Manbha Foundation, Jowai, Meghalaya	De-addiction Centre
20.	Chdooh Deimaia Association, Jowai	De-addiction Centre
21.	Indian Red Cross Society, Sangrur	De-addiction Centre
22.	Indian Red Cross Society, Moga	De-addiction Centre at Dharamkot, Moga
23.	Indian Red Cross Society, Moga	De-addiction Centre at Badhinkalan, Distt. Moga
24.	AOES, Baran, Rajasthan	De-addiction Centre
25.	Nari Chetna Samiti, Jaipur	De-addiction Centre
26.	Maharishi Dayanand Vikas Samiti, Bikaner	De-addiction Centre
27.	Manav Mangal Samiti, Sriganganagar	De-addiction Centre
28.	Sargam Kala Parishad, Rajasmand	De-addiction Centre
29.	Vasundhara Vaibhav Foundation, Lucknow	De-addiction Centre
30.	Jan Kalyan Sewa Samiti, Kanpur	De-addiction Centre
31.	Vasudev Tiwari Sewa Sansthan, Gorakhpur	De-addiction Centre
32.	Jan Manas Kalyan Sansthan, Azamgarh	De-addiction Centre
33.	VIKALP, Akoda, Allahabad	De-addiction Centre
34.	Tathaghat Gramothan Evam Samaj Kalyan Sewa Sansthan, Kushinagar	De-addiction Centre
35.	Cyriac Elias Voluntary Association, Ghaziabad	De-addiction Centre
36.	Gramya Mahila Kalyan Sansthan, Dehradun	De-addiction Centre
37.	Razabazar Education and Awareness Development Society, Kolkata	De-addiction Centre
38.	Netaji Youth Club and Pathagar, Distt. Purba Medinipur	De-addiction Centre
39.	Youth Welfare and Cultural Society, Howrah	De-addiction Centre
40.	Beluni Jana Kalyan Sangha, Distt. South 24 Parganas	De-addiction Centre
41.	Ved Vignan Maha Vidya Peeth, Howrah	De-addiction Centre
42.	Shivayogini Mahila Sangha, Bijapur District, Kamataka	De-addiction Centre
43.	Sri Maitri Association®, Davanagere, Karnataka	De-addiction Centre



1	2	3
44.	Bharata Ratna Mahila Mandali, Cuddapah, Andhra Pradesh	De-addiction Centre
45.	ASIRBAD, Kandhamal, Orissa	De-addiction Centre
46.	Sunithas Mahilas Mandali, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh	De-addiction Centre
47.	Gandhi Peace Centre, Salem Tamil Nadu	De-addiction Centre
48.	Solidarity Movement of India, Idukki, Kerala	De-addiction Centre
49.	Centre for Rural Development and Education, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu	De-addiction Centre
50.	Pavan Integrated Rural Development Social Welfare Society, Kolar, Karnataka	De-addiction Centre
51.	Sri Rajiv Gandhi Education & Welfare Trust, Mysore, Karnataka.	De-addiction Centre
52.	Navnit Foundation Trust, Vadodara, Gujarat.	De-addiction Centre
53.	Rural Infrastructure Development Organisation, Nizamabad, Andhra Pradesh.	De-addiction Centre
54.	Capuchin Krishik Seva Kendra, Ujire, Karnataka	De-addiction Centre
55.	Mass Welfare Association, Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu	De-addiction Centre
56.	Navnit Foundation Trust, Vadodara, Gujarat.	De-addiction Centre
57.	Surabee Mahila Mandali, Davangere, Karnataka	De-addiction Centre
58.	Sai Mitra Seva Sansthan, Patna, Bihar	De-addiction Centre
59.	Seva Sankalp Evam Vikas Samiti, Muzaffarpur, Bihar	De-addiction Centre
60.	Mahila Shishu Kendra, Muzaffarpur, Bihar	De-addiction Centre
61.	Jan Utthan Sanstha, Lakshisari District, Bihar	De-addiction Centre
62.	DOVE, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	De-addiction Centre

[English]

#### Polyclinics under ECHS

\*429. DR. K.S. MANOJ:  
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Armed Forces clinics functioning under Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), Statewise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open more polyclinics under ECHS during 2005-2006;

(c) if so, the details alongwith the locations thereof;

(d) whether any demand to exempt war disabled persons from Payment of contributions towards ECHS is pending with the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) 163 Armed Forces clinics are functioning under the Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS). State-wise break-up is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

There is a proposal to open 64 more polyclinics under the ECHS during 2005-2006, the details of which are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

The demand to exempt war disabled persons from payment of contribution towards ECHS was received from Disabled War Veterans (India). The Government have agreed on 24th July, 2005 to exempt the war disabled pensioners from payment of contribution for ECHS who were disabled during proclaimed wars or other encounters which had been specifically accorded such status.

*Statement I*

*163 Polyclinics functioning under ECHS as on date*

Sl.No.	State	Name of Polyclinic	Total
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	Port Blair.	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, Guntur.	3
3.	Assam	Jorhat, Mashimpur (Silchar), Kamrup (Guwahati).	3
4.	Bihar	Danapur, Gaya, Bhojpur, Muzaffarpur, Chhapra	5
5.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh.	1
6.	Delhi	Delhi (Base Hospital), Delhi (Lodhi Colony).	2
7.	Goa	Panaji.	1
8.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Vadodra, Jamnagar.	3
9.	Haryana	Hissar, Ambala, Sirsa, Chandimandir, Bhiwani, Jhajjar, Rewari, Rohtak, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Karnal, Jind.	12
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla, Solan, Yol, Bakhloh, Hamirpur, Bilaspur, Una, Mandi.	8
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu, Udhampur, Srinagar, Rajouri, Samba, Junglot (Kathua), Baramulla, Leh.	8
12.	Jharkhand	Ranchi.	1
13.	Karnataka	Bangalore (Urban), Karwar, Belgaum, bangalore (Yelahanka) Kodagu, Mangalore, Bijapur.	7
14.	Kerala	Kochi, Trivandrum, Kannur, Pallakkad, Pathanamthatta, Kozikode.	6
15.	Maharashtra	Mumbai, Pune, Aruagabad, Nagpur, Ahmednagar, Mumbai (Upnagar), Devlali, Satara, Kolhapur, Akola, Sholapur, Buldana, Amravati, Latur, Osmanabad.	15
16.	Manipur	Imphal.	1

1	2	3	4
17.	Meghalaya	Shillong.	1
18.	Mizoram	Aizwal.	1
19.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore (Mhow), Jabalpur, Bhopal, Gwalior, Sagar, Bhind, Rewa.	7
20.	Nagaland	Zakhama (Kohima).	1
21.	Orissa	Balasore, Bhubneswar, Ganjam (Behrmpur).	3
22.	Punjab	Gurdaspur, Jalandhar, Bhatinda, Amritsar, Sangrur, Faridkot, Kapurthala, Firozpur, Moga, Pathankot, Patiala, Hoshiarpur, Ropar, Muktsar, Fatehgarh Sahib, Ludhiana.	16
23.	Rajasthan	Bikaner, Sriganganagar, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Kota, Barmer, Ajmer, Alwar, Bharatpur, Udaipur, Jaisalmer, Jhunjunu, Nagaur, Churu, Pali, Sikar.	16
24.	Sikkim	Gangtok.	1
25.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai, Coimbatore, Wellington, Avadi, Vellore, Srivilliputtur, Tirunavelli, Thiruvannamalai, Madurai.	9
26.	Tripura	Agartala.	1
27.	Uttar Pradesh	Gorakhpur, Allahabad, Faizabad, Varanasi, Meerut, Agra, Bareilly, Lucknow, Ghaziabad (Hindon), Fatehgarh, Kanpur, Mathura, Saharanpur, Sahajahanpur, Jhansi, Ghazipur, Fatehpur, Muzaffamagar, Noida, Sultanpur.	20
28.	Uttaranchal	Dehradun, Lansdowne, Pithoragarh, Chamoli, Pauri Garhwal	5
29.	West Bengal	Kolkata, Darjeeling, Bengdubi (Jalpaigur), Krishnagar, Bardwan.	5
Total			163

*Statement II**Proposal to open 64 Polyclinics under ECHS during 2005-06*

Sl.No.	State	Name of Polyclinic	Total
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Chittor, Giddalur, Kakinada, Vijaywada, Golconda.	5
2.	Bihar	Darbangha.	1
3.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur.	1
4.	Haryana	Narnaul, Sonipat, Panipat, Yamunanagar, Kaithal, Kurukshetra, Fatehbad.	7

1	2	3	4
5.	Jharkhand	Singhbhum (Jamshedpur).	1
6.	Karnataka	Mysore, Dharwad.	2
7.	Kerala	Perintalmanna, Alleppy, Trissur, Kottayam, Quilon.	5
8.	Maharashtra	Jalgaon, Sangli, Ratnagiri, Sindudurg, Thane, Mahad.	6
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Morena.	1
10.	Nagaland	Dimapur.	1
11.	Punjab	Mansa.	1
12.	Rajasthan	Swai Madhopur.	1
13.	Tamil Nadu	Kanchipuram, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Krishnagiri, Salem, Dindigul, Tiruchi, Nagapattinam, Tanjavur, Theni, Nagarcoil, Tuticorin.	12
14.	Uttar Pradesh	Pratapgarh, Azamgarh, Deoria, Balia, Etawah, Mainpuri, Firozabad, Etah, Bulandsahar, Badaun, Kanpur Dehat, Rae Brailly, Jalaun, Aligarh.	14
15.	Uttaranchal	Haldwani, Roorkee, Almora.	3
16.	West Bengal	Barackpore, Salt Lake, Midnapur.	3
Total			64

#### **Development and Expansion of IGI Airport**

\*430. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:  
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared any development and expansion plan for IGI Airport in view of the Commonwealth Games to be held in 2010 in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount required for the development and expansion works to be undertaken and how the funds are to be mobilised;

(d) the time schedule drawn up for completion of the works well in advance of the commencement of the games; and

(e) the estimated passengers from abroad likely to come for the games?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) Government has decided to modernise and restructure the IGI Airport through the Joint Venture Route under Public-Private-Partnership. The JVC, which will manage the IGI airport, will be mandate to implement various capital projects by October, 2009. These projects include new parallel runway, initial parallel taxi ways to runway, high speed exit taxi ways and other entry exit taxiways to runway, western pair of cross linked taxi ways, first stage of international/domestic terminal development, expansion of international cargo terminal etc. approximate cost of development of these projects will be Rs. 2800 crores which will be financed through equity equity as well as debt by the JVC. As per the proposed terms of the transaction document, these work will be completed by October, 2009. No estimate of passengers from abroad likely to come for the Commonwealth Games is available at present.

**Expansion of Railway Network**

\*431. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 85 percent of the Railway network was inherited from the British regime;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether after independence, the Railway network has expanded at a very slow pace;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore and the average annual rate of increase in the Railway network; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase the pace of expansion of Railway network to meet the growing requirement of transport?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Railway network inherited by India after independence and partition as well as that at present are as under:

Description	Length in Kilometres		Percentage increase since 1947-48
	1947-48	2003-04 (latest available)	
Route kms	54693	63,221	15.6%
Running Track kms	60116	83,859	39.5%
Total track kms (including yard lines and sidings)	85000	1,08,486	27.6%

(c) and (d) The expansion of network during the pre and post independence periods is not strictly comparable as the two periods are governed by different factors/considerations. In the post independence period, during the Five Years Plans, emphasis has been on augmentation of the capacity of high density routes, especially those connecting the four Metropolises viz. Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai, by way of doubling, gauge conversion, electrification etc. and renewal of the over-aged tracks. Thus, while route kilometres increased from 54,693 kilometres at the time of independence to 63,221 kilometres as on 31.3.2004 (15.6%), the running

track kilometres (route kilometres plus extra distance of multiple tracks i.e. double, treble etc. treating the same as two or three or more tracks) increased from 60,116 kilometres to 83,859 kilometres (39.5%) as on 31.03.2004 registering an average annual rate of increase of 424 kilometres.

(e) The position in regard to funding and implementation of projects has changed considerably in the past few years. A number of non-budgetary initiatives have been undertaken to generate additional resources to expedite completion of projects. These include State sharing, public-private partnership, National Projects, Defence Funding and launching of National Rail Vikas Yojana. In addition, considering the slow progress of projects especially in backward underdeveloped and remote areas due to constraint of resources, Government had announced "Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana" (RARSY) in the interim Budget 2004-05 which envisages investment of about Rs. 20,000 crore in a period of 5 years on ongoing projects taken up on socio-economic considerations. However, the funds for the Yojana are to be tied up. Completion of all the on-going projects under new lines, gauge conversion and doubling would add to over 18,000 kilometres of broad gauge lines.

[English]

**Fake/Non-Existent NGOs/VOs**

\*432. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:  
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a number of fake/non-existent Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs)/Voluntary Organizations (VOs) have been receiving grant-in-aid under various schemes of the Ministry;

(b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the details of such NGOs/VOs involved therein during each of the last three years, till date and the action taken/to be taken against them;

(c) whether the Government has any mechanism to evaluate the genuineness of NGOs/VOs which are either fake or non-existent;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the grant-in-aid is given only to the genuine NGOs/VOs?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) to (e) No instance of fake/non-existent NGOs receiving grant-in-aid under various schemes of the Ministry has come to the notice during last three years. Occasionally, it is found that the recommendations of State Governments related to some cases are forged, the organization is not working satisfactorily on the ground, the number of beneficiaries is much less than claimed, quality of services delivered is not commensurate with the grant-in-aid released etc. Such organizations are served a show cause notice. If their reply is not found satisfactory, further grant-in-aid is suspended forthwith and the organization is black listed.

In order to ensure that the grant-in-aid is given only to the genuine NGOs/VOs, the Ministry takes into account the following criteria before releasing grant-in-aid to NGOs:

- It should be a body registered under the Society's Registration Act, 1860/Public Registered Trust/Charitable Company licenced under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1958/Indian Red Cross Society or its branches/other public institutions having a legal status/body should have been registered for at least two years at the time of applying for assistance;
- Financial soundness and capacity to bear with at least 10% of the budgeted expenditure;
- Annual reports for the last two years
- Utilisation certificate for the last one year
- Audited accounts (including receipt & payment, income & expenditure and balance sheet) for last two years;
- Recommendation by the State Government/nodal agency along with inspection reports.

#### **Development of CNG Locomotives**

\*433. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:  
DR. K. DHANARAJU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have developed CNG propelled locomotive and conducted trial thereof;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be put in commercial operation;

(c) whether operation of CNG propelled locomotive is likely to be cost effective as well as environment friendly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Railways have not developed any Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) propelled locomotive. However, trials are being conducted to run one Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) with Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) on Northern Railway. Its further proliferation depends on success of trials.

(c) and (d) Operating Cost of Compressed Natural Gas based Diesel Multiple Unit is expected to be 25% less in financial terms, than diesel based Diesel Multiple Units with a salutary effect on exhaust gas emissions.

*[English]*

#### **Emergency Support Functions Plan-2004**

\*434. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:  
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared an 'Emergency Support Functions Plan-2004;

(b) if so, the details alongwith objectives of this plan;

(c) the details of the relief flights operated by Indian Airlines during 2004-05;

(d) the number of passengers and relief material carried by relief flights;

(e) whether private operators have also participated in such relief operations during the said period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) On the directions of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the Ministry of Civil Aviation has formulated an 'Emergency Support Functions Plan-2004' to provide necessary emergency support service to MHA in the event of natural and man-made disasters. Under this Plan, the material, equipment, manpower and services available with Air India, Indian Airlines and Airports Authority of India are offered to MHA during disasters.

(c) and (d) During the year 2004-05, Indian Airlines and Alliance Air operated 347 relief flights carrying 22192 passengers (including troops) and 622 tonnes of relief material under Tsunami and J&K relief operations.

(e) and (f) During the Tsunami operations, M/s Jet Airways operated 35 relief flights carrying 3384 passengers (including troops) & 50 infants and airlifted 53.12 tonnes of relief material. M/s Blue Dart operated 7 cargo relief flights carrying 89.1 tonnes of relief material.

#### **Computerised Reservation Centres**

\*435. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:  
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations and the city booking offices having computerised reservation facilities at present, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open more Computerised Reservation Centres in the country;

(c) if so, whether the Railways have also received requests from various quarters to open the Computerised reservation centres in their States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of such centres proposed to be opened in each State during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) There are 1224 computerized reservation centers situated at railway stations and other places. The State-wise list is enclosed as statement-I.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Since April 2004, 197 requests have been received for installing new computerized reservation centres. As on 15.08.2005, 152 new proposals stand sanctioned which are yet to be commissioned. (The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II). Fixation of time frame for commissioning of computerized passenger reservation centers is not possible since it depends on various factors such as obtaining communication channels from Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, providing necessary infrastructure and getting free-of-cost accommodation from the State Government and other agencies for housing the computer terminals in case of non-railhead locations etc.

#### ***Statement I***

##### ***List of State-wise Computerised Passenger Centers***

Sl.No.	State	No.
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	98
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
3.	Assam	33
4.	Bihar	121
5.	Chhattisgarh	22
6.	Delhi	29
7.	Goa	3
8.	Gujarat	49
9.	Haryana	20
10.	Himachal Pradesh	11
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	20
12.	Jharkhand	40
13.	Karnataka	44
14.	Kerala	37
15.	Madhya Pradesh	59
16.	Maharashtra	119
17.	Manipur	1
18.	Meghalaya	2

1	2	3
19.	Mizoram	1
20.	Nagaland	3
21.	Orissa	36
22.	Punjab	33
23.	Rajasthan	66
24.	Sikkim	2
25.	Tami Nadu	92
26.	Tripura	2
27.	Union Territories	9
28.	Uttar Pradesh	141
29.	Uttaranchal	22
30.	West Bengal	108
Total		1224

*Statement II**State-wise Computerised Passenger Reservation  
Centers sanctioned*

Sl.No.	State	No.
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2
3.	Assam	11
4.	Bi har	8
5.	Chhattisgarh	6
6.	Delhi	4
7.	Goa	0
8.	Gujarat	6
9.	Haryana	6
10.	Himachal Pradesh	4
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	2

1	2	3
12.	Jharkhand	10
13.	Karnataka	15
14.	Kerala	7
15.	Madhya Pradesh	7
16.	Maharashtra	4
17.	Manipur	0
18.	Meghalaya	1
19.	Mizoram	1
20.	Nagaland	0
21.	Orissa	9
22.	Punjab	8
23.	Rajasthan	2
24.	Sikkim	0
25.	Tami Nadu	7
26.	Tripura	0
27.	Union Territories	2
28.	Uttar Pradesh	19
29.	Uttaranchal	6
30.	West Bengal	5
Total		152

*[Translation]***Policy for TV Broadcasters**

\*436. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether any policy has been laid down for Television Broadcasters in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formulated a separate policy for the foreign companies;



(d) if so, the results thereof; and

(e) the reasons for formulating separate policies for the domestic and foreign companies?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Government has formulate a policy for granting permission to Television Broadcasters to uplink TV channels. Any Company desirous of uplinking a TV channel has to be registered under the Companies Act in India. The eligibility criteria for News and Current Affairs TV channels, inter alia, prescribes that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the applicant company shall not exceed 26% of the Paid-up Equity; permission will be granted only in cases where equity held by the largest Indian shareholder is at least 51% of the paid up equity; at least 3/4th of the Directors on the Board of Directors and all key Executives and Editorial Staff shall be resident Indians; the representation on the Board shall as far as possible be proportionate to the shareholding; an CEO of the applicant company and/or Head of the channel shall be a resident Indian. There are no equity restrictions on the companies applying for non-News and Current Affairs TV channels.

(c) to (e) Foreign companies are not eligible to uplink a TV channels from India. However, the foreign companies/TV channels are considered for temporary uplinking from time to time on a case to case basis. Foreign Companies who are uplinking their TV channels from abroad and downlinking and telecasting in India are proposed to be covered under the Downlinking Guidelines, which are under active consideration of the government.

*[English]*

#### **Procurement of Radio Sets**

\*437. SHIR G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Radio sets worth crores rot in defence godowns" in the 'Deccan Herald' dated July 20, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether thousands of radio receiver sets procured by an agency of the Ministry of Defence have been

rendered useless due to the poor quality accessories supplied by the foreign firm;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the loss suffered as a result thereof; and

(f) the action taken against those held responsible?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (f) A contract dated 18.12.2001 was signed with M/s Win Radio Communications, Australia, for supply of 180 numbers of HF/VHF/UHF Radio Receivers at a total cost of USD 1,618,800. The Radio Receivers were delivered in May, 2002. These have not become operational so far due to certain technical discrepancies/deficiencies observed at the stage of inspection by the Joint Receipt Inspections Board.

The Vendor has been paid for 80% value of the equipment supplied i.e. USD 1,295,040 as per the provisions of the contract. Besides, the Performance Bank Guarantee for USD 79,562.50 has already been encashed. There are contractual provisions for warranty and Annual Maintenance Contract for the supplies. Balance 20% payment amounting to USD 323,760 has not been released.

#### **Refining Capacity of Refineries**

\*438. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to push for ramping up India's oil refining capacity with emphasis on exports;

(b) if so, whether any Action Plan has been worked out in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to implement the Action Plan?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Present refining capacity (April, 2005) in the country is 127.37 million metric tonnes

per annum (MMTPA). It is planned to enhance this capacity to 141.70 MMTPA by the end of the Tenth Five

Year Plan (2006-07) by implementing the following capacity additions/expansions:

Sl.No.	Name of the oil company	Location of the refinery	Capacity (million metric tonnes)
1.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)	Mumbai (Maharashtra)	5.10
2.	India Oil Corporation Limited (IOC)	Panipat (Haryana)	6.00
3.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)	Mumbai (Maharashtra)	2.40
4.	HPCL	Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)	0.83
Total			14.33

Further, oil sector public sector undertakings have proposed to set up the following four new refineries, completion of which is likely to spill over beyond the Tenth Five Year Plan:

Sl.No.	Name of the oil company	Location of the refinery	Installed capacity
1.	IOC	Abhayachandrapur (Paradip) (Orissa)	9.0 MMTPA
2.	HPCL	Bathinda (Punjab)	9.0 MMTPA
3.	BPCL	Bina (Madhya Pradesh)	6.0 MMTPA
4.	BPCL	Lohagara (Allahabad) (Uttar Pradesh)	7.0 MMTPA

In view of the fact that India has already established itself as a net exporter of petroleum products with export earnings of over Rs. 28,000 crore from petroleum products in 2004-05, IOC have been asked to prepare a detailed feasibility study on making India a key investment destination for refineries, in particular export-oriented refineries, with the aim of building India as an export hub for petroleum products. The Action Plan will be worked out after IOC's report is received.

#### **Census on Beggars**

\*439. DR. R. SENTHIL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any census or estimates about the number of beggars in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, state/UT-wise;

(c) whether the Government is aware that a large number of children are found begging on road crossings in Delhi;

(d) if so the measures taken by the Government to curb begging and bring awareness among people to discourage beggars;

(e) whether the Union Government proposes to introduce any 'Anti-Beggary laws'; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) No reliable estimate about the number of beggars in the country is available with Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government is ware of children begging on road crossings in Delhi.

(d) The Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 was extended to Delhi in March, 1961. The Act provides for apprehension of beggars and their detention at certified institutions. The Government of NCT of Delhi has

constituted an anti-begging squad consisting of officers of the Department of Social Welfare and Delhi Police for apprehension of beggars and their detention at certified institutions. The Government of NCT of Delhi has also initiated intensive anti-begging drive at prominent begging places like temples, red light crossings, etc. They have launched an awareness campaign for sensitising people against giving alms to beggars. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, a Central Act, also provides for penal action against persons employing or using children for the purposes of beggary. The Ministry of Social Justice and empowerment also implements a Central Scheme called 'An Integrated Programme for Street Children'. The scheme provides for shelter, nutrition, health care, education and recreation facilities to street children and seeks to protect them against abuse and exploitation. 44,934 children were covered under the scheme during 2004-05.

(e) No, Sir. Beggary including begging by children is sought to be prevented through enactment of legislation by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

(f) Does not arise.

#### **Setting up of Defence University**

\*440. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to set up a Defence University in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has signed any Memorandum of Understanding with any University in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Committee on National Defence University recommended the establishment of an Indian National Defence University as a fully autonomous institution awarding educational Degrees, Diplomas and Credits. The existing institutions namely National Defence

College (New Delhi), Institute of Defence Management (Secunderabad), Defence Services Staff College (Wellington) and National Defence Academy (Khadakvasala) and new institutions namely College of National Security Policy, National Institute of Security Studies and Institute for Advanced Technology Studies will be under the ambit of the INDU.

(c) No, Sir.

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

#### **Training to Unemployed Handicapped Youth**

\*441. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed handicapped youth in the country till date, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether there is any scheme for imparting training to the unemployed handicapped youths for setting up small-scale industries in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the funds provided under the scheme during each of the last three years and current year, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(e) the number of unemployed handicapped youth benefited during the said period, State/Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) The number of unemployed handicapped youth in the country till date, State/Union Territory-wise is not available. However, number of handicapped persons registered with Employment Exchanges State/Union Territory-wise as on 31.1.2003 is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) to (e) The following schemes are under implementation for imparting training to the unemployed handicapped persons:

- (1) National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation is implementing a Scheme 'Financial Assistance for Skill & Entrepreneurial Development'. The objective of the scheme is to provide training to the disabled persons to

make them capable and self-dependent through proper technical training in the field of traditional and technical occupations and entrepreneurship. Financial assistance is provided in the form of grant through the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs).

(2) Seventeen Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRCs) for Handicapped are functioning in the country with the object to assist Handicapped persons in obtaining suitable rehabilitation services such as job placement, training for self employment and in plant training. Details of allocation of funds for VRCs are given in the enclosed Statement-II. Number of persons benefited is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(3) The Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme also provides grant in aid to voluntary organizations for running Vocational Training Centre for persons with disabilities for imparting vocational training to persons with disabilities with the objective to find suitable employment or undertake self employment ventures. Details of funds released to voluntary organizations, State-wise for running vocational Training Centre are given in the enclosed Statement-IV.

*Statement I*

Name of the State/UT		Handicapped Registrants
1	2	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	88891
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	42
3.	Assam	5046
4.	Bihar	15079
5.	Chhattisgarh	9583
6.	Delhi	7638
7.	Goa	822
8.	Gujarat	21058
9.	Haryana	12768

1		2
10.	Himachal Pradesh	10432
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	946
12.	Jharkhand	7665
13.	Karnataka	31123
14.	Kerala	43392
15.	Madhya Pradesh	23190
16.	Maharahstra	46686
17.	Manipur	1744
18.	Meghalaya	149
19.	Mizoram	298
20.	Nagaland	1367
21.	Orissa	10570
22.	Punjab	10655
23.	Rajasthan	26442
24.	Tamil Nadu	70868
25.	Tripura	2032
26.	Uttaranchal	3721
27.	Uttar Pradesh	26785
28.	West Bengal	69231
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	580
30.	Chandigarh	1122
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	40
32.	Daman & Diu	114
33.	Lakshadweep	88
34.	Pondicherry	1658
Total		551825

Note: 1. All the registrants need not be unemployed.

2. All the unemployed disabled need not necessarily be registered with Employment Exchanges.

**Statement II***State/Union Territory-wise fund allocation for the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Handicapped*

	State/Union Territory	Location of VRC	Whether Plan or Non-Plan	Budget allocation (Rs. in 000's)		
				2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	Non-Plan	7700	5759	6059
2.	Assam	Guwahati	Non-Plan	3409	2971	3356
3.	Bihar	Patna	Plan	2575	2375	2797
4.	Delhi	Delhi	Non-Plan	3570	3860	7635
5.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	Non-Plan	5985	5292	5917
6.	Gujarat	Vadodara	Plan	2108	2224	2694
7.	Karnataka	Bangalore	Non-Plan	5502	4704	5785
8.	Kerala	Trivandrum	Non-Plan	6640	5252	6055
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur	Non-Plan	3999	3114	3934
10.	Maharashtra	Mumbai	Non-Plan	7755	6290	7481
11.	Orissa	Bhubaneswar	Non-Plan	3809	2802	3537
12.	Punjab	Ludhiana	Non-Plan	3505	3364	4143
13.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	Non-Plan	3355	2932	3047
14.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Non-Plan	5625	5078	6742
15.	Tripura	Agartala	Plan	2115	2165	2000
16.	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur	Non-Plan/Plan	4540	4487	5224
17.	West Bengal	Kolkata	Non-Plan	4008	3991	5106

**Statement III***Number of handicapped persons benefited by Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRS) for Handicapped*

State/Union Territory	Number of candidates rehabilitated			
	2001	2002	2003	2004
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	874	1614	1649	1403
Assam	401	136	451	892
Bihar	531	432	44	421

1	2	3	4	5
Delhi	408	437	402	355
Gujarat	869	928	920	1152
Karnataka	572	517	579	590
Kerala	616	568	686	572
Madhya Pradesh	553	584	508	428
Maharashtra	656	952	950	897
Orissa	643	373	635	737
Punjab	317	272	246	306
Rajasthan	395	384	370	326
Tamil Nadu	642	664	692	1005
Tripura	174	172	161	185
Uttar Pradesh	1037	649	578	634
West Bengal	424	387	497	588

**Statement IV**

*Number of organisations provided grant in aid under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme for their projects of Vocational Training Centres and number of persons benefitted during the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05*

State	Number of Organisation			Amount Released (Rs. in lakh)			Number of beneficiaries		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	34	29	30	541.71	373.55	389.13	7713	3390	4357
Assam	2	2	3	21.79	21.72	22.46	347	238	365
Bihar	9	8	8	87.64	116.16	92.48	1048	1613	1310
Chandigarh	1	1	1	2.00	2.64	3.27	107	120	117
Chhattisgarh	—	—	1	0.00	0.00	1.70	—	—	50
Delhi	11	13	9	45.21	111.05	41.17	3883	2929	401
Gujarat	5	5	5	16.13	16.15	8.22	179	267	105
Haryana	5	5	5	21.93	29.78	29.28	264	295	287
Himachal Pradesh	1	1	1	4.06	2.67	3.51	27	19	25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Jharkhand	1	1	1	1.18	0.77	1.26	20	20	20
Karnataka	11	14	11	146.53	168.83	124.21	1486	1647	1071
Kerala	19	22	24	103.67	133.96	140.73	1379	2327	1618
Madhya Pradesh	3	5	5	4.82	11.07	12.90	284	299	411
Maharashtra	7	2	4	82.08	30.36	43.29	1284	307	409
Manipur	4	4	5	21.13	18.34	16.92	320	296	258
Meghalaya	2	2	2	23.85	22.18	15.41	223	229	81
Mizoram	1	1	1	17.92	12.43	13.35	128	132	152
Orissa	9	10	9	51.19	74.63	46.12	474	966	444
Punjab	3	3	2	31.52	28.74	19.68	841	730	542
Rajasthan	9	10	8	49.11	47.20	52.53	763	888	804
Tamil Nadu	18	16	17	111.57	100.51	89.59	1401	898	1181
Uttar Pradesh	27	24	21	199.60	195.46	154.66	2249	3065	2018
Uttaranchal	2	2	2	40.51	24.68	18.71	396	200	104
West Bengal	10	10	11	76.16	68.27	54.84	760	867	457
Total	194	190	186	1701.31	1611.16	1395.44	25556	21742	16587

[*Translation*]

#### Computer Training Centres for SC and OBC

4367. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Computer Training Centres being run for the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the number of such Computer Training Centres being run in Maharashtra and the name of Institutions which are operating these centres; and

(c) the performance of these training centres till date and the number of persons who have started their own business after getting training from these institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) State/Union Territory-wise the number of Computer Training Centers being run for the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Two computer training centers are in receipt of grant-in-aid in Maharashtra for the welfare of Scheduled Castes run by the NGO's namely: (i) Dnyanraj Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, 9, Bhagya Nagar, Tq. & Dist. Nanded; (ii) Microline Computer Centre, 15, Old Subhedar layout, Manewada Road, Nagpur.

8 computer training centers are in receipt of grant-in-aid in Maharashtra for the welfare of Other Backward Classes. The names of these centers are as under:

(i) Shri Ganesh Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Latur—One centre.

(ii) Karanti Jyoti Savitribai Mahila Bahu-uddeshiya Sanstha, Jalgaon-1 centre.

(iii) KIBBTUS, Pune-1 centre.

(iv) Bal Vikas Mahila Mandal, Latur-1 centre.

(v) Wangeshwar Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Akola at Patur, Balapore, Akola and Akot-4 centres.

(c) No inspection reports from the State Government of Maharashtra for the two Computer Training Centres for the welfare of Scheduled Castes have been received during the financial year 2004-05. These two centers were started towards the 2nd half of 2003-04 and since inspection reports have not yet been sent by the State Government. The number of persons who have started their own business after getting training from these institution cannot be ascertained for the present.

In respect of Computer Training Centers for the Welfare of other Backward Classes, on the basis of inspection report/recommendation of the State Government, the grant-in-aid to these institutes have been released upto 2004-05. As per the information given by the organizations, 87 trainees have started their own business in Maharashtra after getting training from these institutions.

#### ***Statement***

*The State/UT-wise details of computer training centers being run for the welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) are as under:*

Sl.No.	State	Computer Centres for SCs	Computer Centres for OBCs
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	1
2.	Assam	—	1
3.	Chhattisgarh	—	1
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	1
5.	Karnataka	—	1
6.	Madhya Pradesh	3	2
7.	Maharashtra	2	8

1	2	3	4
8.	Manipur	1	—
9.	Orissa	3	—
10.	Punjab	1	—
11.	Tamil Nadu	4	—
12.	Uttar Pradesh	3	—
13.	Uttaranchal	—	1
Total		22	16

#### **Remains of Ancient Gond Raja Period**

4368. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the remains of the ancient Gond Raja period in the district of Chandrapur, Maharashtra are in good state of preservation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof;

(d) the steps being taken to maintain and unkeep of these remains; and

(e) the expenditure incurred on maintenance and unkeep of monuments at Chandrapur and Gadchiroli during each of the last three years and the funds allocated for 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. There are 21 monuments declared to be of national importance in the District of Chandrapur and 9 in the district of Gadachiroli which include forts, temples, tombs and monolith belonging to Gondraj period. These monuments are receiving adequate attention in terms of structural repairs, environment development and preservation, besides day to day maintenance. The conservation of monuments is a continuous process and works are taken up in a phased manner depending on the availability of resources.

(e) The expenditure incurred during last three years and allocation for the year 2004-05 for the monuments in Chandrapur and Gadchiroli are stated below:



	Expenditure		Allocation	
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Chandrapur	2,22,476	4,92,128	2,06,815	12,45,500
Gadachiroli	2,08,755	1,79,789	11,89,650	7,84,400

### Wasteful Expenditure

4369. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the C&AG Report No. 3 of 2005 (Commercial) wherein it has been stated that the Airlines Allied Services Ltd. has incurred wasteful expenditure of Rs. 45.14 lakh as lease rent due to delay in obtaining certificate of worthiness;

(b) if so, the fact thereof;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed in the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to avoid incurring wasteful expenditure in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In connection with getting Certificate of Airworthiness (C of A) by Indian Airlines in respect of 4 ATR aircraft taken on lease it has been observed in the C&AG report that the company obtained C of A for the first aircraft from DGCA in 5 days of its arrival in India but for the other three aircraft the company took 14 days, 21 days and 22 days respectively. The company thus took a total of 42 days (9+16+17) in excess with reference to the time taken for obtaining C of A in respect of the first aircraft and bore lease rent for the period before bringing the aircraft in to commercial operation.

(c) The first aircraft which arrived on 19.12.2002 was committed for inaugural flight on 25.12.2002 and action in advance was taken by all the concerned agencies to ensure issue of Certificate of Airworthiness to meet the target date. The time taken in getting the first aircraft readied for operation of inaugural flight after getting C of A within 5 days, through special efforts by all agencies

involved, can not be taken as standard norms for time required for obtaining C of A.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

### Delhi-Una Rail Line

4370. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of further extension of the Delhi-Una Rail line; and

(b) the time by which the doubling and electrification of this line is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) New line work from Nangal Dam-Talwara has been taken up and Nangal Dam-Una-Churaru Takarala has already been completed. On Churaru Takarala-Amb Andaura (11 kms.), land acquisition has been taken up.

(b) Doubling and electrification of Una-Talwara section is not a sanctioned work.

### Jobs to Unemployed SC/ST Youth in Private Sector

4371. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any initiative to provide jobs to the unemployed Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) youth passing out from various IITs and Management Institutes in the Private sector and forwarded their curriculum vitae (CV) to the confederation of Indian Industries (CII) for consideration for their appointments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the CII thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) As a part of national dialogue with the associations of industry and trade to see how best the private sector can fulfil the aspirations of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes youth, a list of 51 candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes alongwith their qualifications

and contact addresses was forwarded on 31st May 2005 to the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for consideration of their appointments in any of its member organizations. The CII vide their letter dated 10th June 2005 informed that they were circulating the list to their members requesting them to consider the applications.

#### **Establishment of Social Justice Centre**

4372. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry had prepared any scheme for establishment of Social Justice Centre and sent the same to the Planning Commission for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the views/response of the Planning Commission thereto;

(d) the follow-up action taken by the Ministry thereon;

(e) the present status of the said scheme; and

(f) the details of distribution of aids and appliances by each of the District Disabled Rehabilitation Centres in Madhya Pradesh during each of the last three years and the current year, centre-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) A scheme to setup Social Justice Centres in 100 districts to provide information to the people regarding various schemes and programmes of the Government relating to the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment was sent to the Planning Commission for their in principle approval.

(c) to (e) The Planning Commission suggested that the scheme should be implemented through existing District Disabled Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) and the staff available with the States under National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with disabilities (NPRPD) could be utilized. Since NPRPD programme was discontinued in the 10th Plan, the availability of staff as envisaged by the Planning Commission was not available for this purpose. Accordingly, necessary instructions were issued to the implementing agencies of various DDRCs to take appropriate action. Social Justice Centre scheme could not become functional as the scope of the scheme of DDRCs did not cover the proposed activities of social justice centers and hence the proposal for additional emoluments to the DDRC staff for discharge of duties in respect of social justice centers did not get financial clearance.

(f) A statement is enclosed.

#### **Statement**

Sl.No.	Centre	Aids and Appliances distributed				Total
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (till June 2005)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	DDRC, Agar		85	323	32	440
2.	DDRC, Alot		776	285	187	1248
3.	DDRC, Balaghat		229	1134	1308	2671
4.	DDRC, Dewas	186	175	1027	170	1558
5.	DDRC, Gwalior	803	344	540		1687
6.	DDRC, Indore	482	240	100	5	827
7.	DDRC, Jawad		5	55	30	90
8.	DDRC, Jhabua	481	391	294	164	1330

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.	DDRC, Mandsaur		28	212	39	279
10.	DDRC, Rajgarh	772	249	250	71	1342
11.	DDRC, Rewa	186	219	153	1795	2353
12.	DDRC, Sagar	489	228	315	209	1241
13.	DDRC, Satna	112	14	1296	219	1641
14.	DDRC, Ujjain	1535	1318	149	61	3063
15.	DDRC, Damoh*					
16.	DDRC, Kandwa**					
17.	DDRC, Khargaon**					

\*DDRC Damoh has recently become functional.

\*\*DDRC Non-functional.

*[English]*

#### **Corpus of Funds for Visually Handicapped**

4373. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the plight of visually handicapped children in the country continues to deteriorate;

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up corpus of funds for the welfare of visually handicapped; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) There is no study showing that plight of visually handicapped children in the country is deteriorating.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Setting up of Passenger Coach/Wheel Factory**

4374. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had decided to set up passenger coach factory at Harnaut and wheel manufacturing factory in Chhapra;

(b) if so, the funds provided for these projects during 2005-06; and

(c) the time by which the works on these projects are likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) It has been decided to set up a Coach Repair Workshop at Harnaut and Wheel manufacturing Plant at Chhapra.

(b) Funds provided for these projects during 2005-06 are as under:

Harnaut-Rs. 22.80 crore

Chhapra-Rs. 4.00 crore

(c) The work on Coach Repair Workshop at Harnaut started in March, 2004 and is likely to be completed by

June, 2008. The work on Wheel manufacturing Plant in Chhapra started in April, 2005 and is likely to be completed by January, 2010.

[English]

#### **Setting up of Ordnance Factory in Assam**

4375. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved the proposal of Government of Assam for setting up an ordnance factory in North-Eastern region;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the location identified there of; and

(c) the estimated cost of the said factory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) Requests have been received from various State Governments from time to time, for setting up new Ordnance Factories for production of small arms. A request was also received from the Government of Assam. The existing capacities of the Ordnance Factories are more than sufficient to meet the existing requirement of Armed Forces, and there is thus no requirement for setting up a new unit.

[Translation]

#### **Assistance from Japan for Railway Project**

4376. MOHD. SHAHID:

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Japan has entered into an agreement for execution of golden quadrilateral project;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the terms and conditions thereof;

(c) the total assistance is likely to be provided by the Government of Japan for the said project; and

(d) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Railway Projects of Kota Division**

4377. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Railway projects of Kota division in Rajasthan are being shelved;

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

(c) the present status of development and expansion of Dakaniya Talav railway station project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The work of Dakaniya Talav-Up. & Dn. Loops is included in the Budget 2005-06 at a cost of Rs. 4.05 crore.

#### **Petrol/Diesel Retail Outlets**

4378. SHRI RAMSWAROOP KOLI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of petrol/diesel outlets of various oil PSUs commissioned recently in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh under Kisan Vikas Kendra category; and

(b) the number of retail outlets commissioned during the last two years under "Transport" category in these States?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) the public sector oil marketing

companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and IBP Co. Limited (IBP), have schemes of opening low-cost retail outlets (petrol/diesel outlets) in rural areas, under different names. IOC outlets are called 'Kisan Seva Kendra', IBP and HPCL outlets are named 'Gramin Seva Kendra' and 'Kisan Vikas Kendra' respectively. BPCL's scheme, under their rural area retail outlet marketing plan, is similar to that of IOC.

During the period April-June, 2005, the OMCs commissioned 17 such retail outlets in the following States:

Madhya Pradesh	—	2 Nos.
Rajasthan	—	8 Nos.
Uttar Pradesh	—	7 Nos.

(b) There is no category of retail outlets called 'Transport' category. However, the guidelines of the OMCs provide for allotment of retail outlets to 'fleet operators', i.e., the ones owning or having in attachment a group of vehicles with certain volume commitments. The number of retail outlets commissioned by the OMCs under the fleet operators category in the State of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05, was as under:

State	No. of retail outlets commissioned during	
	2003-04	2004-05
Madhya Pradesh	27	62
Chhattisgarh	9	26
Rajasthan	5	35
Bihar	0	4
Uttar Pradesh	23	63

#### **Withdrawal of Farakka Express**

4379. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to withdraw the service of Farakka Express running from Bhiwani to Malda Town;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railways are considering to restore the service of Farakka Express in view of public resentment against its withdrawal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. 3413/3414 & 3483/3484 Malda town-Bhiwani Farakka Express has been short-terminated at Delhi. The train is now running between Delhi and Malda town.

(b) to (d) Due to non-punctual running of the Farakka Express, there was lot of resentment amongst the passengers who were utilizing this services between Delhi and Bhiwani. Besides, due to late running of the train, it had to be terminated at Delhi on several occasions. However, in lieu, the run of Farukhabad-Delhi Kalindi Express has been extended to Bhiwani. Kalindi Express is running to similar schedule on Delhi-Bhiwani section. There is no proposal to restore the running of the Farakka Express on Delhi-Bhiwani section at present.

[English]

#### **LPG Agencies**

4380. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies functioning in different parts of the country as on June 30, 2005, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government is considering to set up more LPG agencies in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) As on 1.7.2005, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating 9104 LPG distributorships in the country. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) OMCs are free to set up LPG distributorships based on their commercial considerations. In view of this, no specific target has been fixed by

Government for setting up of LPG distributorships. However, as a matter of policy, OMCs have been advised to concentrate their future expansion plans in semi-urban and rural areas.

**Statement**

*The details of LPG Distributorships of OMCs in the Country as on 1.7.2005.*

States/UTs	Number of LPG distributorships
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	814
Arunachal Pradesh	28
Assam	243
Bihar	291
Chhattisgarh	144
Delhi	308
Goa	52
Gujarat	539
Haryana	275
Himachal Pradesh	113
Jammu & Kashmir	150
Jharkhand	138
Karnataka	482
Kerala	370
Madhya Pradesh	550
Maharashtra	996
Manipur	30
Meghalaya	32
Mizoram	25
Nagaland	24
Orissa	176
Punjab	424

1	2
Rajasthan	433
Sikkim	4
Tamil Nadu	627
Tripura	28
Uttar Pradesh	1131
Uttaranchal	160
West Bengal	465
Andaman & Nicobar	4
Chandigarh	30
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
Daman Diu	2
Lakshadweep	1
Pondicherry	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>9104</b>

**Remnants of a Big City in Chhattisgarh**

4381. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that remnants of big city has been found in Chhattisgarh during excavation by the Archaeological Survey of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) the Archaeological Survey of India has not carried out excavations at Chhattisgarh recently. However, the Bodhisatva Nagarjuna Smarak Sanstha Via Anusandhan Kendra, Nagpur, in the year 1999-2001 and 2002-04, and subsequently the Department of Culture and Archaeology, Chhattisgarh, in the year 2004-05, have carried out excavations at Sirpur, Distt. Mahasamund, in Chhattisgarh. The excavations have brought to light remains of an extensive city datable to

circa 6th-9th century A.D. The city contained, among other things, remains of a large Buddhist monastic complex comprising a sanctum sanctorum, a sixteen pillared hall, and ten monk's cells. The complex has preserved evidence of rich carvings depicting scenes from the life of Buddha, amorous couples, floral and animal designs besides *kirti-mukh* motifs.

#### **Election Process of Board of National Trust**

4382. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received some complaints regarding tampering and interfering with the democratic process of elections for Members of the 'Board of National Trust';

(b) if so, the nature of complaints;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) In connection with the election of Members to the Board of the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, held in the month of August, 2003, two representations had been received regarding validity of nomination of Shri Anil Joshi, Member of the Executive Committee of SWEETKAR, Nagpur, as a Member representing association of parents of persons with multiple disabilities. In both representations, doubt had been raised whether SWEETKAR was working in the field of multiple disabilities. SWEETKAR clarified that they had been working in the field of multiple disabilities. Further, they had already amended their constitution to include persons with multiple disabilities and those amendments had been registered with and approved by the competent authority on 16.10.2002. As the nomination of Shri Joshi had been found to be valid by the Returning Officer, the Trust declared the candidate elected.

#### **Parking Arrangements for Private Aeroplanes at Nagpur Airport**

4383. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India proposes to make arrangements for parking and night stay of private aeroplanes at Nagpur Airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the private operators had requested for ... these facilities at Sonagaon airport; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of 7 parking bays available at Nagpur airport, Airports Authority of India (AAI) can allot 3 bays for night parking.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. AAI has already allotted 2 bays for night parking to Deccan Air.

[*Translation*]

#### **Doordarshan Kendras in Rajasthan**

4384. SHRI PUSP JAIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to establish new Doordarshan Kendras and Doordarshan Relay Kendras in Rajasthan in the coming year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has intimated that a low power TV transmitter has been set up at Khajuwala in Rajasthan which is expected to be commissioned shortly. Besides, the existing LPT (DDI) at Bikaner is being replaced by an HPT, which is expected to be installed by 2006-07.

*[English]*

**Release of Financial Assistance under Post-matric Scholarship Scheme**

4385. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal for book bank in medical and engineering colleges;

(b) if so, whether the book bank scheme has been merged with post-matric scholarship scheme;

(c) if so, whether the financial assistance under the scheme for the year 2003-04 and 2004-05 has been released to the Government of Karnataka;

(d) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(e) the time by which the required funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The book bank scheme has been merged with Post-Matric Scheme during the year 2003-04. Central assistance amounting to Rs. 24.82 crore and Rs. 26.99 crore had been released during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively to the Government of Karnataka under the merged scheme.

**Submerging of Helicopters in Juhu Hangar**

4386. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of helicopters of Pawan Hans were submerged in Juhu Hangar during the recent rain in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of loss suffered as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 10 Dauphin helicopters and one Mi-172

helicopter were submerged in water at Juhu Hangar of Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL). Additionally one Mi-172 helicopter parked at ONGC oil rig Bombay High North (BHN) was destroyed in the fire on 27.7.2005.

(c) PHHL is assessing the extent of loss in consultation with the Oriental Insurance Company with whom these assets are insured.

*[Translation]*

**Proposals for Mentally Retarded Children**

4387. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Chhattisgarh has sent any proposal of Ankur and Innerwheel Education Society, Korba, working for the mentally retarded children to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto alongwith funds released thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The State Government had recommended the continuation of Grant-in-Aid to Ankur, Korba for its project 'Special School for Mentally Retarded Children'. It has also recommended a new proposal of Innerwheel Education Society for its project 'Special School for Visually Handicapped Children' for grant in aid under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme.

(c) The details of grant in aid released to Ankur, Korba during last 3 years are given below:

Year	Amount Released (in Lakh)
2002-03	5.70
2003-04	4.70
2004-05	5.56

The Innerwheel Education Society, Korba does not fulfil the minimum eligibility criteria of having 2 years experience in running the project.



*[English]***Modernisation of Railway Stations in Davangere**

4388. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal for modernization of railway stations in Davangere;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work on the railway stations in Davangere is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Expansion of Bhubaneswar Airport**

4389. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to modernize/upgrade the Bhubaneswar airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any request from the Government of Orissa for the modernization and expansion of the Bhubaneswar airport; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Requests have been received from State Government of Orissa for the modernization and upgradation of this airport has already been taken up in a phased manner. In phase I strengthening and extension of runway to 9,000 ft. has been taken up. It is likely to be completed in March, 2006. For phase II, there is a proposal for expansion of apron to accommodate more aircrafts.

**Introduction of Electronic Stethoscope in Trains**

4390. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to introduce Electronic Stethoscope to tighten the security for making rail journey safe;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith advantages of new system; and

(c) the time by which the new system is likely to be introduced in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Funds in Fixed Deposits**

4391. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge funds of Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited (BBUNL) are lying in fixed deposits in the scheduled bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that different units of subsidiaries of BBUNL are facing liquidity problems;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for not rendering financial assistance to these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) By the end of financial year 2004-05, i.e. as on 31.03.2005, the total amount of fixed deposits of BBUNL with scheduled banks was Rs. 26.46 crore.

(c) to (e) the subsidiaries of BBUNL are facing liquidity problems mainly due to loss of production on account of shortage of free supply items, hike in cost of inputs like steel, bogies & couplers, unremunerative price of wagons etc. BBUNL has been providing financial

assistance from time to time in the form of short-terms loan to meet financial exigencies of subsidiaries. Recently, the main banker of BBUNL has sanctioned Rs. 26.00 cr. to BBJ against BBUNL corporate guarantee.

#### **Investment by PIOs/NRIs in Aviation Sector**

4392. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:  
SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:  
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allowed Person of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to invest upon cent per cent in domestic aviation sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received some representations for non-implementation of above policy decision; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to issue directives to the concerned Ministries/Departments and State Governments clarifying Government's stand on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in aviation sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No Sir. The existing Civil Aviation Requirements stipulate that a scheduled/non-scheduled air transport operators permit can be granted only to a citizen of India or to a company/body corporate provided, inter-alia, that its substantial ownership and effective control is vested in Indian national. Hence, persons of Indian Origin, who are not Indian citizens, can not be permitted to operate air transport services in terms of the present regulatory position.

(c) The Government had received a letter from M/s Magic Air Pvt. Ltd. with reference to their application for grant of NOC to operate Schedule Air Transport Services.

(d) The matter is under examination.

#### **Burden of Sales Tax on Petroleum Products**

4393. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural gas has requested to the State Governments to slash sales tax to decrease the burden of increasing prices on the people; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the State Governments to this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas has requested State Chief Ministers through his letters dated 12th August/15th October 2004, and the Chairman of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers through letter dated the 10th November, 2004, to reduce/maintain sales tax rates on petroleum products, especially petrol and diesel, at their earlier agreed uniform floor levels with a view to containing the impact of high international prices on the domestic consumer prices of these products.

Twenty three (23) States, as per the list given in the enclosed Statement, have acknowledged receipt of the communication. The matter is being pursued.

#### ***Statement***

##### ***List of States who have acknowledged the Communication from Minister (PNG)***

Sl.No	State
1	2
1.	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Assam
3.	Bihar
4.	Chhattisgarh
5.	Delhi
6.	Gujarat
7.	Haryana
8.	Jammu & Kashmir
9.	Jharkhand
10.	Karnataka
11.	Madhya Pradesh
12.	Maharashtra
13.	Manipur
14.	Meghalaya

1	2
15.	Mizoram
16.	Nagaland
17.	Orissa
18.	Punjab
19.	Rajasthan
20.	Sikkim
21.	Uttar Pradesh
22.	Uttaranchal
23.	West Bengal

#### **Deposits for Petrol Pump Dealership**

4394. SHRI M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Oil Companies are taking a deposit/securities of Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs for giving the petrol pumps dealership depending upon volume of sales;

(b) if so, whether interest is given on such deposits/securities;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government would direct the Oil PSUs either to pay interest or to exempt such dealers from paying licence fee recovery keeping in view of the system of Kissan Seva Kendra; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) In terms of policy, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) collect, a security deposit ranging from Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 5 lakh, depending upon the estimated sales volume from dealers-select for retail outlets (petrol pumps). As this is a security deposit, it does not carry any interest. No security deposit is collected from dealerships reserved for the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe categories or from those eligible for financial assistance under the Corpus Fund Scheme.

(d) and (e) Under their "Kisan Seva Kendra" Scheme, Indian Oil Corporation Limited are collecting a security deposit of Rs. 25,000 from selected candidates. As the collection of the security deposit is a commercial matter between the OMCs and the dealers-select, Government do not intervene in the matter nor do they propose to intervene.

[Translation]

#### **Ticket Checking by RPF Personnel**

4395. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel are checking the tickets of passengers in trains;

(b) if so, whether the RPF personnel have also been authorised to check tickets of passengers;

(c) if not, the number of complaints received against RPF personnel for misusing their powers alongwith the reasons for checking of tickets by RPF personnel thus causing harassment to passengers;

(d) the action taken/to be taken against RPF personnel found guilty; and

(e) the measures taken/to be taken by the Railways to check the misuse of powers by RPF personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) One such case over South East Central Railway has been registered vide case No.33/05 U/S 294, 323/392/190 Indian Penal Code (IPC) by Government Railway Police (GRP) shahdol against two Railway Protection Force (RPF) Staff and the case is under investigation.

(e) Necessary instructions have been issued to all chief Security Commissioners, Zonal Railways directing RPF personnel not to indulge in ticket checking, failing which disciplinary action will be taken against them.

#### **Stoppage of Trains**

4396. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to provide stoppage of Barauni-Amritsar Jansewa Express, Darbhanga-Amritsar Jan Nayak Express, Jammu-Gorakhpur Express and Tata-Amritsar Jallianwalabagh Express at Roorkee and Laksar railway stations in view of their importance from the industrial point of view;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said proposals are likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) 5209/5210 Barauni-Amritsar Jansewa Express, 5211/5212 Darbhanga-Amritsar Jan Nayak Express, 2587/2588 Jammu-Gorakhpur Amarnath Express and 8103/8104 Tata-Amritsar Jallianwalabagh Express are already stopping at Laksar Railway station. Further, 2587/2588 Jammu-Gorakhpur Amarnath Express is stopping at Roorkee Railway station also. Stoppage of 5209/5210 Barauni-Amritsar Jansewa Express, 5211/5212 Darbhanga-Amritsar Jan Nayak Express and 8103/8104 Tata-Amritsar Jallianwalabagh Express at Roorkee Railway station has been examined but not found feasible for implementation due to operational constraints.

#### **Time for Broadcasting at Pauri and Gopeshwar**

4397. MAJ. GEN. (RETD) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the period for which programmes are broadcast daily from Akashwani Kendras at Pauri and Gopeshwar in Uttaranchal;

(b) whether the Gopeshwar Kendra is working merely as a relay centre;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the same is likely to be upgraded as a broadcasting centre;

(d) whether some posts in various categories are lying vacant at these Kendras;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which these are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that daily transmission timings of AIR, Pauri is from 1655 hrs. to 2130 hrs. and AIR, Gopeshwar is from 1745 hrs. to 2130 hrs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (f) Prasar Bharati has informed that due to difficulties in recruitment there is no proposal at present to upgrade AIR, Gopeshwar as an originating Station or fill up the vacant posts.

*[English]*

#### **Vacation of Land**

4398. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are running their petrol pumps on railway land inspite of expiry of lease and are not vacating the land;

(b) if so, whether the Railways would further lease out the land to them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to get the land vacated from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Platform Sheds at Bhadrak Railway Station**

4399. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no platform sheds on goods side at Bhadrak Railway Station in Orissa as a result much difficulties are being faced in loading and unloading of perishable goods during the rainy season;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have received representations from various quarters for providing these facilities at the said railway station; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The concerned division has received one representation.

(c) One representation dated 28.9.04 has been received from the local public forwarded by Ministry of Revenue, Food Supply and Consumer Welfare, Government of Orissa for providing platform sheds on the goods shed besides other demands. The proposal for extension of shed is under process for inclusion in the Works Programme for the year 2006-07.

#### **Dealership of Petro Products**

4400. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has modified the guidelines for allotment of dealership of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when these guidelines were last modified?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Based on certain broad parameters advised by the Government to the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) in August, 2003, the latter have framed their guidelines for the selection of retail outlet leaderships, LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships for viable locations in the country, and have been making selections in terms of these guidelines. These guidelines provided for a detailed procedure to be followed by the OMCs in making selection of dealers/distributors. The procedure includes selection of dealers/distributors by the selection committee of the OMC concerned on the basis of evaluation of the suitability of the candidates vis-a-vis certain laid down parameters. Further, the guidelines provide for grievance redressal mechanism and any complaint/grievance related to the selection of dealers/distributors is dealt with by the OMCs as per this mechanism.

Subsequently, in July, 2004, Government issued certain directions to the OMCs for lending more transparency to the selection procedure. In February, 2005, Government had further advised the OMCs to modify the procedure for considering officers of land from the land owners for setting up of dealerships.

*[Translation]*

#### **Hazipur-Vaishali-Sugauli Rail Line**

4401. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of land acquisition for construction of Hazipur-Vaishali-Sugauli new rail line has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the work for laying the said new railway line has since commenced;

(d) if so, the total expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(e) the time by which the construction work on railway line is likely to be completed and made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Land acquisition applications for the project have been filed with the State Government.

(d) An expenditure of Rs. 324.66 crore is likely to be incurred on the project.

(e) The target date for completion and commissioning of the line has not been fixed.

*[English]*

#### **Purchase of Stationery**

4402. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the replies given to Unstarred Question Nos. 432 and 3396 dated December 02, 2004 and March 24, 2005 respectively regarding purchase of stationery and state:

- (a) whether the information has since been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Information has been collected. However, it is being complied.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Since this involves collection and compilation of voluminous data, it will take more time to fulfil the Assurance.

#### **Ram Niwas Mirdha Committee**

4403. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV:  
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ram Niwas Mirdha Committee set up in 1983 to prepare an action plan for protecting the historical monuments from vandalism had submitted its report in 1984;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to implement the recommendations of the Report?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ram Niwas Mirdha Committee which was set up in 1983 to carry out a professional study of the steps that need be taken and to prepare an over all plan of action to preserve India's historical monuments submitted its report to the Government of India in 1984.

The Committee made as many as 81 recommendations which included the following recommendations for the protection of the historical monuments and site museums from theft and vandalism.

With a view to enforcing round the clock vigil at certain important monuments, the existing strength of Monument Attendants required to be increased to at least 9000 from the existing level of 2700.

The Security force for looking after the security of the Monuments as also of the Archaeological Museums should be organized on proper lines. There should be proper provision for armed Guards for Museums and sculptures, rich monuments like Khajuraho or where sculpture sheds exist; there should not be any monument without adequate provision of attendants.

"For building up of this force guidance may be obtained from organizations like the Central Industrial Force of Border Security Force etc."

(c) The proposal of the Archaeological Survey of India for creation of 5000 posts of Monument Attendants was not agreed by the Planning Commission. The Committee, instead, suggested the following options:

1. Engagement of private agencies.
2. Involvement of local bodies like municipalities, corporation and the panchayati raj institutions.
3. Engaging the community and the connected families.

As per recommendations of Planning Commission, Archaeological Survey of India has supplemented the security services by entrusting the security of Taj Mahal and Red Fort to C.I.S.F. and by deploying Private Security Personnel, State Police and Home Guards in selected monuments and museums.

#### **Cess on Petroleum Products**

4404. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL:  
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a cess on petroleum products was imposed in 1974 with the sole and principal objective of developing the petroleum industry;

(b) if so, the amount accumulated so far;

(c) the percentage of the accumulated amount spent till date for the development of petroleum industry particularly in Assam; and

(d) the matter in which the Government is using the balance amount?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Cess on crude oil was imposed in 1974 by the Government under section 15 of Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974 with the objective to provide financial assistance to the oil industry as defined under section 2(k) of the Act which includes, inter-alia, production of mineral oil, refining, marketing of all products downstream of an oil refinery; and the production of fertilizer and petrochemicals, and all activities directly or indirectly connected therewith.

(b) The Government has collected a net cess amount of approximately Rs. 55,967 crores as on 31.3.2005.

(c) and (d) Utilisation of cess on crude oil is governed by the provisions of section 2(k) of the Oil Industry Development Act, 1974. The term "oil industry" includes fertilizer and petrochemicals for the purposes of the Act. The expenditure incurred so far on the oil industry is in excess of the cess collection. Till date, approximately Rs. 3250 crore as loans and Rs. 11 crore as grants have been released by the Oil Industry Development Board to the oil sector PSUs/other organisations for the development of the oil industry in the Assam Region.

#### **Procurement of Mosquito Nets**

4405. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air Force and Navy procured mosquito nets and uniform cloth on inflated rates from Reliance Industries Limited causing financial loss to the Government during 2001-2002 onwards;

(b) if so, the total loss caused to the exchequer;

(c) whether the procurement from Reliance Industries Limited was in violation of the rules and procedures underlying public tendering and in disregard of the guidelines of the CVC; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against the persons responsible for causing avoidable financial loss to the exchequer and for violation of CVC guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The purchase of mosquito nets by the Indian Air Force and the purchase of uniform

cloth by the Navy have been incorporated as audit paras in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (No. 7 of 2005) Air Force & Navy) ended 31st March, 2004.

The Navy did not procure mosquito nets from Reliance Industries Ltd at any time.

The Indian Air Force procured uniform cloth since 2001 through the trade as per Government orders following the competitive bidding from registered vendors.

*[Translation]*

#### **Reimbursement of Expenses Incurred on Airports Security**

4406. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent any proposal to the Union Government for reimbursement of expenses incurred on security of airports;

(b) if so, the total amount to be reimbursed to the State Government as on date; and

(c) the time by which the said amount will be reimbursed to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) As on date, no bills of the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh are pending with Airports Authority of India for payment.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Indian Manuscripts**

4407. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special drives have been undertaken by the Government to locate and conserve the Indian manuscripts;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to extend some financial rewards to owners offering manuscripts for documentation; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Mission for Manuscripts was set up by the Government in 2003 for taking up survey, documentation and conservation of Indian manuscripts. The Mission has linked with 77 renowned institutions around the country to facilitate this task. The Mission has set up conservation centres in leading institutions to conserve manuscripts and to provide training. The Mission undertook a survey and located 6.5 lakhs manuscripts in 37,000 depositories in Orissa, U.P., Bihar and Delhi. Similar surveys are being undertaken in Gujarat, J&K, Assam, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Kerala, Tripura, Manipur, Sikkim & Arunachal Pradesh etc. It is also creating an electronic database on manuscripts.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Damodar Rail Project**

4408. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the works of Damodar Rail related project has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the progress so far made on this project; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The work of Bankura Damodar River (BDR) Railway gauge conversion project is progressing as per the overall availability of resources. Gauge conversion from Bankura to Sonamukhi has been completed. Works are in various stages of progress on the rest of the project length.

(d) No target date of completion of the entire project has been fixed.

#### **Premature Retirement by IAF Pilots**

4409. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:  
SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that pilots in Indian Air Force have been taking premature retirement to join the private airlines companies which are offering better pay perks;

(b) if so, the number of pilots who took premature retirement during the last three years and the current year so far;

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend the rules and service conditions of the pilots to check exodus; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The number of pilots in the Indian Air Force (IAF) who have taken premature retirement during the years 2002 to 2004 is 236. During the year 2005 (upto 31st July, 2005) 42 pilots have taken premature retirement. The majority of pilots released from service have already completed their useful tenure as pilots. These exists do not affect the operational status of the squadrons. The requests for acceptance of premature retirement/resignation from the pilots are considered as per the Government instructions. The job profile and job requirements of the pilots in the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the pilots in commercial airlines are different and not comparable. The improvement in the job profile of the IAF pilots is a continuous phenomenon keeping in view the job specific requirements and operational necessity.

#### **Corruption in Tatkal Reservation Scheme**

4410. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:  
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:



(a) whether the Railways are aware that tickets under Tatkal Reservation Scheme are not made available to needy persons due to the corruption and connivance between railway officers and employees;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received in this regard during the last three years;

(c) the action taken/to be taken against the official found guilty; and

(d) the stringent measures taken/to be taken by the Railways to check malpractices in Tatkal Reservation Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Reservation against Tatkal Scheme is available across the counter to every bonafide passenger.

Complaints, whenever received, are investigated and necessary action is taken. Separate statistics of such complaints are, however, not maintained.

(d) Preventive and surprise checks are conducted from time to time to apprehend the staff indulging in malpractices in reservation including Tatkal Reservation Scheme.

*[English]*

#### **Recruitment of Scientists in DRDO**

4411. SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Recruitment and Assessment Centre, New Delhi recruits Scientists for Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO);

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to assign the recruitment process of Scientists in DRDO to UPSC for maintaining impartiality in recruitment;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved Recruitment and Assessment Centre (RAC), New Delhi as recruitment agency for scientists in DRDO.

Director General (DG) DRDO has no role in the recruitment of the scientists as RAC has an independent Chairman akin to UPSC.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) RAC has adopted scientific techniques and methodologies to ensure fair, objective and fast selection tailored for DRDO requirements.

#### **Revision of Disability Pension**

4412. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pension of disabled ex-servicemen has been revised as part of implementation of the Fifth Central Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on the recommendation of the Fifth Central Pay Commission, as accepted by the Government, orders were issued for revision of the rates of disability pension in respect of Armed Forces personnel. The details of revised rates of disability element of disability pension for 100% disability are as under:

Commissioned Officers	— Rs. 2600/- pm
Jr. Commissioned Officers	— Rs. 1900/- pm
Personnel Below Officer Rank	— Rs. 1550/- pm

The revision has been effected by the Pension Sanctioning Authority.

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

*[Translation]*

**Reservation for OBC in Educational  
and Professional Institutions**

4413. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:  
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:  
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:  
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to provide reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) in educational and professional institutions including Medical and Dental colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made in this regard so far; and

(d) the time by which the same is likely to be materialised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) The matter regarding reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in educational and professional institutions under the Central Government is under consideration of the Government.

**Changes in MST Scheme**

4414. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to make changes in its Monthly Season Ticket (MST) scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the changes proposed to be made in MST scheme; and

(c) the time by which the amended MST scheme is likely to become effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]*

**Opening of Petrol/Diesel Outlets/LPG Agencies**

4415. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:  
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:  
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open new Petrol/Diesel/CNG outlets/agencies in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu during 2005-06;

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

(c) the details of places for which advertisements have been given in the various newspapers, location-wise; and

(d) the time by which Petrol/Diesel outlets/LPG agencies are likely to be provided at the above places?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) While there is no plan to set up Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) outlets in the States of West Bengal and Tamil Nadu during 2005-06, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) propose to set up retail outlet dealerships (petrol/diesel outlets) (RO) and LPG distributorships (LPG) in these States during the year. The State-wise position is as under:

State	No. of dealerships/distributorships proposed to be opened during 2005-06	
	RO	LPG
West Bengal	396	45
Tamil Nadu	432	69

Location-wise details of these dealerships/distributorships, as well as location-wise details of advertisements released by the OMCs, are available with the Director (Marketing) of the OMC concerned.

(d) It is not possible to indicate the time-frame for the commissioning of dealerships/distributorships as the exercise involves various steps like scrutiny of applications and documents, conduct of interviews of the eligible

candidates for selection of dealers/distributors, release of merit panels, field investigation in respect of selected candidates, obtaining land/statutory approvals/licences, construction, etc.

**Scientific Conservation of Padmanabhapuram Palace**

4416. SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal regarding scientific conservation of Padmanabhapuram Palace in Thiruvananthapuram;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Archaeological Survey of India has not received any project proposal from State Government of Kerala regarding conservation of the palace. Moreover, Padmanabhapuram Palace in Thiruvananthapuram is not a centrally protected monument by Archaeological Survey of India. This monument is protected by Department of Archaeology, Government of Kerala.

(c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Construction of New Rail Lines and Stations**

4417. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: SHRI AJIT JOGI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals for construction of new railway lines and stations forwarded by the Government of Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh which have not been approved so far;

(b) the present status of these proposals; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The details of each and every demand received regarding new rail projects is not maintained. However, demands have been received from Government of Maharashtra regarding new proposals for New Lines, Gauge Conversions and Doublings and no such demands have been received from the Government of Chhattisgarh. The details of demands received from State Government of Maharashtra are as under:

Sl.No.	Project	Remarks
1	2	3
1.	Yavatmal-Murtizapur-Achalpur (gauge conversion)	Survey for gauge conversion of Achalpur-Murtizapur-Yavatmal, Pulgaon-Arvi (225 kms) completed.
2.	Pune-Miraj-Kolhapur (Doubling)	An updating survey for Pune-Miraj-Kolhapur doubling (326 kms) taken up.
3.	Solapur-Tuljapur-Osmanabad (new line)	Survey for construction of new BG line from Solapur to Osmanabad via Tuljapur (60 km ) completed.
4.	Mudkhed-Nizamabad (Doubling)	There is no proposal for doubling of this line. However, gauge conversion of Mudkhed-Nizamabad completed.
5.	Adilabad to Gadchiroli via Rajura (190 km) new line	(5) to (16)-The suggested railway lines would be about 1500 kms in length costing not less than Rs. 5000 crore. There is heavy throwforward of ongoing projects requiring over Rs. 46000 crore for completion. The availability of resources is limited and in such a scenario, taking up new projects may not be feasible for the present.
6.	Pandharpur-Lonand (145 km) new line	

1	2	3
7.	Guhagar (Chiplun) Lonand (105 km) new line	
8.	Bodhan to Diglur (135 km) new line	
9.	Jalna to Washim (155 km) new line	
10.	Shegaon to Jalna (110 km) new line	
11.	Udgir-Bodhan-Degloor (100 km) new line	
12.	Bodhan-Biloli-Narsi-Mudkhed-Shirur-Tajband-Latur Road (135 km) new line	
13.	Nanded-Loha-Gangakhed (85 km) New line	
14.	Loha-Ahmedpur-Chakur-Latur Road (165 km) new line	
15.	Loha-Kandhar-Mudkhed (90 km) new line	
16.	Dharmabad-Biloli-Diglur (65 km) new line	
17.	Mudkhed-Kachiguda	On Mudkhed-Kachiguda section, gauge conversion of Mudkhed-Secunderabad has been completed and now a Broad Gauge line is available from Kachiguda to Mudkhed.
18.	Jalgaon-Udhna doubling (295 kms)	Survey completed.
19.	Wardha-Yavatmai-Nanded-Pusad-Nanded new line (260 kms)	Updating survey taken up.
20.	Dhanu-Nasik new line (168 kms)	(20) to (26)-Survey completed. Could not be taken up because of constraint of resources and heavy throwforward of ongoing projects.
21.	Pachora-Jamner gauge conversion (104 kms)	
22.	Konkan Railway connection to Kolhapur via Nandgaon (211 kms)	
23.	Pune-Nagar-Nasik new line (266 kms)	
24.	Purna-Khandwa gauge conversion	
25.	Manmad-Dhule-Shirpur-Indore & Manmad Sillod (new line)	
26.	Parvel-Pen-Roha (76 km doubling)	

*[English]*

**Gauge Conversion from Secunderabad to  
Nizamabad**

4418. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state; -

(a) the progress so far made on the gauge conversion of railway line from Secunderabad to Nizamabad;

(b) the total expenditure incurred on the project till date; and

(c) the time schedule for completion of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The work forms a part of Secunderabad-Mudkhed and Jankampet-Bodhan gauge conversion project. Mudkhed-Nizamabad-Bolarum and Jankampet-Bodhan sections have been completed and commissioned. An expenditure of Rs. 283.77 crore has been incurred on the project upto 31.3.2005. The remaining section is targeted for completion during 2005-06.

#### Construction of Terminals

4419. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India proposes to construct new terminals at Thiruvananthapuram, Cochin and Kozhikode airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has a proposal to construct a new international terminal building at Thiruvananthapuram Airport only. The existing international terminal building at Calicut (Kozhikode) is proposed to be expanded and modified to handle 1000 passengers at a time. For Cochin Airport which is a private airport AAI has no proposal.

(c) The proposal for construction of a new international terminal building at Thiruvananthapuram airport has to be approved by the competent authority before initiating the construction. In case of Kozhikode Airport, work on extension and modification of international terminal building is due for completion by June, 2006.

#### Contract for BHEL

4420. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has bagged Rs. 2120 crore contract from Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation for two power plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time fixed for completion of these power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. BHEL has bagged two contracts of 500 MW each from Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation (APGENCO) for setting up of Vijayawada Thermal Power Station Extension and Bhoopalapally Thermal Power Station for a total value of Rs. 2120 Crore.

(c) The schedule for commissioning of the above two projects is as under:

	Vijayawada TPS Extension (500 MW)	Bhoopalapally TPS (500 MW)
Synchronization	36 months	38 months
Trial Operation	39 months	41 months

[*Translation*]

#### Construction of Railway Halt Station at Ganpur

4421. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have examined the proposal for construction of Railway halt station at Ganpur between Nizamabad and Manmad;

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

(c) whether any decision has been taken to construct the said halt;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the work on the project is likely to commence; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The proposal regarding opening of a halt station at Ganpur between Nizamabad and Manmad has been examined and not found feasible.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

**Air Services from Bilaspur and Jagdalpur**

4422. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for introduction of air services from Bilaspur, Jagdalpur and Raipur is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) At present, no scheduled operator including private scheduled operator is operating any air service to/from Bilaspur and Jagdalpur.

However, at present following scheduled air services are available to/from Raipur.

Name	Sector	Flights/week
Indian Airlines	Mumbai-Raipur-Bhubaneshwar-Mumbai Delhi-Raipur-Nagpur-Delhi.	Daily 3
Alliance Air	Delhi-Raipur-Vizag-Chennai & Return	4
Jet Airways	Mumbai-Raipur-Mumbai	Daily

Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.

**Funds for Railway Projects**

4423. MOHD. SHAHID:  
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:  
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have earned surplus cash through reforms in the Railways;

(b) if so, the total amount accrued so far;

(c) whether any assessment has been made regarding increase in this amount by the end of the year;

(d) if so, whether such surplus amount is being contemplated to be spent on completing the incomplete railway projects;

(e) if so, the total cost of the pending Railway projects; and

(f) the details of the projects which would be completed first out of the pending projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) To end of June, 2005, the railways have earned Rs. 12,853 crore as traffic earnings, which are Rs. 700 crore more than the proportionate target. However, there has also been increase in expenditure. Hence, assessment of the surplus etc. likely to be available during the course of the year and its likely utilization would be made while finalizing the Revised Estimates and the same would be intimated to the Parliament through the budget documents.

(e) As on 1.4.2005 there are 240 ongoing projects of New Line, Gauge Conversion, Doubling, Railway Electrification and Metropolitan Transport Project having a throwforward of over Rs. 47,000 crore for their completion.

(f) The targets for projects are fixed on annual basis. A list of projects/sections which have been targeted for completion during 2005-06 is enclosed as Statement.

**Statement****Funds for Railway Projects**

Railway	Section targeted
1	2
<b>New Line</b>	
East Central Railway	Nekpur-Natesar of Rajgir-Tilaiya
East Central Railway	Sanjauli-Piro of Ara-Sasaram
Western Railway	Banka-Barhut of Deogarh-Sultanganj

1	2
Eastern Railway	Gandhinagar-Kalol
Northern Railway	Chandigarh-Morinda
North Western Railway	Kolayat-Phalodi (Defence Funds)
<b>Gauge Conversion</b>	
South Central Railway	Secunderabad-Bolaram
East Central Railway	Samastipur - Khagaria; Khagaria-Mansi
Northeast Frontier Railway	Barsol-Radhikapur
North Western Railway	Delhi-Rewari
Western Railway	Palanpur-Samkhiali of Gandhidham-Palanpur
South Western Railway	Sakleshpur-Subramanya Road
Southern Railway	Kumbakonam-Mayiladuthurai; Manamadurai-Mandapam; Trichy-Puddukotai of Trichy-Manamadurai; Quilon-Punalur and Virudhachallam-Attur
North Eastern Railway	Kanpur Anwarganj-Farrukhabad of Kanpur Kasganj-Mathura
<b>Doublings</b>	
South Central Railway	Hagari-Bellary
East Central Railway	Chhapra-Hajipur
South Central Railway	Korba-Gevra Road
South Western Railway	Bangalore-Kengeri-Bidadi; Toranagallu-Hospet and Yeshwantpur-Gollahalli
Southern Railway	Pallipuram-Shoranur
Western Railway	Phanda-Panchawan-Sehore of Kalapital-Phanda
Central Railway	Diva-Kalyan and Panvel-Jnpt
Eastern Coast Railway	Kesinga-Titlagarh; Khurda Road-Delang; Balasore of Cuttack-Raghunathpur and Sambalpur-Sason

1	2
Northern Railway	Suchipind-Bhogpur; Bhogpur-Tanda; Mirthal-Chakkibank; and Jammu Tawi-Vijaypur Jammu
Southern Railway	Korukkupet-Ennore
North Central Railway	Cheonki-Lohagara
Northern Railway	Zafraabad-Utratia and Utratia-Chandrauli; Sultanpur-Bhaduan Kalan
Eastern Railway	Diara-Singur; Champahati-Ghutiarisharif; Bandel-Bansberia
Northeast Frontier Railway	Harishchandrapur-Kumarganj; Kumarganj-Ekdakhi
South Eastern Railway	Raghunathbari-Rajgoda
<b>Railway Electrification</b>	
South Central Railway	Nizamabad-Moradabad
Southern Railway	Paravur-Trivandrum
East Coast Railway	Talcher-Angul
South Central Railway	Tirupati-Pakala-Kadpadi
Eastern Railway	Krishnanagar-Bherampur
East Coast Railway	

[*English*]

#### Construction of Waiting Room at Tumkur Railway Station

4424. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a waiting room at the Tumkur Railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds earmarked for the said project during the current financial year; and

(d) the time schedule for completion of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Gents and ladies waiting rooms are already available at Tumkur station.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Joint Production of Mig-29**

4425. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia has agreed to produce Mig-29 aircraft jointly;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Russia has informed of its intention for licensed production of MiG-29 M/M2 fighter in India.

(c) No decision has been taken by the Government in this regard.

#### **Hiring of Pilots from Abroad**

4426. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines is trying to hire pilots from USA, Europe, Australia and some other countries to run their services as reported in the *Times of India* dated August 1, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the Indian Airlines has been successful in its attempts to fill the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Use of Cargo Services by Private Courier Companies**

4427. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private courier companies are using airlines cargo service;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Indian Post Office Act, 1898 does not permit private courier companies to use the airlines cargo service; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Section 5 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 expressly forbids common carriers of passengers or goods and their servants or agents, (except as regards letters solely concerning goods in their carts or carriages) to collect, carry tender or deliver letters, or to receive letters for the purpose of carrying or delivering them although they obtain no hire, reward or other profit or advantage for doing so.

*[Translation]*

#### **Selection of Newspapers for Advertisements**

4428. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding favouritism in selecting newspapers by Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) for publishing advertisements;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received during the current year so far;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No specific complaints have been received by Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) regarding favouritism in selecting newspapers for publishing advertisements in the recent past. However, representations are received from various newspapers/journals for release of more Government advertisements. Print media advertisement activities of DAVP are governed by the Advertisement Policy of the Government of India and Guidelines for Empanelment of Newspapers with DAVP.



The advertisements to the newspapers/journals are released by DAVP in accordance with the extant instructions, keeping in view the client's requirements, budget, target audience etc.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[*English*]

#### IOC Stake in ONGC and GAIL

4429. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has sought permission from the Government to sell its stake in Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and GAIL (India) Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir, IOC has sought the approval from the Government to off-load its equity shares in ONGC and GAIL.

(b) The details of the investment made by IOC in the equity shares of ONGC and GAIL during 1999-2000 are as under:

Company	No. of shares	%age Holding	Price/share (Rs.)	Amount Rs./Crore
ONGC	13,70,67,381	9.60%	162.34	2225
GAIL	4,08,39,549	4.43%	60.00	245
Total				2470

(c) As at present, no final decision has been taken to off-load the cross holdings of these Oil PSUs.

[*Translation*]

#### Compensation to Fishermen

4430. SHRI SHANKHLAL MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any provision is being made to provide compensation to the fishermen whose nets and other fishing equipments are damaged during the survey undertaken by the ONGC;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) During the course of surveys undertaken by ONGC, interactions between the fishing community and seismic contractors are held in advance in the presence of representatives of ONGC and local fisheries authorities to explain the plan of seismic surveys to avoid any damage. Besides, all contracts for seismic surveys provide for payment of compensation by the contractor for such damage, the cost of which is borne by the contractor.

As regards departmental seismic surveys, ONGC takes all necessary precautions by providing advance information regarding surveys through interaction with the community and the Department of Fisheries.

#### Pantry Car Facility in Trains

4431. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:  
SHRI ANANT GUDHE:  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4287 dated April 21, 2005 regarding pantry car facility in trains and state:

(a) whether the trains in which the pantry car facility is to be provided during 2005-06 has been finalized;

(b) if so, the names thereof;

(c) the progress made in regard to provision of pantry car facility in such trains and time by which the work is likely to be completed in this regard;

(d) whether provision of pantry car facility in Gorakhdham express, Pathankot express, Kolhapur-Nizamuddin express and Godwana express have also been including during 2005-06;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No programme has been finalised for provision of pantry cars as yet in 2005-2006. Even if the programme is finalised, no definite time frame can be given for provision of pantry cars as this is subject to availability of pantry cars and operation feasibility. However, in 2005-2006 new pantry cars have been allotted and provided in 12 trains so far.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

*[English]*

#### Supply of Naphtha to Power Stations

4432. SHRI T.K. HAMZA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of naphtha supplied to Power Plants of Kerala located at Brahm Puram, Kozhikode, Kayamkulam, Kasaragoda and Kochi by Oil PSUs during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) whether cost of naphtha being supplied for power generation has been considerably increased from July, 2005;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to provide Naphtha at affordable rates till LNG is made available to these power plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The quantity of Naphtha uplifted by power stations in Kerala from Oil PSUs during 2004-05 and 2005-06 [April to July 2005] is as below:

(Quantity in Thousand MTs)

Location	2004-05	2005-06
Brahm Puram	—	—
Kozhikode	—	—
Kayamkulam	105.92	58.61
Kasaragoda	—	—
Kochi	16.70	6.90

(b) The pricing of Naphtha for power generation is based on import parity. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) have reported that the sales tax exemption earlier available to M/s BSES Kerala Power Ltd., Kochi and NTPC, Kayamkulam has been withdrawn effective 1st April 2005 owing to the implementation of VAT. Excise duty exemption has also been withdrawn effective 2nd July 2005. Consequently, this would impact on the price of naphtha supplied to the power plants at Kochi and Kayamkulam.

(c) to (e) Naphtha is a decontrolled product. The price of naphtha supplied by public sector oil marketing companies to power stations in Kerala is based on the commercial considerations of both parties.

#### Inclusion of Castes in OBC List

4433. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has since agreed for inclusion of Mahisya and other castes in OBC list;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these castes specially Mahisya were not included in the recommendations made by the Mandal Commission for OBC category;

(d) if so, the grounds on which these castes have been recognized as OBC;

(e) whether the Government has made any assessment about the adverse effect on the other castes which have already been included in OBC list on the basis of the recommendations of Mandal Commission; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 4582 castes/communities (including synonyms) from different States/UTs have so far been included in the Central list of OBCs, details of which are available on the website of NCBC ([www.ncbc.nic.in](http://www.ncbc.nic.in)).

(c) Mahisya caste appears in the Mandal list for the States of Assam, Bihar and Meghalaya.

(d) Since Mahisya caste was common in both Mandal list and State list for Assam, it has been included in the Central list of OBCs for Assam.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Repairing of Runways at IGI Airport**

4434. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of runways at Indira Gandhi International Airport at New Delhi are likely to remain closed from September 2005 to undertake some necessary repair work;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of days for which these would be closed; and

(d) the extent to which the domestic and international flights are likely to be affected during the period due to the said construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Runway 10/28 at Indira Gandhi International Airport has been closed for the period of 107 days from 16.8.2005 to 30.11.2005 for few hours daily for the construction and merging of rapid exit and link taxiways.

(d) No flights would be affected due to this closure as the second runway 09/27 will be available for aircraft operations during this time. Runway 10/28 is also available beyond the construction work timings.

#### **Shortage of Railway Coaches**

4435. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any shortage of railway coaches in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways propose to set up any other coach manufacturing factory; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. There is no shortage to run the scheduled train services.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The present capacity available in the two coach factories of Indian Railways i.e. Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai and Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala, supplemented by two coach factories namely one in private sector i.e. M/s Jessops & Co., Kolkata and one in public sector i.e. M/s Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Bangalore, is sufficient to meet the present requirement of Indian Railways.

*[English]*

#### **Dwarka Station**

4436. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to make Dwarka station of Gujarat as a Model Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work on this station is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Dwarka railway station has been selected to be made model station for which instructions have already been given to the concerned zonal railway.

(c) Work has already started and the target for completion is March, 2008.

*[Translation]*

#### **Non-Recovery in Television Marketing**

4437. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Film Development Corporation Limited has failed to recover Rs. 3.98 crore from the marketing agents due to defective collection system and ineffective recovery action as reported in C&AG Report No. 3 of 2005 (commercial);

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

(c) whether any accountability has been fixed in the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the erring officials; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 3.98 crores is due from the following companies towards purchase of commercial time (FCT) to advertise their products in the Friday/Saturday film slot of Doordarshan marketed by NFD:

- |      |                                     |   |                 |
|------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| (i)  | M/s. Plus Channel                   | — | Rs. 2.24 crores |
| (ii) | M/s. Panjon Group of Companies Ltd. | — | Rs. 1.74 crores |

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Departmental proceedings have been initiated against the senior officer concerned who has been suspended for various lapses in the TV Marketing Department.

(e) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Comprehensive Plan for Preservation of Archaeological Heritage**

4438. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared any comprehensive plan for preservation of archaeological heritage, monument complexes and archival heritage; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The conservation of centrally protected archaeological monuments and sites is taken up by the Archaeological Survey of India in accordance with the approved annual conservation programme. This programme consists of annual maintenance, structural repairs, chemical preservation and environmental development. The budget allocation for 2005-06 is Rs. 50.25 crores under plan and Rs. 57.20 crores under non-plan.

*[Translation]*

#### **Installation of Digital Coach Indicator System**

4439. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:  
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating to install Digital Coach Indicator system at major railway stations of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of stations selected therefor; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The Digital Coach Indicator system is proposed to be provided at major stations in a phased manner. However, no separate details are maintained centrally of such stations as the divisional authorities carry out this work locally.

#### **Supply of Sub-Standard Food Stuff in Shatabdi Trains**

4440. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware of supply of sub-standard food stuff and supply of mineral water other than 'Rail Neer' in Shatabdi trains;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the details of complaints received during the current year in this regard and the action taken/to be taken thereon; and

(d) the stringent measures taken/to be taken by the Railways to check supply of Sub-standard food stuff and water in Shatabdi trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Standard food stuff and packaged drinking water brands, including Rail Neer, which are of approved Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specifications, are served on trains, including Shatabdi trains.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Data in regard to complaints is not maintained train-wise for All Indian Railways. Regular/surprise checks are conducted by the railway administration and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited to monitor the quality and quantity of food items and packaged drinking water served in all trains, including Shatabdi trains. Punitive actions are taken and termination of Licences are done in case of defaults. Disciplinary actions are taken against defaulting staff of Departmental Catering units for inferior services and other irregularities, if any.

*[English]*

#### **Reconstitution of LPG/SKO/Retail Outlets**

4441. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of reconstitution proposals in respect of LPG, SKO and retail outlet dealers of Delhi received by the Indian Oil Corporation since July, 2004;

(b) whether the proposals are in conformity with the laid down guidelines;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay and status of each proposal; and

(d) the action being taken by the company to clear such proposals expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) have reported that it received 5, 3 and 8 reconstitution proposals in respect of LPG, SKO and Retail Outlet (RO) dealers/distributors of Delhi respectively since July 2004.

All proposals relating to LPG distributorships have been approved. In respect of SKO dealers, 2 proposals have been approved and one proposal is pending for want of documents from the dealer concerned. As regards RO dealers, 3 proposals have been approved. Out of the balance 5 proposals, 2 proposals do not meet the requirements laid down in the guidelines; 2 proposals are pending for want of documents from the dealers concerned; and one proposal has been withdrawn by the dealer.

IOCL have reported that only those proposals which are in conformity with the laid down guidelines are considered by them. In case of any discrepancy between the proposals and the laid down guidelines, these are brought to the attention of the dealer/distributor concerned for rectification to enable the company to process the proposal expeditiously.

#### **Encroachment of Defence Land in Nagpur**

4442. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Defence land at Sitabuldi Fort, Nagpur has been encroached by builders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to remove encroachments on Defence land?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The total area of Defence land at Sitabuldi Fort and its surrounding area is 126.97 acres out of which an area of approximately 2.53 acres is under encroachment by private parties by way of construction of multi-storeyed buildings.

(c) Disputes regarding ownership and eviction on the above encroachments are presently being contested in different courts of law and are subjudice.

#### **Radar Facility at Cochin Airport**

4443. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cochin International Airport has requested for radar facility at the airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) A proposal for providing Terminal Area Radar at Cochin International Airport is under consideration in Airports Authority of India.

#### **Natural Gas Regulatory Board**

4444. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government to create Natural Gas Regulatory Boards at State level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) While some State Governments have expressed a desire to establish state-level Regulatory Board for natural gas, it has been explained to them that as natural gas is a Union subject, State Governments do not have the legislative competence to set up Natural Gas Regulatory Boards at the State level. The Central Government have under consideration

a proposal to set up a Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) to protect the interests of consumers and entities engaged in specified activities relating to petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas, to ensure the uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum products and natural gas to all parts of the country, and to promote competitive markets.

#### **Freight Traffic Movement**

4445. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of various zones in freight traffic movement during each of the last three years;

(b) whether any zone has improved its performance in the first quarter of the current financial year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The zone-wise performance in freight traffic movement is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) All Zonal Railways except North Central and North Eastern Railways have improved its performance in the first quarter of current financial year. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

#### **Statement I**

##### *Freight Traffic Movement*

Railways	Loading (in million tonnes)			Revenue NTKMs# (in million)		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Central	56.16	41.12	42.98	35257	25055	26245
Eastern	57.09	37.97	42.47	28099	13011	14291
East Central	26.42	54.97	58.25	18304	37791	39369
East Coast	*0	64.05	70.46	*0	34826	37934
Northern	44.08	42.22	41.40	63955	62430	58774
North Central	*0	5.57	5.43	*0	4607	4413

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
North Eastern	2.05	1.96	2.06	1457	1767	1512
Northeast Frontier	7.07	9.10	9.94	7030	10729	11168
North Western	7.60	9.77	9.05	9367	11069	11233
Southern	24.07	23.57	23.19	12160	10781	10196
South Central	62.29	44.79	51.00	34574	24492	28054
South Eastern	201.54	69.15	73.07	121699	31475	34478
South East Central	*0	83.02	92.52	*0	63245	75020
South Western	*0	25.75	31.75	*0	12977	16073
Western	30.10	26.01	28.35	24950	23792	28157
West Central	*0	18.37	19.97	*0	13194	14437
<b>Total</b>	<b>518.74</b>	<b>557.39</b>	<b>601.89</b>	<b>353194</b>	<b>381241</b>	<b>411354</b>

\*Came up in existence w.e.f. 1.4.2003.

#NTKMs-Net Tonnes Kilometres.

**Statement II**

**Freight Traffic Movement**

Railways	Loading from 1.4.2005 to 30.6.2005 (in million tonnes)		Revenue NTKMs# from 1.4.2005 to 30.6.2005 (in million)	
	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
Central	10.28	11.17	6027	6954
Eastern	10.28	11.61	3430	3629
East Central	14.32	14.94	9840	9646
East Coast	16.20	18.39	8959	9591
Northern	9.57	9.60	13807	13215
Northeast Frontier	2.53	2.70	3095	3096
North Western	2.72	2.81	3026	2952
Southern	5.04	6.59	2160	2588
South Central	11.42	13.72	6604	7305

1	2	3	4	5
South Eastern	17.07	19.74	8165	9005
South East Central	21.72	24.23	17903	19528
South Western	6.90	9.27	3306	4400
Western	6.43	7.71	6371	8405
West Central	4.71	5.88	3499	4235
<b>Total</b>	<b>139.19</b>	<b>158.36</b>	<b>96192</b>	<b>104549</b>

#NTKMs-Net Tonnes Kilometres.

#### **Infrastructure Facilities at Airports**

**4446. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR:  
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to improve the infrastructure facilities at the airports in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to develop any other airport in Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Improvement works undertaken by AAI at various airports in Karnataka include expansion and modification of International and domestic terminal buildings and other facilities at Bangalore, strengthening of runway, associated pavements and upgradation of existing ground lighting facilities at Belgaum and Hubli and construction of new runway of 8000 feet length and associated works at Mangalore.

(c) and (d) The State Government of Karnataka has proposals for development of Mysore airport and construction of new airports at Hassan and Gulbarga.

#### **Direct Flight to Hyderabad**

**4447. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the foreign airlines granted permission by the Government to take direct flights to Hyderabad;

(b) the frequency of each flight;

(c) whether some more foreign airlines have requested for similar permission;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The designated airlines of UAE (Dubai), Qatar, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, France, Oman, Germany and Canada have been granted permission to operate to/from Hyderabad, till date.

Presently 7 foreign airlines are operating to Hyderabad namely Emirates (UAE-8 services per week), Malaysia Airlines (Malaysia-3 services per week), Qatar Airways (Qatar-4 services per week), Silk air (Singapore-4 services per week), Lufthansa German Airlines (Germany-3 services per week), Saudia (Saudi Arabia-2 services per week) and Sri Lankan Airlines (Sri Lanka-7 services per week).

(c) to (e) Hyderabad has been granted as new point of call during the recently held bilateral talks with France, Oman, Germany and Canada, as per their requests. Moreover, traffic rights for international air services to any points in India are decided through bilateral air services consultations, which is a continuous process based on the demand to/from specific destinations.



### Use of Weighing Machines

4448. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Railways has been fined for using the weighing machines on all the railway stations without obtaining proper Government certificates;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor:

(c) whether any official has been held responsible for this lapse; and

(d) if so, the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to not obtaining certificates for weighing machines on due date, Weight and Measurement Department of Maharashtra State Government has imposed fine, in addition to the prescribed fee, on 43 stations of Central Railway to the tune of Rs. 1,24,185/-.

(c) and (d) Due to retirement and transfer of trained staff, necessary action regarding stamping and verification of weighing machines could not be done in time. However, stamping and verification of all weighing machines has since been completed. Zonal Railway has been instructed to ensure that no such situation arises in future. In this regard, a team of Inspectors are specially nominated for monitoring this work. In view of above, no official has been held responsible and no action has been taken against any railway staff.

### Strengthening of IGRUA

4449. SHRI RAHUL GANDHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA), Fursatganj, Rae Bareilly is constrained in training pilots upto its expected capacity;

(b) if so, the reasons for such under performance; and

(c) the steps the Government proposes to take to strengthen IGRUA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b)

Yes, Sir. The efforts of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) in training pilots are constrained due to lack of adequate and modern training aids, simulators, buildings and airfield infrastructures as well as adequate manpower. Other deterring factors are the lack of uninterrupted power supply and provision of well maintained (concretised) access roads to the Akademi.

(c) A comprehensive review of the existing infrastructure of the IGRUA has recently been carried out to assess the status and immediate requirements to bring up the core infrastructure and its facilities to meet the current requirement. Accordingly, several steps have been taken for enhancement of IGRUA that include (a) commencement of Ab-initio to CPL training programme in addition to the existing PPL to CPL course; (b) purchase of six new ab-initio trainer aircraft; (c) purchasing Jet planes and Simulators; (d) installation of Nav Aids; (e) starting Helicopter Training Programme; and (f) increasing the training capacity of IGRUA from 40 students to 100 CPL holder per year.

A Committee under the Chairmanship of Capt. N.K. Dawar, Ex. Director, IGRUA has been constituted recently to prepare a comprehensive report on the immediate requirements for strengthening the infrastructure of IGRUA, including upgradation of training facilities. This Committee shall submit its report by 31st August, 2005. Necessary steps to strengthen IGRUA will be accordingly based on the recommendations of this Committee.

### Separate Terminal at Madurai

4450. SHRI P. MOHAN:  
SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to have separate terminals for international and domestic operations at Madurai in view of the increasing passenger traffic and cargo;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has a plan to construct

an integrated new terminal building complex to handle both domestic and international passengers at a time. Provision of separate cargo complex is contingent on demand.

#### **Construction of Overbridge in Tamil Nadu**

4451. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to take up construction of overbridges during the current financial year in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds earmarked for this purpose during the current year; and

(d) the time schedules for completion of those bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. As on 01-04-2005, there are total 46 Road Over/Under Bridges (ROB/RUBs) works sanctioned on cost sharing basis in the State of Tamil Nadu. These works are at various stages of planning, designing and execution. Railway shall construct bridge proper i.e. bridge across the Railway track and approach work by State Government/Road Authority.

In current year, Rs. 25.87 crore have been allocated for execution for Railway portion of work in the State of Tamil Nadu.

All efforts shall be made by Railways to complete their portion of work along with the work of approaches done by State Government.

*[Translation]*

#### **Construction of Overbridges on Busy Railway Crossings**

4452. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to construct rail overbridges over the busy railway crossings in the country during the year 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount likely to be spent by the Railways for construction of these overbridges; and

(d) the steps taken to complete the construction of these bridges in fixed time schedules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Railways construct Road Over/Under bridges in lieu of existing busy level crossings on cost sharing basis, if the traffic density at these level crossings is more than 1 lakh TVUs (TVU—A unit obtained by multiplying the number of road vehicles with the number of trains passing over the level crossing in 24 hours), otherwise on deposit terms. Proposals in both cases have to be sponsored by the concerned State Government duly fulfilling certain preliminary pre-requisites required under extant rules. As on 1.4.2005 there are 428 ROB/RUB works sanctioned on cost sharing basis. In addition, 15 more works have also been included in the Railways Supplementary Demands for Grants, August 2005. All these works are at various stages of planning and execution.

(c) Funds to the tune of Rs. 411 crore have been provided in Budget 2005-06 as Railways share of cost for execution of these cost sharing works.

(d) Railway construct the bridge proper i.e. the bridge across the Railway track and approach works by State Government/Road Owning Authorities. All out efforts shall be made by Railway to complete their portion of work alongwith approaches done by the State Government.

*[English]*

#### **Setting up of Aviation University**

4453. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:  
SHRI M. SHIVANNA:  
PROF. M. RAMADASS:  
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up an Aviation University in the country;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the location identified thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Rail Lines Between Bangalore and Satyamangala**

4454. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of laying the new railway lines between Bangalore and Satyamangala;

(b) the total expenditure incurred on the project till date;

(c) the funds provided for the project during 2005-06; and

(d) the time schedule fixed for completing the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Final Location Survey has been taken up.

(b) Rs. 0.36 crore.

(c) Rs. 0.01 crore.

(d) No time schedule for completion has been fixed.

#### **AIR Stations in Kerala**

4455. DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that All India Radio stations in Kochi, Thirissur and Devikulam in Kerala are functioning without Station Directors;

(b) if so, the steps taken to post Station Directors in these Stations;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to make the Vividh Bharati Station in Kochi, inaugurated in 1995, operational by deploying programme personnel;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to increase the allocation of funds to Kochi FM station from Rs. 6.9 lakhs in proportionate to its commercial earnings for Rs. 83 lakhs of the last financial year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All India Radio Stations at Kochi and Thirissur are functioning without Station Directors for the time being due to shortage of eligible Officers. However, there is no sanctioned post of Station Director at All India Radio, Devikulam.

(c) and (d) Steps are being taken to introduce the noon transmission from 1200 hours to 1730 hours at the Vividh Bharati Station in Kochi. All India Radio Kochi broadcasts Vividh Bharati Programmes between 0615 hours to 1005 hours and between 1815 hours to 2300 hours.

(e) and (f) Rs. 13.18 lakh has been allocated to All India Radio, Kochi for the year 2005-06 under IEBR, Software Plan Scheme for enhanced production and Kisan Vani programmes. Further increases will depend upon availability of budgetary support.

#### **Cadre Restructuring of Stenographers**

4456. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have constituted a committee for cadre restructuring of stenographers working in the Railway Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) have decided to constitute a Committee of Executive Directors with a view to assess and analyse the justification for implementation of the restructuring of the Stenographers' Cadre in Railway Board Secretariat Stenographers'

Service, on the lines of the Government's decision for restructuring of the Central Secretariat Stenographers' Service. This Committee consists of three Executive Directors and Joint Secretary (Gazetted), Railway Board. The terms of the reference of the Committee are as under:

- (i) Whether the decisions taken in the case of Central Secretariat Stenographers' Service can be mutatis-mutandis adopted for Railway Board Secretariat Stenographers' Service;
- (ii) Considering the stagnation and functional needs, what should be the ideal size of the posts in different grades in Railway Board Secretariat Stenographers' Service; and
- (iii) Any other suggestion/decision, as available for Central Secretariat Stenographers' Service, for adoption, to the extent relevant, in Railway Board Secretariat Stenographers' Service.

The Committee is obtaining detailed information from the Administration regarding the number of posts in the various grades of Railway Board Secretariat Stenographers' Service and the number of persons waiting for promotion after completing the requisite qualifying service. This Committee will also seek the views/suggestions of the Railway Board Secretariat Stenographers' Service Association and hold meetings with the representatives and discuss with them the various issues involved and thereafter submit its recommendations. The Committee is likely to submit its report/recommendations shortly.

#### **Gauge Conversion of Pathankot-Joginder Nagar Rail Line**

4457. PROF. CHANDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an updating survey for gauge conversion of Pathankot-Joginder Nagar rail line has been conducted during the current financial year;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action taken by the Railways on the survey report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Updating survey for gauge conversion of Pathankot-Joginder Nagar section has been completed. As per survey report, the cost of construction of 189.5 kms. long line has been assessed at Rs. 1316.16 crore with a rate of return as (-) 22.04%. The examination/finalization of the survey report has now been taken up.

*[Translation]*

#### **Railway Projects**

4458. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:  
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:  
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:  
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have reviewed the projects involving more than Rs. 100 crore;

(b) if so, the details of such projects alongwith the year in which these projects were announced;

(c) the details of the projects out of them on which the work has been started so far;

(d) whether the cost escalation has been estimated in respect of the projects started belatedly; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Review of all the projects, irrespective of cost, is done from time to time at the appropriate levels.

(b) Details of projects costing more than Rs. 100 Crore are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Works are in various stages of progress on all these projects.

(d) and (e) The cost overrun is feasible to be assessed only where funds are assured at the time of taking up of projects. In case of Railway projects, funding is not assured at the time of taking up of the project and hence cost overrun is not feasible to be assessed.

*Statement*

*The details of projects with anticipated cost more than Rs. 100 crore and year of inclusion are as under:*

Year of inclusion in the Budget	New Line	Doubling	Gauge conversion	Railway Electrification	Metropolitan Project
1972-73	—	—	—	—	1
1974-75	1	—	—	—	—
1981-82	2	—	—	—	—
1982-83	1	—	—	—	—
1983-84	1	—	—	—	1
1984-85	3	—	1	—	1
1985-86	1	—	—	—	—
1987-88	1	—	—	—	—
1989-90	1	—	—	—	—
1990-91	—	2	2	—	—
1991-92	—	—	—	3	—
1992-93	1	1	5	2	—
1993-94	3	—	5	—	—
1994-95	2	1	2	—	—
1995-96	5	1	5	1	2
1996-97	10	2	7	—	2
1997-98	18	6	14	3	—
1998-99	5	—	3	—	1
1999-00	2	1	2	1	—
2000-01	5	—	3	—	—
2001-02	1	1	—	—	—
2002-03	1	—	—	—	—
2003-04	8	5	2	—	1
2005-06	1	1	3	1	—

Out of the above projects, 30 projects have been completed.

**Renovation of Jantar Mantar**

4459. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ): Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for renovation of Jantar Mantar in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any scheme for the protection of Jantar Mantar was formulated in 2000 also in collaboration with a private party; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) Jantar Mantar has been identified for conservation and environment development through the National Culture Fund.

A Memorandum of understanding was signed in 2000 by the Archaeological Survey of India with Apeejay Surendra Park Hotel Ltd., for undertaking the following works.

1. Conservation of Misra Yantra
2. Illumination of Misra Yantra.
3. Providing signages at Jantar Mantar.

The illumination of Misra Yantra is in progress. Archaeological Survey of India has already prepared comprehensive estimates for conservation.

[English]

**Conservation of Monuments by ASI**

4460. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of monuments/museums conserved and maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India;

(b) the amount spent and released on maintenance of monuments and museums during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government is aware that these monuments/museums are not being properly maintained; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Archaeological Survey of India protects and maintains 3660 centrally protected monuments/sites and 41 site museums located in different parts of the country. (State-wise list is given in the enclosed Statement I & II).

(b) Funds allocated and expenditure incurred on maintenance of the monuments and museums during last three years are as under:

**Monuments**

	Funds allocated	Expenditure (Rs. in crores)
2002-03	79.43	79.34
2003-04	108.28	107.06
2004-05	117.45	115.95

**Museums**

	Funds allocated	Expenditure (Rs. in crores)
2002-03	3.00	2.86
2003-04	4.50	4.30
2004-05	3.85	3.62

(c) and (d) The nationally protected monuments and the sites museums under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) are properly maintained. The ASI undertakes annual maintenance and repairs, structural conservation, chemical preservation and environmental development of the protected monuments under their annual conservation programme. The ASI also has a programme for phased upgradation of the site museums. Five museums are proposed to be taken up under this programme in the current year.

**Statement I****Total State-wise List of Centrally Protected Monuments**

Sl.No.	Name of State	Number of monuments/Sites
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	136
2.	Assam	50
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5
4.	Biher	65
5.	Chhattisgarh	47
6.	Delhi	172
7.	Daman & Diu	12
8.	Goa	21
9.	Gujarat	202
10.	Haryana	90
11.	Himachal Pradesh	40
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	69
13.	Jharkhand	12
14.	Kerala	26
15.	Karnataka	507
16.	Maharashtra	286
17.	Madhya Pradesh	287
18.	Manipur	1
19.	Meghalaya	8
20.	Nagaland	4
21.	Orissa	78
22.	Punjab	31
23.	Pondicherry	7
24.	Rajasthan	161
25.	Sikkim	3

1	2	3
26.	Tamil Nadu	416
27.	Tripura	5
28.	Uttar Pradesh	742
29.	Uttaranchal	44
30.	West Bengal	133
Total		3660

**Statement II**

Sl.No.	Name of State	Name of the Museum
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Amravati Museum 2. Chandragiri Museum 3. Kondapur Museum 4. Nagarjunakonda Museum (All under Hyderabad Circle)
2.	Assam	5. Sri Surya Pahar Museum (Under Guwahati Circle)
3.	Biher	6. Bodhgaya Museum 7. Nalanda Museum 8. Vaishali Museum 9. Vikramshila Museum (Under Patna Circle)
4.	Delhi	10. Indian War Memorial Museum, Red Fort 11. Archaeological Museum, Red Fort 12. Salimgarh Museum, Red Fort 13. Swatantrata Sangram Sangrahalaya, Red Fort 14. Purana Qila Museum (All under Delhi Circle)

1	2	3
5. Goa	15. Velha Goa Museum (Under Mini Circle Goa)	
6. Gujarat	16. Lothal Museum (Under Vadodara Circle)	
7. Haryana	17. Sheikh Chilli's Tomb, Thanesar (Under Chandigarh Circle)	
8. Himachal Pradesh	18. Kangra Fort Museum (Under Mini Circle Shimla)	
9. Karnataka	19. Aihole Museum	
	20. Badami Museum	
	21. Bijapur Museum (All Under Dharwar Circle)	
	22. Halebidu Museum	
	23. Kamlapuram Museum (Hampi)	
	24. Tipu Sultan Museum (All under Bangalore Circle)	
10. Kerala	25. Mattancherry Place Museum (Under Thrissur Circle)	
11. Madhya Pradesh	26. Chanderi Museum	
	27. Gwalior Museum	
	28. Khajuraho Museum	
	29. Sanchi Museum (Under Bhopal Circle)	
12. Orissa	30. Konark Museum	
	31. Ratnagiri Museum (Under Bhubaneswar Circle)	
13. Punjab	32. Ropar Museum (Under Chandigarh Circle)	
14. Rajasthan	33. Kalibangan Museum (Under Jaipur circle)	
15. Tamil Nadu	34. Fort St. George Museum, Chennai (Under Chennai Circle)	

1	2	3
16. Uttar Pradesh	35. Samath Museum (Under Patna Circle)	
	36. Taj Museum, Agra (Under Agra Circle)	
	37. Residency Museum, Lucknow (Under Lucknow Circle)	
17. Uttaranchal	38. Jageshwar Museum (Under Dehradun Circle)	
18. West Bengal	39. Hazarduari Palace Museum	
	40. Cooch Behar Palace Museum	
	41. Tamluk Museum (Under Kolkata Circle)	

*[Translation]***Construction of Rail Lines in Madhya Pradesh**

4461. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any representations in December, 2004 for construction of Indore-Pithampur railway line in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Railways thereon;

(d) whether the Railways are contemplating to construct this railway line on B.O.T. basis; and

(e) if so, the progress made so far in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested for laying of Indore-Pithampur rail line.

(c) Necessary action has already been initiated to obtain requisite clearances to take up work on Godhra-Indore via Dahod, Sardarpur and Dhar new line which could also pass through Pithampur.



(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### Low Cost Air Services for N.E. Region

4462. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether different destinations in the North East including Guwahati, Shillong, Aizwal, Dibrugarh and Itanagar have been connected with low-cost air services from Kolkata and other stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the nature and frequency of air links set up; and

(c) the other destinations which are proposed to be linked in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) At present Dibrugarh, Guwahati & Aizwal in the North East are connected with Kolkata and other destination by Air Deccan, a low cost airline, as under:—

Sector	Aircraft	Flights/ week
Kolkata-Guwahati-Dibrugarh & Return	ATR42	7
Delhi-Guwahati-Delhi	A-320	1
Delhi-Guwahati-Bagdogra-Delhi	A-320	3
Delhi-Bagdogra-Guwahati-Delhi	A-320	3
Kolkata-Guwahati-Dibrugarh & Return	ATR42	7
Kolkata-Aizwal-Kolkata	ATR42	7
Kolkata-Bagdogra-Kolkata	ATR42	7

(c) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.

#### Marathi Channel

4463. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government to start a separate Marathi channel under Mumbai Doordarshan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) However, Doordarshan is already running DD Sahyadri-Marathi channel for Maharashtra.

*[Translation]*

#### ROBs and RUBs in Rajasthan

4464. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Railway Overbridges (ROBs)/Railway Underbridges (RUBs) in Rajasthan which are under construction on cost sharing basis at present;

(b) the present status of these bridges; and

(c) the time by which construction works on these bridges are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) There are two Road Over Bridge (ROB) works sanctioned on cost sharing basis falling in the State of Rajasthan. Railway shall construct the bridge proper *i.e.* bridge across the Railway track and approach work by State Government. The current status of these two works are as under:

1. Road Over Bridge (ROB) in lieu of Level Crossing (L.C.) No. 71A, at Hanumangarh sanctioned in 2000-01. Detailed estimate for approach portion is awaited from State Government. Work shall be taken up after finalization of estimate.

2. Road Over Bridge (ROB) in lieu of L.C. No. 109 sanctioned in 1996-97. Work is in progress in Railway portion as well as in State Government portion.

(c) All efforts shall be made by Railways to complete their portion of work along with the work of approaches done by State Government.

*[English]*

#### **Kaushik Committee on Helicopter Operations**

4465. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kaushik Committee on safety and upkeep of helicopter operations had submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the committee;

(c) the number of recommendations out of them accepted and implemented by the Government; and

(d) the reasons for not accepting the remaining recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Kaushik Committee in its report submitted on 10.3.2005, has made recommendations relevant to Safety Audits and training syllabus of initial and refresher training, proficiency monitoring and Instrument Rating, off-shore flying, operating in the hilly areas, emergency medical services, electronic news gathering, low flying for mining surveys and requirements for certification of helicopter training establishments, etc.

(c) All the recommendations of the Kaushik Committee have been accepted for implementation by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Of the 20 recommendations 11 have been implemented, and 2 require no action. The other recommendations requiring Rules, Policy and regulatory procedural amendments have been taken in hand for implementation.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Constitution of Task Force**

4466. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is contemplating to constitute a task force for extending powers to Panchayats for production and supply of power from other energy sources in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have jointly constituted a Core Group on Power under the initiative of setting up Rural Business Hubs through Panchayats for the economic development of rural areas. The Terms of Reference of the Core Group on Power are as under:—

1. To bring out a publication which would enable Panchayats to—

(a) Familiarize themselves with various options available for local power generation and decentralized distribution management.

(b) Familiarize themselves with various options of business models, including Public-Private-Panchayat Partnership in power generation from locally available materials such as bio-mass and isolated gas fields and distribution.

(c) Gain greater familiarity with available Government schemes including programmes of REC etc.

(d) Familiarize themselves with financial models for decentralized power generation and distribution.

(e) Understand new legislation with particular reference to the Electricity Act, 2003 as also Rules and Regulations concerning decentralized power generation and distribution.

(f) Prepare a directory of resource persons within Government, industry and the NGO sector, who could assist Panchayats in preparation of their project proposals.

(g) Introduce Panchayats to the independent regulatory framework for power generation and distribution and suggest means of capacity building for Panchayats to articulate their concerns before Regulators.

2. Identify Key Panchayats where a focused approach could be developed for Public-Private-Panchayat Partnership in Power Generation and distribution.

3. Suggest to the Central and State Governments Policy and Procedural Changes, so as to facilitate Power Generation and distribution through Panchayats.

*[English]*

#### **Beautification of Itwari Railway Station**

4467. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have drawn up any plan for beautification and providing passengers amenities at Itwari station of South Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways have also received any representations from various quarters in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The work of raising and surfacing of platform at Itwari railway station of Southeast Central Railway has been completed recently. Further, work of augmentation of water supply for coach water facility and provision of Unreserved Ticketing System have been taken up.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

#### **Release of Central Share Under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme**

4468. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has been providing central assistance to the Government of Karnataka for pre-matric scholarship to the children of those parents engaged in unclean occupation;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Karnataka has requested to the Union Government to release Central share under the scheme for the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(c) whether the Union Government has released its full share to the Government of Karnataka;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the remaining funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. A sum of Rs. 11.46 lakh was released to the Government of Karnataka during the year 2002-03 after adjusting the unspent central assistance of Rs. 14.87 lakhs available from the previous year. No central assistance was released during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 due to availability of unspent central assistance from the previous years.

#### **Chitradurga-Jagalur-Kottur New Rail Line**

4469. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have conducted any survey for Chitradurga-Jagalur-Kottur new rail line;

(b) if so, the details of the survey conducted;

(c) the estimated cost of the project;

(d) the funds allocated for the project during the current financial year; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. However, a survey for construction of new line from Kotturu to Chitradurga via Jagalur has been taken up in 2005-06.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

**Rural Language Programme from Ahmedabad Doordarshan Kendra**

4470. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the duration of rural language programme relayed from Ahmedabad Doordarshan Kendra, language-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the time limit;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount made available to the Ahmedabad Doordarshan Kendra for relaying programmes under the commission category during the last financial year;

(e) whether there is also any proposal to increase the amount under the said category; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Prasar Bharati have informed that the three rural language programmes in Gujarati (Monday to Friday) telecast from DDK, Ahmedabad have a combined duration of one hour, per day.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Prasar Bharati have informed that no amount was made available to the DDK, Ahmedabad as no programme was commissioned during the previous financial year under the commissioned category.

(e) and (f) Prasar Bharati have informed that there is a proposal for commissioned programmes in Indian classics category with a Budget of Rs. 97.00 Lakhs during the current financial year.

**Excavation and Exploration of Sites**

4471. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take up any sites in the country for excavation and exploration during 2005-06 including underwater exploration;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the sites identified for excavation and exploration; and

(c) the funds earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposals received for excavation/exploration for the field season 2005-2006 are given in the enclosed statement. These would be considered by the Standing Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology for approval.

(c) The funds earmarked for excavation and exploration by the Archaeological Survey of India are Rs. 500 lakhs under Plan and Rs. 50 lakhs under Non Plan for the current financial year 2005-06.

**Statement**

*Excavation and Exploration Proposals of Archaeological Survey of India for the field season 2005-06*

Sl.No.	Name of the site	Nature of work
1	2	3
1.	Bhirrana, Distt. Fatehabad, Haryana	Excavation
2.	Baror, District Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	Excavation

1	2	3
3.	Kurdihar, District Gaya, Bihar	Excavation
4.	Jaufardih, District Nalanda, Bihar	Excavation
5.	Aragarh, Haripur Gram Panchayat, District Puri, Orissa	Excavation
6.	Juni Kuran, Distt. Kutch, Gujarat	Excavation
7.	Daulatabad Fort, Daulatabad, Distt. Aurangabad, Maharashtra	Excavation
8.	Adichchanallur, Taluk Srivaikundam, Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu	Excavation
9.	Dhanna Dibbau, Kotturu, Rambali Mandal, Distt. Visakhapatnam, A.P.	Excavation
10.	Nilkuthi mound, Mauza Chak Chandpara District Murshidabad, West Bengal	Excavation
11.	Erich, Tehsil Garautha District Jhansi (U.P.)	Excavation
12.	Palakkad, District Palakkad, Kerala	Excavation
13.	Scientific clearance at St. Augustine Complex, Old Goa, North Goa	Scientific clearance
14.	Sirmour District, Himachal Pradesh	Excavation
15.	Archaeological investigation along the right and left bank of river Beas from Mandi to Dehra Gopipur of Districts Mandi and Kangra, Himachal Pradesh	Exploration/Excavation
16.	Exploration of Hissar District, Haryana	Exploration
17.	Exploration in Ranchi, Singhbhum and Hazari Bagh districts, Jharkhand	Exploration
18.	Exploration in East Sikkim, Sikkim	Exploration
19.	Exploration in Chandrapur and Yavatmal District of Vidarbha Region, Maharashtra	Exploration
20.	Exploration of the Megalithic sites in the East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya	Exploration
21.	Exploration of Kamrup District in the northern bank of Brahmaputra, Assam	Exploration
22.	Exploration in Bank of River Betwa from Deogarh Distt. Lalitpur to Hamirpur (U.P.)	Exploration
23.	Exploration in the Southern region of Bhavnagar, Gujarat	Exploration
24.	Exploration in Sattari Taluka, South Goa, Distt. Goa	Exploration
25.	Exploration within the Cancona Taluka, South Goa and adjacent area	Exploration
26.	Architectural Survey of Temples of Mithilachal and West Bengal	Exploration
27.	Survey of Structural Temples of Tondainadu, A.P., Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry	Exploration
<b>Underwater Excavations/Explorations</b>		
28.	Mahabalipuram, Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu	Excavation
29.	Elephanta Island, Elephanta, Raigarh, Maharashtra	Excavation
30.	Lakshadweep Islands, U.T. of Lakshadweep, Kavaratti, Lakshadweep	Exploration/Excavation

**Allotment of Kerosene to Printing Industry**

4472. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any request/proposal from the Government of Tamil Nadu regarding allotment of special quota of kerosene to printing industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) No proposal has been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu regarding the allotment of a special quota of kerosene for the Printing Industry. However, Shri A. Ravichandran, Hon'ble M.P. has written to the Minister (P&NG) in July, 2005 stating that there is a shortage of kerosene for the printing industry in Sivakasi as the dealers are not getting sufficient stocks for supply. The matter is being looked into.

**Payment of Arrears**

4473. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd. (BBUNL) has implemented pay revision with effect from January 1, 1997 for its Board level and below Board level Executives in May, 2005;

(b) if so, whether BBUNL has started paying arrears on account of pay revision with effect from January 1, 1997;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Company is paying from its own internal sources;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, how the Company has mobilized the funds for payment of arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Total amount due towards arrears payment has been worked out as Rs. 196.61 lacs against which an amount of Rs. 66.24 lacs has been disbursed so far.

(d) and (e) BBUNL is paying the arrears from its own resources generated through exports etc. without any government financial support.

(f) The question does not arise.

**Rates of Euro-II/III Petrol/Diesel**

4474. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil PSUs are charging similar rates for Euro II and Euro III Diesel/Petrol being supplied in the National Capital Region area and Haryana;

(b) if so, whether oil PSUs are supplying normal Euro I diesel in Punjab at cheaper rates;

(c) if so, whether Reliance is supplying Euro I Diesel in Haryana and other States cheaper than oil PSUs; and

(d) if so, the reasons as to why the oil PSUs are supplying Euro I Diesel at higher rates than the private companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) As per the Auto Fuel Policy, Euro III equivalent diesel/petrol has been introduced in NCR region and Bharat Stage II diesel/petrol in Haryana with effect from 1.4.2005. Euro III petrol being superior in quality, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are charging more for it as compared to Bharat Stage II petrol.

(b) At present, OMCs are supplying diesel conforming to India 2000 norms (Bharat Stage I) in Punjab which is cheaper as compared to Bharat Stage II diesel on account of lower quality. However, Bharat Stage II diesel will be introduced in Punjab effective 1.10.2005.

(c) and (d) As per the Auto Fuel Policy, Bharat Stage II (BS II) diesel has been introduced all over India with effect from 1.4.2005 except in the States of Rajasthan, Punjab, Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh,

Jammu and Kashmir and the western part of U.P. where this fuel would be introduced progressively by 1.10.2005. While the retail selling prices of petrol and diesel are fixed by the OMCs on an industry basis in consultation with the Government, the private marketing companies are free to fix their own prices. As such, minor variation in the rates charged by OMCs and private companies are possible.

*[Translation]*

#### **Modernisation of Railway Station of Motipur**

4475. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Motipur railway station under the Central-Eastern Railway is proposed to be modernized and also provided with computerized ticket-booking; and

(b) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Modernization of Old Delhi Railway Station**

4476. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways proposes to modernize the Old Delhi Railway Station;

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

(c) whether the existing building of the station has been declared as protected monument;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to protect the heritage of the station while carrying out the modernization work; and

(e) the expenditure proposed to be incurred on modernization of Old Delhi Railway Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various works like Replacement of washable apron, improvement to drainage, provision of additional dustbins and benches on platforms, renovation of old retiring room, extension of platform shelter on four platforms, repair to platform surface on eight platforms, repair to roof, replacement of Galvanised Iron sheet roofing of Foot over bridge, renovation of main concourse of porch, provision of signages, facelifting of station building in circulating area and provision of high mast tower at 1st and 2nd entry for augmenting the Passenger Amenities at Old Delhi Railway station are progressing.

(c) and (d) Existing station building of Old Delhi Railway station has been declared as Heritage Building. While carrying out development work, the basic structure design and its frame work will not be disturbed. Rs. 10.73 lakhs has been earmarked for works connected with rejuvenating and protecting the heritage of station building.

(e) Rs. 9.84 crore.

#### **Renovation of Old Terminal**

4477. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airports Authority of India proposes to renovate an old and unused portion of 1940 vintage terminal;

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

(c) the estimated cost involved in execution of said work; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Indian National Bibliography**

4478. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has published Indian National Bibliography (INB);

(b) if so, whether there is no more space to store these books in the National Library, Kolkata;

(c) if so, whether 30,000 books costing about Rs. 3 crore have come into bad conditions due to termite attack;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to protect and preserve these books in better conditions?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian National Bibliography has been under publication since 1958 by Central Reference Library.

(b) At present there is enough space to store these books in the National Library.

(c) There is no termite attack in the National Library.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

#### **Superannuation benefit Scheme**

4479. DR. K.S. MANOJ:  
SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI:  
SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has introduced self contribution post retirement and death in service superannuation benefit scheme;

(b) if so, the number of cases under the scheme pending with ONGC; and

(c) the steps taken by ONGC to clear the cases expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) ONGC have a prescribed procedure for submission of claims under this scheme. On verification of documents, claims are settled and payment released by ONGC. The process of settlement of such claims is a continuous one. Delay in settlement occurs only in

cases where claim documents have not been filed properly by the claimants. As on date, 21 such claims are pending settlement, as reported by ONGC.

#### **Conveyance Facilities to Passengers of Delayed Flights**

4480. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the flights of Indian Airlines are delayed and re-routed to make rooms for private airline carriers;

(b) if so, the details of the flights delayed and re-routed during the month of June, 2005;

(c) the guidelines laid down for re-routing the flights;

(d) whether the Government plans to make it mandatory to offer conveyance facilities to the passengers of delayed flights;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The re-routing is resorted to in exceptional circumstances to accommodate stranded passengers and/or to drop men and material for grounded aircraft.

(d) to (f) Airlines provide transport facilities to passengers in case of cancellation of flights as per their own commercial policies.

*[Translation]*

#### **Procurement of Submarines**

4481. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:  
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:  
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:  
SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:  
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:



(a) whether the Government is dealing with only one company for the last several years to buy the submarines and guns;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to purchase scorpene submarines from France;

(c) if so, whether the Government had invited tenders from only one company of the France or it had invited tenders from other companies also;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has formulated any policy to bring transparency in the defence purchase; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Procurement of Defence equipment is carried out in accordance with the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2005. The procedure envisages soliciting techno-commercial offers from various vendors and negotiating with the lowest bidder whose equipment has been found to be technically suitable.

Request for Proposal (RFP) for construction of two submarines at Mazagaon Dock Limited, Mumbai, initially was issued to four firms in 1997, out of which only one firm responded. Subsequently it was decided to negotiate for indigenous construction of six submarines under transfer of technology from the French company. No final decision has, however, been taken by the Government in this regard.

(e) and (f) The DPP-2005 has further streamlined the acquisition procedure to also incorporate certain provisions to improve transparency and cut down delays in the procurement process. Some of these provisions are as under:—

- (i) Making Qualitative Requirements more broad based so as to avoid single vendor situations.
- (ii) Open tendering for commercially off-the-shelf (COTS) items.
- (iii) Direct Offsets and Integrity Pact as part of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for purchases over Rs. 300 crore.
- (iv) Standard Contract terms upfront as part of the RFP.
- (v) Broad timeframe for completion of different procurement activities.

*[English]*

### **Black-marketing of Kerosene**

4482. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested some Kerosene Oil dealers of black-marketing in New Delhi in the recent past;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the black-marketing of kerosene in Delhi/New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The CBI has not arrested any Kerosene Oil dealer for black-marketing in New Delhi in the recent past.

(c) In order to check the black-marketing of Public Distribution System (PDS) kerosene, the Central Government have made provisions in the Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order, 1993, issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, that dealers cannot sell PDS kerosene at a price higher than the price fixed by the Government or Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and that the PDS kerosene dealers should prominently display stock-cum-price board at the place of business including the place of store on conspicuous place.

State Governments undertake distribution of PDS kerosene through their PDS network and also implement the Control Orders issued by the Central Government under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

### **Rail Heritage Sites**

4483. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some mountain railways in the country have been declared as Rail Heritage Sites;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways proposes to declare some other mountain railways as Rail Heritage Sites;

(d) if so, the details of the proposals under examination with the Railways in this regard; and

(e) the time by which the said mountain railways are likely to be declared as Rail Heritage Sites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. However, some mountain railways in the country have been declared as World Heritage Sites.

(b) The following mountain railways have been inscribed by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as World Heritage Sites:

(i) Darjeeling Himalayan Railway in December 1999.

(ii) Nilgiri Mountain Railway in July 2005.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, Kalka Simla Railway has been proposed for inscription by UNESCO as World Heritage site.

(e) Kalka-Shimla Railway is yet to be taken up for site evaluation by UNESCO. No time frame is yet available for declaring of Kalka Simla Railway as a World Heritage Site.

[Translation]

#### Refining Capacity

4484. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether crude oil refining capacity in the country has increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated refining capacity during 2005-06;

(d) whether the refining capacities of the public sector oil refineries are fully utilized; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to fully utilize the refining capacity of those refineries?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The details of crude oil refining capacity for the last three years are given below:-

As on	Capacity in million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA)
1.4.2003	118.368
1.4.2004	127.368
1.4.2005	127.368

(c) The estimated refining capacity by 1.4.2006 would be 138.468 MMTPA.

(d) and (e) The actual capacity utilisation of Punjab Sector Oil refineries during 2004-05 was 98%. The capacity utilization was slightly lower than full capacity owing to planned shutdowns of Barauni Refinery, Mahutra Refinery, Haldia Refinery and a fire accident at the Gujarat Refinery of Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

[English]

#### Safety Audit of Airlines Operators

4485. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether safety audit of airlines operators has been carried out regularly by Safety Audit Teams;

(b) if so, the criteria fixed for safety audit;

(c) the number of safety audits carried out by such teams during 2004-05;

(d) the details of the observations made by safety audit teams during the said period; and

(e) the action taken on such observations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Safety Audit of Airlines/Operator are carried out by the Audit Teams of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) as per the relevant Civil Aviation Requirements. Safety audits of all operators are conducted by DGCA, however, emphasis is given to audit of operators whenever deficiencies are observed during inspection, regular surveillance and investigation of incidents and accidents.

(c) During the period 2004-05, 13 safety audits have been carried out by DGCA.

(d) and (e) Audit Team of DGCA review, inspect and analyze matters having bearing on safety of operations. Implementations of recommendations of the safety audit is a continuous process. The deficiencies observed by DGCA during these audits are brought to the notice of the concerned operator for taking necessary corrective measure. The Action Taken Report of the operator on the recommendations is reviewed to ensure that necessary actions are taken by the operator to remove the deficiencies and to implement the safety recommendations.

#### **Overseas Contracts by BHEL**

4486. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has taken some overseas contracts;

(b) if so, the details of contracts obtained by BHEL during the last three years and the revenue earned therefrom; and

(c) the details of other Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) under the Ministry of Heavy Industries taken contracts from abroad and the revenue earned therefrom during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. BHEL received orders worth Rs. 2488 crs. for physical exports in last 3 years (2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04). Details of major export orders received by BHEL during these years are as under:—

- Overhauling of 120 MW Unit at Tripoli West Power Station Libya.
- Supply and Erection & Commissioning of 10 number 135 MVA Transformers for Zambia.
- Supply and supervision of Fabio Filter for Romania.
- 600 MW Gas Turbine based Western Mountain Power Project, Libya.
- Supply and Supervision of 1x69 MVA Hydro Turbine Generator and Auxiliaries including Plant C&I for Bihai Hydro Electric Plant, from Taiwan Power Company.
- 8x90 MVA Transformers for Malaysia.
- Supply and supervision of erection & commissioning of 20 MW Steam Turbine based Co-Generation Project in Indonesia.
- 2x70 MW Gas Turbine based turnkey power plant from Oman.
- 1x40 MW ISO Gas Turbine, Generator and Aux. from Kazakhethan, a joint venture of Exxon-Mobil, Chevron-Texaco and Kazakh Oil Co.
- Supply and supervision of 57MW Steam Turbine and Generator in Sri Lanka.
- Supply and supervision of 4x124 MW ISO Gas Turbine and Generating Unit for Rumailia GTPP Iraq.
- Supply and supervision of 1x124 MW ISO Gas Turbine and Generating Unit from China.

(c) Details of turnover of PSEs under the Department of Heavy Industry on account of execution of various export contracts during the last three years are given in the statement attached.

#### *Statement*

(Rs. crore)

Sl.No.	PSEs	Physical Exports in 2001-02	Physical Exports in 2002-03	Physical Exports in 2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andrew Yule & Co.	8.09	6.51	0.53
2.	Bridge & Roof Co. Ltd.	8.47	8.97	0.69

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	987.00	637.00	596.00
4.	Burn Standard Co. Ltd.	4.89	1.48	2.53
5.	HMT (Bearing) Ltd.	0.15	0.07	0.00
6.	HMT (I) Ltd.	49.68	34.73	29.94
7.	Hindustan Photo Films Ltd.	0.40	0.59	0.23
8.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	0.92	0.65	0.21
9.	Instrumentation Ltd.	0.25	0.51	0.26
10.	Praga Tools Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.08
11.	Richardson & Cruddas Ltd.	0.24	0.71	0.00
12.	Rajasthan Electronics & Instruments Ltd.	0.08	0.09	0.17
13.	Scooters India Ltd.	0.31	0.94	1.06
14.	Sambhar Salts Ltd.	0.10	0.10	0.10
15.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.	1.69	0.00	0.00
Total		1062.27	692.35	631.80

#### Investment Pattern of Oil PSUs

4487. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI GANESH SINGH:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investment pattern of oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) indicates that instead of building upon core competencies, they are all aiming to vertically integrate operations from upstream exploration and production of downstream retail activities;

(b) if so, whether there is a need to review the investment programme of each Public Sector Oil Company;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) In its Mid Term Review of the Tenth Plan, the Planning Commission have stated, *inter-alia*, that instead of building upon their core competence, Oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are aiming to vertically integrate operations from upstream exploration and production to downstream retail activities.

(b) and (c) Yes, there is need to review the investment programmes of Oil PSUs. While, of course, oil PSUs are authorized to take investment decisions based on their business and commercial considerations and from out of their own internal resources, for its part, Government is obliged to ensure that such decisions are consistent with the long term interests of the country. Therefore, Government Directors on the Boards of these companies act as the channel of communication in this regard between the Government and these companies. Overall and in general, Oil PSUs invest both in projects aimed at strengthening their core competencies and diversify and expand into related business segments depending upon the commercial viability and profitability of the projects.

(d) Apart from approving Oil PSUs Annual Plan outlays, the Government also intervenes to ensure that the investment focus remains on core competencies, avoids unhealthy competition between PSUs and is oriented towards optimal investments in the oil and gas sector as a whole.

**Gauge Conversion between Patan and  
Mahesana Rail Line**

4488. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:  
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to convert metre-gauge rail line between Patan and Mahesana into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work on the said project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Gauge conversion of Mahesana-Patan is already sanctioned as a part of Bhildi-Viramgam gauge conversion project. Tenders have been processed for earthwork, bridge works and ballast supply.

(c) Not fixed.

*[Translation]*

**Deployment of T.T.E. in Trains**

4489. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per rules, the presence of Travelling Ticket Examiner (T.T.E.) is required in each sleeper coach;

(b) if so, the reasons for not deploying T.T.Es. in sleeper coaches in each mail/express train as per the rules regarding the deployment of T.T.Es. in trains;

(c) whether the Railways are contemplating to deploy one T.T.E. and one Railway Police Force personnel in each train particularly in each second class sleeper coach keeping in view the crimes in trains; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) As per yardstick, one Travelling Ticket Examiner (TTE) mans on Sleeper Class Coach in non-vestibuled trains and two Sleeper Class Coaches in vestibuled trains during 1st leg of journey. In subsequent legs of journey one Travelling Ticket Examiner has to man 3 Sleeper Class Coaches. However, manning as per laid down norms sometimes becomes difficult due to shortage of staff in ticket checking cadre.

(c) No such scheme is contemplated at present.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Aero Space Command**

4490. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether US plan to train two IAF officers in military use of space as reported in the 'Indian Express' dated July 31, 2005;

(b) if so, the officers selected therefor and duration of the training;

(c) whether the Government plans to set up a separate Aero Space Command;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Two officers of the Indian Air Force; one Group Captain and one Wing Commander, have been selected to proceed to the United States of America on a familiarization visit of five days. This is, however, not a training course.

(c) to (e) The Government has been apprised of the need to set up an Aerospace Command. However, there is no decision of the Government to set up this Command, as yet.

*[Translation]***Revenue to Union and State Governments**

4491. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":  
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil and gas companies are providing revenue to the Union and State Governments;

(b) if so, the amount of revenue provided during each of the last three years; and

(c) the share of the Union Government and the State Governments in the above amount?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The oil and gas companies provide revenue by payment to the Central Exchequer towards levies/taxes, viz., Excise duty, Customs duty, Corporate tax, Royalty, Dividend, Tax on Dividend, Cess, etc. and to the State exchequer viz. Sales Tax, Octroi, Duties, Royalty, Dividend to State Government, etc.

(b) and (c) The estimated contribution of the oil and gas companies to the Central Exchequer and the State Exchequer separately during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. crore)

Year	Central Exchequer	State Exchequer
2002-03	64595	32156
2003-04	69195	35180
2004-05	77692	43254

**Transmission Service in Gorakhpur**

4492. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the poor transmission service of the Doordarshan and All India Radio Kendras situated in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps being taken for improving the transmission service;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to set up new transmitters for telecasting channels of Doordarshan in the rural areas in the Gorakhpur district; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has intimated that the district of Gorakhpur gets adequate transmission coverage by the two High Power Doordarshan Transmitters (DD1—10 kW and DD News—1kW) and a 100 kW MW Radio Transmitter. The transmitters are functioning satisfactorily.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Bogibeel Project**

4493. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL:  
DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made on Bogibeel bridge project;

(b) the total expenditure incurred on the project till date;

(c) the funds allocated by the Railways for the project during 2005-06;

(d) whether the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has given any funds towards its share of the cost;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the measures taken to complete the construction of bridge within time frame as targeted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The overall physical progress is about 19%.

(b) Rs. 294.74 crore upto March, 2005.

(c) Rs. 82 crore has been provided in the Budget 2005-06 out of which Rs. 70 crore has to come through Infrastructure Special Purpose Vehicle being set up by Ministry of Finance.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Proposal has been mooted for project specific funds as an additionality to the normal Railway's Plan.

#### **Allowances to Recipients of Gallantry Awards**

4494. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides certain allowances to the recipients of gallantry awards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to increase the amount of allowances being given to the recipients of gallantry awards;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement indicating allowances given per month in respect of different categories of gallantry awards is enclosed.

(c) to (e) Monetary allowances attached to gallantry awards have been increased from time to time. The last such increase was made in 1999. Presently, no proposal of increase in the amount of allowances is under consideration of the Government.

#### *Statement*

Gallantry Award	Monetary Allowance (Rs.)
1	2

#### **Post Independence:**

(i) Param Vir Chakra	1,500/- per month
(ii) Ashok Chakra	1,400/- per month
(iii) Maha Vir Chakra	1,200/- per month
(iv) Kirti Chakra	1,050/- per month
(v) Vir Chakra	850/- per month
(vi) Shaurya Chakra	750/- per month
(vii) Sena/Nao Sena/Yuva Sena Medal (Gallantry)	250/- per month

#### **Pre-Independence:**

(i) Victoria Cross	
(a) Officers/JCOs	80/- per month
(b) Other Ranks (In addition to it, 100 Pound Sterling per annum is paid by the British Government)	40/- per month

1	2
(ii) Indian Order of Merit	350/- per month
(iii) Indian Order of Merit Class I	300/- per month
(iv) Indian Order of Merit Class II	200/- per month
(v) Distinguished Service Cross	200/- per month
(vi) Military Cross	200/- per month
(vii) Distinguished Flying Cross	200/- per month
(viii) Conspicuous Gallantry Medal	200/- per month
(ix) Military Medal	90/- per month
(x) Indian Distinguished Service Medal	70/- per month
(xi) Distinguished Flying Medal	50/- per month

**Note:-** Each Bar to the award will carry the same amount of monetary allowance as admissible to the original award.

#### **Children's Film Complex**

4495. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to set up a Children's Film Complex at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has also requested the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government of India is in the process of seeking approvals from the concerned authorities.

*[Translation]*

#### **Poverty Alleviation Programmes for Backward Classes**

4496. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:  
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of poverty alleviation programmes for the benefit of backward classes being implemented in the country;

(b) the funds allocated and released thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme-wise;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted regarding unequal development of various backward classes of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Different Ministries/ Departments under the Central Government are implementing several poverty alleviation schemes for the poor people in general and poor Other Backward Classes (OBCs) are also covered under these schemes. Besides, National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under this Ministry provides concessional finance under its Term loan and Micro Finance Schemes exclusively to OBCs living below double the poverty line for setting up self-employment ventures and other income generating activities, which *inter-alia* help them to come above the poverty line. The Ministry is also giving grant-in-aid to



voluntary organizations for imparting training to OBCs in various trades which also *inter-alia* help them in attaining gainful employment and ultimately helps in poverty alleviation of the beneficiaries. The details of these schemes are available on the web-site of the respective Ministries/Departments.

(b) The funds released during last three years and the current financial year under the above mentioned three schemes of the Ministry is as below:—

(Rs. in crore)

Scheme	Year			
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Term Loan	114.83	112.25	72.37	20.66
Micro Finance	11.10	18.84	21.06	4.34
Grand-in-aid to NGOs	4.80	4.47	5.51	1.07

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

#### Release of Funds under Schemes for OBCs

4497. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has released funds for pre-matric and post-matric scholarship schemes, hostel construction scheme and other schemes for the Other Backward Classes during 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated under the above schemes to States/Union Territories and NGOs during 2004-05;

(c) whether funds were also released to some NGOs who have not submitted their utilization certificates of funds for the year 2003-04;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that funds released to NGOs for this purpose are utilized judiciously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of funds released during 2004-05 are given in the enclosed statement. However, there is no separate allocation made for States/UTs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Funds are released to NGOs after getting the inspections done by the State Government/Central Government officials & also subject to the receipt of Utilization Certificates of post releases.

#### *Statement*

#### *Releases made under Schemes for Other Backward Classes during 2004-05*

(Rs. in lacs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Pre Matric Scholarships for OBCs	Post matric Scholarships for OBCs	Hostels for OBCs Boys and Girls	Assistance to Vol. Organisations	Disbursement made by NBCFDC
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	673.37	299.02	333.00	35.05	250.00
2.	Assam	—	100.02	—	13.25	80.20
3.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	170.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Chhattisgarh	102.00	—	132.67	1.23	108.19
5.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	24.70
6.	Gujarat	335.30	365.25	138.00	—	350.09
7.	Goa	—	5.96	—	—	28.45
8.	Haryana	—	13.77	—	9.34	175.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	—	16.28	42.00	—	250.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	2.02	40.60
11.	Jharkhand	—	—	96.57	—	—
12.	Karnataka	—	248.45	—	16.61	1000.00
13.	Kerala	—	—	—	—	1697.50
14.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	91.50	22.10	148.75
15.	Maharashtra	—	13.76	—	122.84	1950.00
16.	Manipur	75.00	108.51	—	70.94	—
17.	Orissa	—	—	—	8.52	50.00
18.	Punjab	—	109.53	—	—	200.00
19.	Pondicherry	—	10.00	50.00	—	50.00
20.	Rajasthan	—	—	—	78.25	293.40
21.	Sikkim	—	6.55	—	—	257.90
22.	Tamil Nadu	242.55	26.63	157.50	3.80	800.00
23.	Tripura	120.67	98.83	26.86	—	99.03
24.	Uttaranchal	1.60	62.31	—	9.70	52.75
25.	Uttar Pradesh	325.17	742.09	212.00	64.83	616.00
26.	West Bengal	—	—	—	10.10	600.00
27.	Delhi	—	—	—	82.66	50.00
Total		1875.00	2466.97	1276.00	551.24	9342.47

**Construction of Airport with Japanese Assistance**

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

4498. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

(a) whether Japan has offered to construct a state-of-art international airport in the country;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c)

Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]*

#### **Weather Forecast Information on Doordarshan**

4499. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether weather forecast information is provided by all Doordarshan Kendras in each State; and

(b) if not, the reasons for not providing weather information by these Kendras?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Prasar Bharati have informed that Weather Forecast Information is provided on the national and regional news bulletins; and agricultural and other programmes telecast/relayed by different Doordarshan Kendras located in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Building Multi-role Helicopter**

4500. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Eurocopter are jointly working on building ten tonne plus multi-role helicopter; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has initiated discussions with reputed helicopter manufacturers for exploring the possibility of co-development and manufacture of ten tonne class of helicopter.

*[Translation]*

#### **Excavation Projects in M.P.**

4501. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH:  
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain proposals relating to archaeological excavations in Madhya Pradesh are lying pending with Union Government; and

(b) if so, the details of such proposals along with the action being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Archaeological Survey of India received four excavation proposals from Madhya Pradesh for the field season 2004-05, namely (1) Prehistoric Rock Shelters at Bhimbetka (District Raisen); (2) Sanchi Stupa Complex (Distt Raisen); (3) Gondarnau (District Bhopal); and (4) Chaturbhuj Nala, Bhanpura, District Mandla. The Standing Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology did not recommend the proposals except the excavation proposal at the Prehistoric Rock Shelters at Bhimbetka. Approval for the Bhimbetka excavation has since been issued.

#### **Survey for Bilaspur-Nainpur New Rail Line**

4502. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have conducted any survey for new railway line from Bilaspur to Mandla-Nainpur and gauge conversion of railway line between Nainpur and Chhindwara;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) A survey was conducted during 2003-04 for new line from Bilaspur to Mandla and gauge conversion of Mandla Fort-Nainpur section. As per the survey report, the cost of this project

was assessed as Rs. 736.96 crore, with a negative rate of return (ROR).

Besides, a survey was conducted during 2003-04 for conversion of Nainpur-Chhindwara (139.6 Km) section from narrow gauge to broad gauge. As per the survey report, the cost of this project was assessed as Rs. 228.22 crore with a negative ROR.

In view of non-remunerative nature of the aforementioned proposals, heavy throw-forward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, the said proposals could not be taken up.

*[English]*

#### **Availability of Space for Goods Sheds**

4503. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sufficient space is available for goods sheds in Tiptur Railway Station; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to provide sufficient space for goods sheds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a goods shed at Tiptur Railway Station with an area of 232.9 Square Metres.

#### **Marketing of Kerosene by ONGC**

4504. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:  
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has been given permission to market kerosene through the PDS network as well as to non-PDS consumers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Effective August 2005, Government have permitted ONGC to market their indigenously produced kerosene to non-PDS consumers after meeting in full the demand requirement of Oil

Marketing Companies for the distribution of kerosene under the PDS.

#### **Purchase of Small Aircrafts**

4505. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to induct small aircrafts in Indian Airlines and Alliance Air to operate on smaller and less economical routes like North-Eastern States, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep island;

(b) if so, whether any committee has been formed for the purchase of small aircraft;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Indian Airlines has constituted inter-departmental Task Force to carry out a detailed feasibility study for induction of suitable small fixed wing aircraft for improving air connectivity in the North East Region.

*[Translation]*

#### **Facilities at Nasik Road Railway Station**

4506. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have formulated any action plan to tackle the problem of heavy rush of passengers at Nasik Road Railway Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways are also contemplating to increase the amenities for passengers at this station;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount allocated for these purposes during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The existing arrangements for issue of both reserved and unreserved

tickets are considered adequate to deal with the volume of traffic handled at the station.

(c) to (e) The work of improvement of flooring on platform on 2 & 3 under new cover over shed has been completed recently and two passenger amenity works viz. (i) Replacement of 2.2 lakh litre capacity Reinforced Cement Concrete water tank (Cost Rs. 24.30 lakh) and (ii) Improvement to retiring room (Cost Rs. 4.00 lakh) have been taken up with an outlay of Rs. 3.00 lakh and 1.00 lakh respectively at this station during the current year.

#### **Training Programmes for SC/ST Officers**

4507. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the directives and rules/guidelines formulated for providing reservation to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes officers of Oil India Limited and other oil companies for training in the country and abroad;

(b) the number of training programmes organized in India and abroad and the number of SC/ST candidates

nominated for training programmes by Oil India Limited and other oil companies during each of the last three years;

(c) whether any case of violation of rules has come to the notice of the Government; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Oil India and other oil companies are following the guidelines issued by DOPT/Govt. for training their officers/employees in the country and abroad.

(b) The number of training programmes organized in India and abroad and the number of SC/ST candidates nominated for training programmes by Oil India Limited and other companies during each of the three last years are enclosed as Statement-I and II respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

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

#### ***Statement I***

##### ***Officers Nominated for Training within the Country***

Sl.No.	Name of the Co.	Name of Training Programmes organized in the country during 2002-03/ 2003-04/2004-05	SC/ST employees nominated during the year 2002-03	SC/ST employees nominated during the year 2003-04	SC/ST employees nominated during the year 2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	IOC	1424/1427/1840	2474	3108	2914
2.	BRPL	84/101/108	79	98	205
3.	NRL	48/50/63	8	14	10
4.	MRPL	120/176/168	17	19	22
5.	GAIL	122/207/196	352	365	407
6.	Biecco Lawire	11/24/107	3	0	07
7.	Balmer Law	11/19/23	2	1	1

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	CPCL	221/230/329	181	219	285
9.	OIL	0/1/1	112	205	202
10.	ONGC	255/256/227	440	665	546
11.	HPCL	420/463/374	681	680	612
12.	IBP	173/244/219	167	525	347
13.	KRL	157/166/196	57	59	78
14.	BPCL	135/123/176	41	38	26
15.	EIL	79/53/53	241	237	167

***Statement II******Officers Nominated for Training Abroad***

Sl.No.	Name of the Co.	Name of Training Programmes organized in the country during 2002-03/ 2003-04/2004-05	SC/ST employees nominated during the year 2002-03	SC/ST employees nominated during the year 2003-04	SC/ST employees nominated during the year 2004-05
1.	IOC	36/29/27	16	9	2
2.	BRPL	4/6/7	0	1	1
3.	NRL	—	0	0	1
4.	MRPL	0/1/0	0	1	0
5.	GAIL	8/2/9	8	2	9
6.	Blecco Lawire	—	—	—	—
7.	Balmer Law	—	0	0	0
8.	CPCL	27/5/3	7	1	0
9.	OIL	34/36/45	3	6	11
10.	ONGC	2/2/1	4	6	2
11.	HPCL	7/9/11	—	—	—
12.	IBP	2/2/6	—	—	—
13.	KRL	11/13/15	0	1	4
14.	BPCL	35/41/27	4	4	5
15.	EIL	—	—	—	—

*(English)***Refineries in Tamil Nadu**

4508. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of refineries functioning in Tamil Nadu at present;

(b) the total quantity and value of crude oil got refined in Tamil Nadu during each of the last three years, refinery-wise;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to start new refinery projects in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The names of the refineries functioning in Tamil Nadu State are as under:

(i) Manali (Chennai) Refinery of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL)

(ii) Cauvery Basin (Nagapattinam) Refinery of CPCL

(b) The total quantity and value of crude oil refined in Tamil Nadu during the last three years refinery-wise are as under:—

Year	CPCL Manali		CPCL Nagapattinam	
	Quantity in thousand metric tonnes (TMT)	Value (Rs. in crore)	Quantity in thousand metric tonnes (TMT)	Value (Rs. in crore)
2002-03	6176.1	6534.2	643.2	712.8
2003-04	6386.7	6942.1	653.2	744.0
2004-05	8180.7	11610.1	742.2	1153.6

(c) and (d) The Refineries sector has been delicensed since June, 1998 and a refinery can be set up anywhere in India by private or public sector enterprises depending on the promoters' assessment of its viability. It is not the Central Government but public and private sector

enterprises who consider proposals for setting up refineries. Public Sector Undertakings may consider setting up a refinery in accordance with the decision-making authority delegated to them by Government vide Department of Public Enterprises' Office Memorandum No. DPE/11(2)/97-Fin dated 22.7.1997.

**Setting up of Bottling Plants**

4509. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector oil companies are considering to set up bottling plants in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details alongwith locations and capacities thereof;

(c) the time by which these are likely to be set up; and

(d) how the funds for these plants are being mobilised?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have planned to set up seven new LPG bottling plants. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Funds for the development of new LPG bottling plants/augmentation of bottling capacity are generated from the internal resources of OMCs.

**Statement****Details of Planned New LPG bottling plants of OMCs**

Name of location	Capacity (in TMTPA)	Present status
1	2	3
Raipur (Chhattisgarh)	44	Expected to be completed by March 2006.
Vasai (Maharashtra)	10	Expected to be completed by March 2006.
Uyangudi (Tamil Nadu)	22	Expected to be commissioned by September 2005.

1	2	3
Rajahmundry (Andhra Pradesh)	44	Land acquisition under progress.
Mumbai (Maharashtra)	88	Expected to be completed by October 2005.
Patna (Bihar)	44	Expected to be completed during 2006-07.
Loni (Uttar Pradesh)	44	Expected to be completed by March 2006.

**Removal of References from Scriptures  
promoting Untouchability**

4510. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take steps for removal/deletion of references from the scriptures promoting untouchability and discrimination against Dalits; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Under Article 17 of the Constitution untouchability has been abolished. The practice of untouchability has been made an offence under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955.

*[Translation]*

**Committee for RTSA**

4511. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:  
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the composition of the committee for selection of the Rail Travellers Service Agent (RTSA);

(b) the functions entrusted to the above Committee;

(c) the number of RTSA appointed by the said Committee during each of the last three years, zone-wise;

(d) whether the Railways have reviewed the functioning of the committee; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The Rail Travellers' Service Agents (RTSAs) are selected by a committee of officers normally at divisional levels after calling applications. The composition of the Committee is decided by Chief Commercial Manager/Divisional Railway Manager.

The Committee scrutinizes the applications and recommends the names of most suitable candidates to competent authority for approval.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) and (e) Committees are formed at divisional/zonal level which are constituted to select RTSAs based on guidelines issued from time to time.

**Installation of Turbo Generator**

4512. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited had to incur a loss of Rs. 3.62 crore due to inordinate delay in installation of turbo generator at Heavy Electrical Equipment Plant, Hardwar as reported in C&AG Report No. 3 (Commercial) of 2005;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government against the officials responsible for the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) The Action Taken Report for the relevant para No. 11.1.1 of Report No. 3 of 2005 is under consideration.

**Irregularities in Allotment of Petrol Pumps**

4513. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:  
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:



(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the public sector oil companies are arbitrarily allotting petrol pumps to the land owners;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received during 2004-05 and the current year so far;

(c) whether the Government has taken any concrete measures to check irregularities in allotment of petrol pumps; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Earlier, public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) were permitted in their guidelines to allot retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps) to land owners who offered land without recourse to advertisements. Since this provision was not transparent enough, this was reviewed by the Government, and the OMCs were advised to adopt the following procedure:-

"The OMCs should, after receipt of direct offers of land, assess the viability of the location and if the same is found viable, OMCs must release an advertisement in two leading newspapers, which are in circulation in the area, stating the fact that they have received offer(s) of land for dealerships, etc., and are inviting similar offers from others. Further, these advertisements must indicate that the final selection of the dealer will be on the basis of evaluation of the lands offered and evaluation of the candidates in respect of other parameters as provided for in the guidelines".

(b) to (d) During the year 2004-05 and the period April-June, 2005, the OMCs received 98 and 19 complaints respectively relating to the award of dealerships to land owners. Such complaints are dealt with the OMCs as per the grievance redressal mechanism provided for in their guidelines for the selection of dealers/distributors. These guidelines of OMCs, which have been framed by them based on certain broad parameters advised to them by the Government, are objective and transparent. The Government also receive complaints from time to time against the selection of dealers. Depending on merits, such complaints are enquired into through the OMCs/ Chief Vigilance Officers of OMCs and remedial action taken wherever necessary.

#### **Renovation of Toilets at Railway Stations**

4514. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have formulated any scheme to renovate the toilets at major railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds earmarked for the purpose during 2005-06; and

(d) the time by which the renovation work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Railways have introduced the scheme of 'Pay & Use' toilets including deluxe toilets at a number of stations and more and more toilets are being renovated under this scheme.

(c) No separate allocation of fund is made for this purpose.

(d) Upgradation/renovation/modernisation is a continuous process and the same is undertaken every year, as planned.

*[English]*

#### **Stores Management and Inventory Control in Railways**

4515. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Stores Management and Inventory Control in Railways is faulty as has been pointed out by C&AG in report No. 9A of 2002;

(b) if so, the steps taken to modernize the Stores Management and Inventory Control in Railways;

(c) the estimated cost of disposable and unserviceable items lying in all the Railway stores as on date; and

(d) the steps taken to dispose of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

### Procurement of Kulhars and Khadi in Railways

4516. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have made the use of kulhars and khadi/handloom variety compulsory in trains and at railway stations;

(b) if so, the quantum of kulhars and khadi procured/to be procured and the expenditure incurred/to be incurred thereon during 2004-05 and 2005-06, zone-wise;

(c) the daily requirement and availability of kulhars and khadi in Railways, zone-wise; and

(d) the measures taken by the Railways to provide the remunerative price of kulhars and khadi to potters and weavers respectively and check the middleman?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Instructions have been issued to encourage and increase the use of Kulhars in trains and at railway stations to serve tea, coffee and other beverages. Instructions have also been issued to use khadi/handloom products in trains.

(b) and (c) Statement-I showing zone-wise expenditure incurred on procurement of khadi & handloom during 2004-05 is enclosed and the same level of expenditure is expected during 2005-06 as well. Statement-II showing procurement of Kulhar and expenditure involved during 2004-05 and 2005-06 (upto June) for departmental catering units is enclosed. Similar data for licensee operated units are not possible to be maintained.

(d) 'Kulhars' are bought from Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) through Single Tender after ascertaining reasonableness of price from other agencies like Tribal Cooperatives, Small Scale Industries, Women Development Corporations etc. In absence of KVIC or on inability of KVIC to supply the requirement, kulhars at different places are bought from Tribal Cooperatives, Small Scale Industries, Women Development Corporations, Local Potters etc. The method of survey and quotation is applied for purchase in these cases. This checks the middlemen in the procurement of Kulhars.

Khadi is being procured exclusively from Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), which is a Government body.

### Statement I

*Expenditure incurred on procurement of Khadi and Handloom by Railways/Production Units during 2004-05*

Railways/Production Units	Expenditure (Figures in Lakhs of Rupees)
Central Railway	192.30
Eastern Railway	315.00
Northern Railway	1005.00
North Eastern Railway	34.76
Northeast Frontier Railway	51.06
Southern Railway	222.30
South Central Railway	291.10
South Eastern Railway	149.72
Western Railway	305.46
East Central Railway	113.94
East Coast Railway	16.41
North Central Railway	0.37
North Western Railway	89.20
South East Central Railway	29.65
South Western Railway	33.59
West Central Railway	45.71
Chittaranjan Locomotive Works	0.57
Diesel Locomotive Modernization Works	35.43
Diesel Locomotive Works	19.28
Integral Coach Factory	12.16
Rail Coach Factory	49.04
Rail Wheel Factory	5.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>3017.32</b>

**Statement II**  
*Kulhar used in Departmental Catering Units*

Railway	2004-05		2005-06 (upto June, 2005)	
	Number of Kulhar used (Figure in lakh)	Total Amount spent (Rs. in lakh)	Number of Kulhar used (Figure in lakh)	Total amount spent (Rs. in lakh)
Central	4.60	2.44	0.34	0.14
Eastern	7.61	2.60	1.89	0.63
Northern	30.14	10.57	9.00	3.25
North Eastern	81.06	22.70	24.82	6.95
Northeast Frontier	4.45	2.57	1.14	0.63
Southern	1.26	0.72	0.20	0.11
South Central	7.89	5.31	0.65	0.50
South Eastern	16.62	6.32	4.23	1.61
Western	4.45	2.18	0.78	0.65
East Central	13.77	5.03	4.12	1.51
East Coast	6.51	3.00	2.18	0.99
North Central	25.77	7.39	8.32	9.62
North Western	0.13	0.03	0.04	0.01
South East Central	31.90	18.03	9.08	5.45
South Western	0.59	0.41	0.05	0.03
West Central	67.48	37.64	21.94	12.02
Total	304.23	126.94	88.78	44.10
IRCTC	34.20	16.48	8.31	5.03
Grand Total	338.43	143.42	97.09	49.13

[English]

**Handing over Begumpet Airport to IAF**

4517. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final decision has been taken on handing over of Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad to Indian Air Force (IAF);

(b) if so, whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to reconsider the decision; and

(c) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The existing Begumpet airport at Hyderabad would be closed down for civil operations after commencement of a New Hyderabad International Airport at Shamshabad. However, existing airport would be maintained and retained by Airports Authority of India (AAI).

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Encroachment around Airports**

4518. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the areas around many airports in the country are encroached upon causing a threat perception;

(b) if so, whether the Government is formulating any scheme to stop encroachment in the vicinity of the airports;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Instructions already exist for Airport Director/Airport Incharge to liaise with State Government for removal of existing encroachments. To stop further encroachments intra-organisational instructions have been issued by Airports Authority of India to construct Boundary walls/fencing on airport boundary/land and to carry out regular inspections.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Production of Commission Based TV Programme**

4519. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of commission based T.V. programme had been dispensed with;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is considering to restart such TV programme; and

(d) if so, the time by when it is likely to be restarted?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that as on date the production of commissioned programmes has not been dispensed with.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

*[English]*

**Excess Cargo Capacity**

4520. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India constructed excess cargo capacity in Delhi which remained unutilized resulting into idle investment of crore of rupees;

(b) if so, the reasons for constructing additional export cargo capacity;

(c) whether C&AG has reported this matter in its Report No. 3 of 2005 (commercial); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The extra space was created to meet the growth of export cargo based on future traffic projection.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The extra space created has now been utilised for establishing Haj Terminal and courier activities. The remaining portion has been utilised for cargo operations and housing Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel.

**Petroleum Pipeline from Jammu to Srinagar**

4521. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to build petroleum pipeline from Jammu to Srinagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any feasibility study has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the financial implications of the project have also been studied;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has suggested an alternative for laying the gas pipeline from Muzzafarabad to Srinagar carrying fuel from Pakistan; and

(h) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (f) The Government have asked M/s. Engineers India Limited to prepare a feasibility report, cost estimates and other requirements for the construction, operation and maintenance of a product pipeline to Srinagar and also to explore the feasibility of laying another pipeline for the supply of LPG.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise, in view of (g) above.

*[Translation]*

#### **Incident of Looting In Train**

4522. MOHD. SHAHID:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware of the incidents of looting of train passengers as reported in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated August 11, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways are also aware that incident happened in spite of presence of RPF/GRP personnel in train;

(d) if so, the action taken against the RPF/GRP personnel found guilty of negligence of duty;

(e) whether such incidents has increased this year in comparison to the previous year;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the measures taken to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 8.8.2005 at about 22.00 hrs., 7/8 miscreants allegedly looted passengers of a general coach No. 16118/1 attached to train No. 6-SSD (Shamli-Delhi Passenger) between Khekhera—Nusharatabad Kharkhari Halt in Delhi Shahdara-Shamli section. The train was escorted by two constables of Government Railway Police, Baraut, Uttar Pradesh. The incident of alleged loot was reported to Delhi Railway Police, Delhi, where a case on Crime No. 0172/05 under section 397, 34 Indian Penal Code (IPC) dated 8.8.2005 was registered against unknown persons and later transferred to Government Railway Police, Baraut, Uttar Pradesh on the point of jurisdiction. Subsequently Government Railway Police, Baraut, Uttar Pradesh registered the case vide Crime No. 14/05 under section 397, 34 IPC dated 9.8.2005.

(c) and (d) "Policing" being a State subject, the security of passengers and their belongings in the running trains and railway premises is the Constitutional responsibility of the State Government concerned, which they discharge through their Government Railway Police (GRP). The cases of crimes on Railways, are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police.

Ministry of Railways has no control over Government Railway police staff. However, as and when the Government Railway Police staffs are found guilty of negligence, the matter is referred to the concerned Government Railway Police authorities of the State Governments.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. As per information available, the incidents of Dacoity and Robbery in running trains and Railway premises have decreased during the year 2005 (January to June), in comparison to the previous year 2004.

During the year 2005 (January to June), 7 cases of Dacoity and Robbery were reported in comparison to the 23 cases of the corresponding period of 2004.

(g) To provide better security to the traveling passengers in trains and passenger areas, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) Act, 1957 and the Railways Act, 1989 have been amended to enable the Railways, through the RPF, to effectively supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways. The Railway Protection Force staff are being

deployed to escort many trains and deployed in the passenger area to augment the efforts of the State Governments. From July 2004, after the amendment to the RPF Act and the Railways Act out of its limited strength, the Railway Protection Force is providing an average of 1,128 escort parties per day in the affected trains, in co-ordination with the State Governments, for which an average of 3,443 staff are deployed. In addition, 577 stations on average are being provided security by the Railway Protection Force with deployment of approximately 2,774 personnel daily. RPF has also been empowered to deal with the minor offences affecting the train operations such as Alarm chain pulling, roof travel, touting, ticket less travel, unauthorized entry etc. (except Sabotage related offences under Sections 150 to 152) with the amending of the Railways Act w.e.f. July 2004.

*[English]*

#### **Construction of Foot Overbridges in Karnataka**

4523. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present situation of foot over-bridges near the railway gates in Davangere Cotton Mills and at Harihar in Karnataka;

(b) the funds allocated/released for this project during 2004-05 and 2005-06; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) There are two works of Road over bridges (ROB) (not Foot Over Bridges) sanctioned on cost sharing basis at Devangere-Harihar Road. These two works are:

(i) **ROB in lieu of level Crossing (LC) No. 197**—General Arrangement Drawing has been approved. The finalization of agency for Railway portion is under process. Funds to the tune of Rs. 1 crore and Rs. 2 crore have been allotted in 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively.

(ii) **ROB in lieu of LC No. 208**—General Arrangement Drawing has been revised by State Government in view of Local representation. The work shall be taken up after preparation of General Arrangement Drawing and Estimate.

Funds to the tune of Rs. 1 crore per year in 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively.

(c) Railway construct the bridge proper *i.e.* bridge across the track and approach work by State Government. All out efforts shall be made by Railway to complete their portion of work alongwith approaches done by State Government.

#### **Handling of Flights**

4524. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of domestic and international flights handled by Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai airports;

(b) whether it is a fact that many of the flights are forced to circle the airport many times and some of them are diverted due to congestion at the airports; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The average number of domestic and international flights handled per day at Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai airports in 2004-05 is (229, 105), (300, 120) and (118, 50) respectively.

(b) There has been considerable increase in air traffic due to emergence of a number of private airlines in the aviation field. The demand sometimes exceed the capacity of runway, apron, terminal building etc. and occasional operational problems. These factors lead to delays also.

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has initiated steps to provide additional parking stands at metro airports, increase the runway capacity and terminal building capacity at metro airports, provide exit taxi tracks and parallel taxi track to secondary runways. Besides, AAI is also undertaking steps to increase the number of aircrafts movements by improvement in air traffic procedures etc. AAI also has plans to encourage domestic airlines to park their aircraft at non-metro airports.

#### **Southern Gas Grid**

4525. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to create Southern Gas Grid;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of LNG terminal at Ennore port?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) A draft Pipeline Policy which envisages the progressive development of a nation-wide gas grid in a competitive environment, involving both the public sector and the private sector, is under consideration of the Government. Implementation of pipeline segments in different areas will, *inter alia*, depend upon achieving appropriate sources of gas supply and marketing tie-ups.

Subject to tie-up of appropriate sources of gas supply and marketing tie-ups, GAIL envisage laying the following pipelines in the Southern part of the country:

1. Kochi-Kanjirkkod-Mangalore-Kanjirkkod-Coimbatore-Bangalore.
2. Kochi-Kayamkulam.
3. Kakinada-Chennai.

(c) The proposal for setting up an LNG terminal at Ennore is at the initial stage.

[*Translation*]

#### **Halt Station at Mohammadpur Bal**

4526. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3401 dated March 24, 2005 regarding new Railway Halt Station and state:

(a) whether the proposal to open the halt station at Mohammadpur Bal between Motipur and Mahwal stations under the East Central Railway has been found justified and feasible;

(b) if so, the time by which the proposed halt station is likely to be opened; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The proposal for opening of a halt station between Motipur and Mahwal stations has been examined but not found operationally feasible.

[*English*]

#### **Recovery of Outstanding dues by Doordarshan**

4527. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge amounts of Doordarshan are outstanding against some Ministries/Departments of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Ministry/Department-wise alongwith the period since when these are outstanding;

(c) the steps being taken by the Doordarshan for recovery of outstanding dues; and

(d) the total commercial revenue earned by Doordarshan during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati have informed that the following amounts are outstanding against the Ministries/Departments of the Union Government since 2003-04:

Ministry	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
Railways	100
Agriculture	150
Rural Development	75

(c) Prasar Bharati have informed that the matter is being pursued with the concerned Ministries for recovery of the above amounts.

(d) Prasar Bharati have informed that Doodarshan earned following commercial revenue during the last three years:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
2002-03	553.81
2003-04	530.23
2004-05	665.27

**Distribution Point for Kerosene**

4528. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation has shifted their distribution point for kerosene to Ernakulam from Trivandrum;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received any requests/representations to retain the distribution point at Kochuveli, Trivandrum; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Till April, 2005, HPCL was supplying Kerosene (SKO) from Trivandrum under a hospitality arrangement with BPCL. With effect from the 1st May, 2005, the supply point was shifted to Irumpanam on account of operational constraints. However, HPCL have now shifted their SKO supply point of SKO back to Trivandrum under BPCL's hospitality.

(c) No, Sir. Government have not received any request/representation to retain the distribution point at Kochuveli, Trivandrum.

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

**Revival of Nagaland Pulp and Paper Company**

4529. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to revive the Nagaland Pulp and Paper Company Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) Proposal for formulation of Government of India stand on Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Nagaland Pulp and Paper Company Limited (NPPC) is under consideration.

**Relief Package to Displaced Families**

4530. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of families in the border areas were displaced due to military built up along LoC/ International Border after December, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any relief package for such displaced families;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the expenditure incurred so far thereon;

(f) the number of families benefited therefrom;

(g) whether all the displaced families have returned to their homes;

(h) if not, the number of families/persons yet to return to their homes; and

(i) the steps taken to shift them to their respective homes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (i) During the Kargil conflict 1999 and the military build up since December 2001, 35756 families were displaced due to cross-border firing on the Line of Control/International Border in Jammu region.

Relief in accordance with the norms sanctioned by the Government of India has been given to the border migrants as detailed below:

- Cash assistance at the rate of Rs. 400/- per head subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 1600/- per family per month.
- Free ration at the rate of 11 kilograms (Kgs.). Of this 9 Kgs. Atta, 2 Kgs. Rice per head per month.
- Fodder at the rate of Rs. 300/- per family per month.
- Kerosene Oil at the rate of 10 liters per family per month.



An amount of Rs. 11 crores has been released for the repairs/reconstruction of the damaged houses at the following rates in favour of affected families:—

Pucca fully damaged House	Rs. 40,000/-
Pucca partially damaged House	Rs. 20,000/-
Kacha fully damaged House	Rs. 25,000/-
Kacha partially damaged House	Rs. 15,000/-

A sum of Rs. 113.315 crore has so far been reimbursed under Security Related Expenditure to the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) towards providing relief to the Border Migrants. All those displaced have benefited from the relief package.

As intimated by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, all migrant families except 600 families of Akhnoor Tehsil of Jammu district have returned to their houses. Out of those migrated, 541 families from Balakote area of Poonch district, have been rehabilitated at safer locations by incurring an expenditure of Rs. 7.00 crores. A proposal of the Government of J&K for rehabilitation of 6072 families of Akhnoor Tehsil of Jammu District, which includes 600 families, who are still staying in camps, has also been approved at an expenditure of Rs. 59.18 crores.

#### **New Civil Aviation Policy**

4531. SHRI JUAL ORAM:  
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:  
SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:  
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government to associate them while formulating the new Civil Aviation Policy based on the Naresh Chandra Committee Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

#### **Exploration of Oil and Gas Reserves by ONGC**

4532. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has formulated a comprehensive plan for the exploration of oil and gas reserves in the country;

(b) if so, the States proposed to be covered under the said plan; and

(c) the total funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

ONGC is presently carrying out exploration for oil and gas reserves in the country as per the Tenth Five Year Plan exploration programme.

The Tenth Five Year Plan exploration programme envisages plans for acquisition of 4,786 Line Kilometre of 2D seismic data, 3,934 sq. km. of 3D seismic data and drilling of 408 exploratory wells in onland areas of Cambay basin in Gujarat, Jaisalmer basin in Rajasthan, Assam Shelf & Assam Arakan Fold Belt basins in Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura, Krishna-Godavari basin in Andhra Pradesh, Cauvery basin in Tamil Nadu, Bengal basin in West Bengal and Frontier onland basins in Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

In addition, acquisition of 30,500 Line Kilometre of 2D seismic data, 30,900 Sq. km. of 3D seismic data and drilling of 153 exploratory wells in offshore areas off the east and west coasts are also planned.

As on 1.4.2005, ONGC have acquired 8,611.84 Line Kilometre of 2D seismic data, 5,142.44 Sq. Km. of 3D seismic data and drilled 300 exploratory wells in onland areas in first 3 years of Tenth Five Year Plan. In offshore areas, ONGC have acquired 35,123.18 Line Kilometre of 2D seismic data, 43,808.76 Sq. Km. of 3D seismic data and drilled 83 exploratory wells in the first 3 years of Tenth Five Year Plan.

(c) The total approved outlay for the Tenth Five Year Plan was Rs. 33,418.95 crore. As on 1.4.2005, ONGC

has already made an expenditure of 23,367.37 crore in the first 3 years of Tenth Five Year Plan.

[English]

**Utilisation of Funds for SCs, OBCs and Minorities**

4533. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expenditure under centrally sponsored schemes for the welfare and development of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Minorities have not been fully utilized to meet their target fixed during 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details of the outlays and expenditure incurred on each of such schemes during the said period;

(c) the number of persons benefited thereby; and

(d) the steps taken to check that outlays for the welfare and development of SCs, OBCs and Minorities are fully utilized in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The State Governments/Union Territories are required to furnish Quarterly Progress Reports under various Schemes. Generally assistance is released on receipt of Utilization Certificates in respect of grant released in previous years. The Ministry is taking up the matter with the implementing agencies through the periodical meetings and the officers of the Ministry also visit States/UTs from time to time to monitor the implementation of the Schemes.

**Statement**

*Utilisation of funds for SCs, OBCs and Minorities*

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	2003-2004			2004-2005		
		Outlay (BE)	Actual Expenditure	Beneficiaries covered	Outlay (BE)	Actual Expenditure	Beneficiaries covered
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Hostels for SC Girls	20.00	20.50	9277	23.00	16.03	7172
2.	Hostels for SC Boys	23.00	35.25	8779	27.00	24.92	6618
3.	Coaching and Allied	6.00	3.98	7030	8.00	4.96	11905
4.	Upgradation of merit for SCs	58.00	1.85	1378	20.00	1.77	1334
5.	Post Matric Scholarship	260.00	264.99	1983296	313.24	330.27	2404971 (anticipated)
6.	Scheduled Castes Development Corporation	48.13	48.13	543665	4900	48.63	623785
7.	Protection of Civil Right Act, 1955 and Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989	31.50	36.38	—	34.75	34.75	—
8.	Pre Matric Scholarship for OBCs	15.30	17.00	1595736	16.80	18.75	1287610

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs	21.59	23.99	234598	21.73	24.67	227980
10.	Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls	13.00	10.20	4060	12.76	12.76	5821

#### **Regulator for Oil and Gas Sector**

4534. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas continues to effectively control prices as well as the investment decisions of all Oil and Natural Gas Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a need for independent regulator in both the upstream and downstream segment of the oil and gas sector;

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) In April, 2002, with the declared intention of moving towards market-determined pricing for petroleum products, Government announced the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM). Nevertheless, the prices of PDS kerosene and domestic LPG continued to be decided by the Government as these are subsidized products. Since the end of 2003, there has been an unprecedented, sharp and spiraling increase in international oil prices combined with considerable week to week and even to day volatility. Government therefore, froze prices of PDS kerosene and began modulating the price of petrol and diesel also in addition to that of domestic LPG. The pricing of the

remaining products is market determined. Government have conferred navratana status on ONGC, IOCL, HPCL, BPCL and GAIL, and Mini Ratana status on IBP, CPCL, NRL, KRL and BRPL. The Boards of these companies take investment decisions as per the powers delegated to Navratana and Mini Ratana companies. The investment decisions are based on their business and commercial considerations. Government also intervenes wherever considered necessary with a view to avoiding unhealthy competition between them and ensuring optimum investments in the sector as a whole.

(c) to (e) Government are not contemplating a separate and independent regulator for the upstream hydrocarbons sector. However, an independent regulator for downstream sector is under the active consideration of Government.

#### **Report of Commissioner of Railway Safety**

4535. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:  
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commissioner of Railway Safety in its report submitted to the Government has recommended new types of locomotives, rolling stock, etc.;

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

(c) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The Commission of Railway Safety has not recommended any new type of locomotives, rolling stock, etc. suo motu in any of its report submitted to Ministry of Railways. The Commission, however, forwards proposals received time to time from Zonal Railways, with his observations and recommendations, for running of new types of locomotives,

rolling stock, etc. for sanction of the Ministry of Railways. All such proposals are scrutinized and examined by the Ministry of Railways and sanction of Ministry of Railways is communicated to the Zonal Railways subject to the suitability of the proposal in all respects.

#### **Production of Crude Oil**

4536. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL:  
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set and achieved for production of crude oil in the country during the last three years;

(b) the demand and the supply of petroleum products in the country during the said period;

(c) whether there is any policy to improve the crude oil production in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the targets set by the public sector oil companies for production of crude oil during 2005-06, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The targets set for oil production in the country and the actual production during the last three years are given below:

Oil Production [in million metric tonnes (MMT)]

Year	Target	Actual
2002-03	33.17	33.05
2003-04	33.50	33.37
2004-05	33.63	33.98

(b) The demand and production of petroleum products in the country during the last three years have been as follows:

(MMT)

Year	Demand	Production
2002-03	104.126	108.674
2003-04	107.751	117.641
2004-05	111.710	122.749

(c) and (d) Various measures to substantially accelerate exploratory activities for enhancing domestic oil and gas production are being taken. These include the following:-

- (i) increasing exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP); Under NELP, 108 exploration blocks have been awarded to National Oil Companies, foreign companies and private/joint venture companies through International Competitive Bidding process. This includes 18 Exploration Blocks recently awarded in the fifth round of NELP;
- (ii) improving the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; in particular, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,972 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields;
- (iii) exploring new areas, especially deep waters and difficult frontier areas, as also the deeper layers of already producing fields; and
- (iv) developing newly discovered fields speedily and stepping up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.

(e) The targets set by the two National Oil Companies, namely, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) for oil production during 2005-06 are 26.614 MMT and 3.3 MMT, respectively.

[Translation]

#### **Production and Sale of LPG**

4537. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the details regarding production and sale of domestic and commercial LPG during each of the last three years and upto July, 2005, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): The State-wise details of production

of LPG during the last three years and data available upto April-June, 2005 are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

State-wise sales of domestic and commercial LPG by Public Sector Oil Companies during the last three years and data available upto April-June, 2005 are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

**Statement I**

**Production and Sale of LPG**

Location (State)	LPG Production in Thousand Metric Tonnes (Refineries+Fractionators)			
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Apr-Jun 2005
Andhra Pradesh	279.5	323.7	296.7	74.4
Assam	164.3	216.2	226.4	47.1
Bihar	105.6	184.5	245.1	70.2
Gujarat	3595.1	3692.5	3782.5	858.9
Haryana	204.2	236.0	236.7	69.5
Karnataka	180.4	231.3	283.0	589.5
Kerala	364.1	422.6	422.7	28.8
Madhya Pradesh	497.2	469.8	441.7	110.7
Maharashtra	1082.9	1082.6	1032.5	219.6
Tamil Nadu	179.5	192.2	267.3	94.6
Uttar Pradesh	509.5	475.7	423.6	118.1
West Bengal	125.5	123.5	159.0	32.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>7287.8</b>	<b>7650.6</b>	<b>7817.2</b>	<b>1782.8</b>

**Statement II**

**Public Sector Undertaking Sales**

Figure in Metric tonnes

State	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05			April-June 2005**
	Domestic	Comm.	Total	Domestic	Comm.	Total	Domestic	Comm.	Total	(Prov.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>NORTH</b>										
Jammu and Kashmir	83637	326	83964	90628	336	90964	102955	459	103414	24411
Punjab	425114	2816	427930	484848	3918	488765	506718	4221	510940	114840

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Rajasthan	331074	15209	346282	377377	7669	385046	415370	10309	425679	101415
Uttar Pradesh	857679	15127	872806	966094	11786	977880	1052629	6801	1059430	252961
Haryana	290542	13565	304106	336302	18435	354737	364989	9910	374900	86571
Himachal Pradesh	62981	918	63899	72643	880	73503	76317	1809	78126	18995
Uttaranchal	105679	1001	106680	117084	1073	118158	124335	771	125106	30891
Chandigarh	29661	818	30479	30252	707	30959	30009	661	30671	6606
Delhi	498235	9020	508255	543464	6295	549759	568574	7643	576218	127815
North Total	2685601	58799	2744400	3018692	51077	3069770	3241897	42585	3284483	764305
<b>NORTH EAST</b>										
Assam	126363	4728	131092	144369	674	145043	154494	707	155200	40287
Manipur	22147	58	22206	17801	10	17811	17013	1	17014	4414
Meghalaya	9669	57	9726	10587	73	10659	11726	76	11802	3007
Nagaland	10567	2	10569	11376	13	11389	12727	9	12736	3243
Tripura	16080	4	16084	17718	0	17718	18069	4	18073	4371
Arunachal Pradesh	8497	50	8547	9256	29	9285	9704	21	9725	2265
Mizoram	15582	10	15592	17125	6	17131	16081	4	16086	3938
North East Total	208906	4910	213816	228232	805	229037	239814	821	240636	61525
<b>EAST</b>										
Bihar	182766	306	183072	222873	234	223107	243802	254	244056	59406
Orissa	94581	660	95222	111715	1159	112874	130062	1034	131097	30220
West Bengal	403851	14552	418403	451913	3098	455012	478028	5124	483152	120069
Jharkhand	78423	2110	80533	78343	1616	79960	88685	1716	90401	22241
Sikkim	5774	99	5873	7301	24	7325	3428	18	3446	2012
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	353	0	353	4159	0	4159	10287	0	10287	1124
East Total	765728	17728	783456	876305	6132	882436	964292	8145	962438	235072
<b>WEST</b>										
Goa	32006	4724	36730	34296	4438	38733	37080	5162	42242	9965
Gujarat	411491	90633	502124	505834	20526	526360	554508	40343	594851	131210
Madhya Pradesh	312193	3989	316162	350497	3621	354018	377220	5101	382321	89949

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Maharashtra	1108062	104197	1212259	1229869	106227	1336096	1352672	155812	1508485	341779
Chhattisgarh	67906	790	68896	78380	9724	88104	90711	1982	92693	22172
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2057	3613	5671	2833	5126	7959	5122	3519	8640	2341
Daman and Diu	2410	1362	3772	3393	873	4266	3889	1150	5039	1226
West Total	1936125	209290	2145414	2205101	150436	2355537	2421201	213069	2634271	598641
<b>SOUTH</b>										
Andhra Pradesh	626083	12972	639054	703133	23791	726924	771646	12035	783681	182092
Kerala	321374	37144	358517	380209	31286	411495	442775	39495	482269	111476
Tamil Nadu	729140	40711	769851	808510	29097	837607	891041	34723	925764	216861
Karnataka	437777	23667	461444	528478	18260	546738	591859	37303	629163	154385
Lakshadweep	258	0	258	269	0	269	—	—	—	51
Pondicherry	21672	783	22455	24091	631	24722	22843	1169	24012	6503
South Total	2136304	115276	2251580	2444690	103065	2547754	2720163	124725	2844888	671369
All India Total*	7736585	406003	8142588	8775029	313599	9088628	9577369	389346	9966715	2330913

\*Includes Bhutan/Nepal.

\*\*Break up of Domestic & Commercial not available.

[English]

#### Concessional Finance to OBCs

4538. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:  
SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the main objective of National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) is to provide concessional finance to OBCs for setting up of self-employment ventures and starting income generating schemes;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware that concessional finance is not being provided to OBCs;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to provide concessional finance to OBCs; and

(e) the number of OBCs to whom concessional finance has been provided during 2004-05 and 2005-06 alongwith funds disbursed to them, State/Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) NBCFDC provides concessional finance to OBCs living below double the poverty line and so far it has released Rs. 1017.01 crore to State channelling agencies in different States/UTs for 6,31,351 beneficiaries. A statement-I regarding funds released by the Corporation during 2004-05 and 2005-06 alongwith the number of beneficiaries, State/UT-wise is enclosed. The interest rates for various schemes of NBCFDC are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

**Statement I**

*State-wise Disbursement and No. of 'Other Backward Classes' Beneficiaries assisted by NBCFDC during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 upto 16.08.2005*

Sl.No.	Name of States	2004-05		2005-06 (16.08.2005)	
		Disbursement (Rs. lacs)	Beneficiaries (Nos.)	Disbursement (Rs. lacs)	Beneficiaries (Nos.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	250.00	135	—	—
2.	Assam	80.20	220	—	—
3.	Bihar	170.00	523	—	—
4.	Chhattisgarh	108.19	137	—	—
5.	Chandigarh (UT)	24.70	72	—	—
6.	Delhi (UT)	50.00	78	—	—
7.	Gujarat	350.00	880	—	—
8.	Goa	28.45	15	5.67	4
9.	Haryana	175.00	769	60.00	236
10.	Himachal Pradesh	250.00	500	60.92	72
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	40.60	97	—	—
12.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—
13.	Karnataka	1000.00	6528	150.37	967
14.	Kerala	1697.50	5362	700.00	2300
15.	Madhya Pradesh	148.75	507	—	—
16.	Manipur	—	—	—	—
17.	Maharashtra	1950.00	5941	840.00	2050
18.	Orissa	50.00	495	—	—
19.	Punjab	200.00	321	—	—
20.	Pondicherry (UT)	50.00	176	49.96	161
21.	Rajasthan	293.40	792	—	—
22.	Sikkim	257.90	300	—	—



1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Tripura	99.03	190	—	—
25.	Uttar Pradesh	616.00	4770	108.00	2000
26.	Uttaranchal	52.75	74	—	—
27.	West Bengal	600.00	2857	200.00	755
Total		9342.47	61538	2499.92	17281

**Statement II***Interest Rate for Various Schemes of NBCFDC*

Type of Loan	Rate of interest on advance of funds form NBCFDC to SCA	Maximum rate of interest from SCA to beneficiaries
Term Loan	3% p.a.	6% p.a.
Micor-Finance	2% p.a.	5% p.a.
Mahila Samridhi Yojna	1% p.a.	4% p.a.
New Swamima for Women	2% p.a.	5% p.a.
Swayam Saksham	2% p.a.	5% p.a.
Education Loan	1.5% p.a.	4% p.a.
Margin Money	3% p.a.	6% p.a.

**Construction of ROB in South Eastern Railway**

4539. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of construction of Road Over Bridge (ROBs) at Purigate near IIT, Kharagpur and Rangamati near Midnapore station under Kharagpur division of South Eastern Railway;

(b) the funds allotted for these projects, till date; and

(c) the time by which the works of these bridges are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Road Over Bridge (ROB) in lieu of Level Crossing (LC) No. 1 at Km. 118/4-5 near Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur

was sanctioned in 2003-04 on cost sharing basis between Railway, State Government and IIT, Kharagpur. Railway shall execute the bridge proper i.e. bridge across the Railway track and approach work by State Government. General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) has been approved. Estimate for approaches is awaited from State Government.

Road Over Bridge (ROB) in lieu of Level Crossing at Km. 127/12-13 near Rangamati was sanctioned in 2000-01 on cost sharing basis with State Government of West Bengal. Tender for Railway portion of work has been finalised and same is expected to be completed by 31.03.2006. Approach work is being executed by State Government.

Rs. 295.00 lac has been allotted for Rangamati ROB and Rs. 295.35 lac has been allotted for ROB at Purigate near IIT, Kharagpur in current year budget.

**Improvement in Sanitation**

4540. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Teamsustain, the Indian arm of the US based Dew Con Instruments Inc. has submitted any proposal to the Ministry of Railways to improve sanitation and hygiene of railway compartments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Funding of Metro Corridor from CP to Delhi Airport**

4541. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation has requested the Planning Commission to fund the dedicated metro corridor from Connaught Place to Delhi Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Planning Commission thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Ministry of Civil Aviation has sent an approach paper to the Planning Commission to discuss project cost, funding and institutional arrangements for metro corridor from Connaught Place to Indira Gandhi International Airport. Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) is already conducting the detailed Techno-Economic Feasibility Study on behalf of Airports Authority of India (AAI).

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Subsidy on LPG and Kerosene**

4542. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:  
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the method of calculating subsidy on domestic LPG and PDS kerosene;

(b) whether the Government is considering any changes in the method of calculating subsidy;

(c) If so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Ministry of Petroleum has asked Ministry of Finance to provide subsidies on PDS kerosene and domestic LPG in a transparent manner; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Ministry of Finance thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Government had notified the "PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG Subsidy Scheme, 2002" for administering post-Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) subsidy on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG. In terms of the scheme, flat rate of subsidy per selling unit is to be given to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) equal to the difference between the cost price and the issue price per selling unit as on 31.3.2002. The OMCs were to adjust the retail selling prices (RSP) of these products in line with international prices. It was also decided that the Government subsidy on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG is to be phased out over a period of 5 years i.e. by 1.4.2007.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) and (e) OMCs have suffered substantial under-recoveries on account of the continued and widening mismatch between domestic retail prices of PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG, on the one hand, and international oil prices which have been relentlessly on rise, on the other, as also the mismatch since the beginning of 2004 between international and domestic retail prices of petrol and diesel. The estimated under-recoveries for 2003-04 on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG was Rs. 9,370 crore and in 2004-05 Rs. 17,720 crore. During the period April-June 2005, the estimated under-recoveries to OMCs was Rs. 4,800 crore on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG and Rs. 4,900 crore on petrol and diesel. In full year of 2005-06, at current trend, the under-recoveries are likely to exceed Rs. 40,000 crore. The total loss, suffered by the OMCs during the first quarter of the current financial year, notwithstanding a massive

contribution of Rs. 3,257 crore from upstream companies like ONGC and OIL, as well as GAIL, is 1227 crore. In view of mounting under-recoveries of OMCs and subsequent losses suffered by them it has been suggested that subsidies should be transparent and met directly from the Union Budget. Government is constantly monitoring the price situation with a view to implementing the appropriate remedial options, including making subsidies transparent.

[*Translation*]

### **Expansion of Indore Airport**

4543. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for expansion of Indore Airport;

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

(c) whether the Government is considering to upgrade the Indore Airport as an International Airport;

(d) if so, whether the air cargo facility is likely to be provided there; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) State Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested to upgrade Indore Airport for International operations and also to declare it as an International Airport. The existing airport at Indore is suitable for operations of A-320/B-737-800 type of aircrafts. As no airline operator has demanded to provide facilities for International operations, there is no proposal to declare it as an International Airport at present.

(d) and (e) Although cargo handling facilities are available, it is not in use by domestic airlines. Provision of cargo complex for international flights is contingent on demand.

### **Development of Railway Platform**

4544. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received from the Government of Maharashtra for the development of railway platforms during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) the action taken by the Railways thereon;

(c) whether the Railways propose to develop platforms at Nasik Road Railway station; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time fixed for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The work of improvement to flooring on platform number 2 & 3 under new cover over shed has been completed recently.

### **Army Central Welfare Fund**

4545. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount contributed by the countrymen in the Army Central Welfare Fund during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) the financial assistance provided to the dependents of army men killed in the Kargil war from the said fund;

(c) whether any other scheme have been formulated or proposed to be formulated under the Army Central Welfare Fund to provide financial assistance to the dependents of martyrs in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): (a) The donations received during the past three years are as under:—

Year		Amount
2002-2003	—	Rs. 81,16,560.39
2003-2004	—	Rs. 35,24,611.09
2004-2005	—	Rs. 43,02,302.80
2005-2006 (Till date)	—	Rs. 2,15,031.00

(b) A financial assistance of Rs. 1,56,60,000/- was provided to the dependents of the 522 Kargil martyrs out of the Army Central Welfare Fund at the rate of Rs. 30,000/- to each of the Next of Kin.

(c) and (d) The details of existing schemes as available under Army Central Welfare Fund to provide financial assistance to the dependents of martyrs are given in the enclosed Statement.

#### **Statement**

#### **1. Disabled soldiers (Battle Casualty) retained in service:**

Disabled soldiers injured in various military operations with effect from 1st May 1999 onwards and subsequently retained in service are eligible for one time grant out of Army Central Welfare Fund based on their percentage of disability. Details are as under:—

- (a) Over 75% disability — Rs. 30,000/-
- (b) 50% to 75% disability — Rs. 20,000/-
- (c) Less than 50% disability — Rs. 10,000/-

#### **2. Disabled Soldiers (Battle Casualty) Invalided out from Service before completion of Terms of Engagement:**

Disabled soldiers (battle casualties) invalided out of service before completion of terms of engagement of service due to injury sustained in various military operations are eligible for one time grant of Rupees One lac each out of Army Central welfare Fund.

#### **3. Ex-Gratia from Army Central Welfare Fund to all Other Fatal Casualties:**

Ex-gratia of Rs. 30,000/- is given to the Next of Kin of all deceased soldiers with effect from 1st April 2001.

**Note:** Applicable to soldiers of Nepal domicile also.

*(English)*

#### **Modernisation and Renovation of Palani Railway Station**

4546. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand is pending with the Railways to modernize and renovate the Palani Railway Station in view of the heavy traffic of devotees visiting the Lord Karthik temple;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Programme for Self Employment**

4547. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any programme for self employment for the employees of public sector undertakings opting VRS; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) As a step towards providing a safety net for the rationalized employees of central PSEs, a Plan Scheme for Counselling, Retraining and Redeployment for the separated employees of CPSEs under VRS/VSS is being implemented. The scheme aims at rehabilitation of the rationalized employees through short duration training programmes. The strategy is to equip them with skills, which would enable them to be deployed mainly in self-employment activities.

#### **Ferrying VIPs in Helicopters**

4548. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether civilian copters do not follow Civil Aviation rules strictly;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to ensure that civilian copters follow Civil Aviation rules in true letter and spirit;

(c) whether there is any proposal to ban one engine copters to ferry VIPs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Compliance of Indian Aircraft Rules and Civil Aviation Requirements is mandatory for all aircraft operations including Civilian Helicopters. These Rules are being adhered to by all the operators.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Regulations for safe operation of aircraft exist in the form of Civil Aviation Requirements and Circulars issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). In addition, DGCA has issued instructions for carriage of VIPs in the State Government and private aircraft. Single engine helicopters have also been permitted to ferry VIPs if the performance of these helicopters conform to the regulatory requirements laid down by DGCA for safety in aircraft operations.

#### **New Channels for Regional News**

4549. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to launch new channels under Doordarshan for regional news, music, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Prasar Bharati have informed that there is no proposal to launch new channels by Doordarshan for regional news, music etc.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Rail Ticket Booking through Internet**

4550. SHRI E.G. SAGAVANAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have started tickets booking through Internet;

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

(c) whether booking of tickets through Internet starts from 0400 hrs;

(d) if so, whether the Railways are aware of the difficulties being faced by the general public who are not accessible to Internet and can only book ticket through the ticket counters which starts only at 0800 hrs. thereby the ticket position comes to wait listed;

(e) if so, whether the Railways propose to change the Internet booking timing to 0800 hrs. instead of 0400 hrs.; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Reservation of Internet was started in August 2002 through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). The salient features of Internet booking are enclosed as Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) On the opening day of advance booking of any train, the accommodation is simultaneously opened for Internet booking as well as at the computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters at 0800 hrs. thereby giving no preferential treatment to Internet booking passengers.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

**Statement**

The salient features of Internet booking are as under:—

- (1) Customer has to register on the website www.irctc.co.in. Registration is free.
- (2) Customer can then log in and book tickets for journey between two commercial halts on the route of a train.
- (3) Children and Senior Citizen concessions can be availed of through the Internet.
- (4) Payment for Internet booking is only online and the options are:—
  - (a) Credit Card—Master/Visa/American Express
  - (b) Direct debit of bank accounts using Internet banking facility of 15 banks.
  - (c) Pre-paid cash card (ITZ cash)
- (5) Tickets are delivered to customers in 171 cities.
- (6) Cancellation is across the counters at any Passenger Reservation System (PRS) booking office but no cash is refunded. Refund is done electronically to the credit card/bank account/cash card account of the customer.

*[Translation]*

**Stoppage at Motipur**

4551. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total annual income from sale of tickets at Motipur station of East Central railway;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to provide stoppage of Bandra Express and Sampark Kranti Express at the said station keeping in view its annual income;
- (c) if so, the time by which the stoppage of above mentioned trains is likely to be provided at Motipur station; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The annual income from sale of ticket at Motipur station is approximately Rupees one crore.

(b) to (d) Due to proximity of stoppages at present, there is no proposal for provision of stoppage of 9039/9040 Muzaffarpur-Bandra (T) Awadh Express at Motipur and the same is also not considered desirable. Further, 2565/2566 Darbhanga-New Delhi Sampark Kranti Express does not pass through Motipur station.

*[English]*

**Non-utilisation of Funds by Finance and Development Corporations**

4552. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Finance and Development Corporation for Weaker Sections mainly National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), National Safai Karamchari Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC), National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) and National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) have not utilized their allocated funds during 2003-04 and 2004-05;

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

(c) whether the aims and objectives for which these Corporations were set up have not been achieved in view of their performance during the said period;

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

(e) the steps taken to utilize full allocation of funds by these Corporations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

**Museum of Palmleaf Manuscripts**

4553. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any archival museums of palmleaf manuscript in the country;

(b) if so, whether there is any policy of the Government to protect such archives in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for conservation, digitalization and translation of Palmleaf Manuscripts and setting up of an archival museum of Palmleaf Manuscripts; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) There are several institutions in the country for palmleaf manuscripts. However, there are also several collections of manuscripts stored in archives, museums, universities, indological institutions, religious institutions and in ancestral families which include palmleaf manuscripts. Important museums in this category are Directorate of State Archives (J&K), Orissa State Museum (Bhubaneswar), Salarjung Museum (Hyderabad) and Kerala State Archives (Thiruvantapuram). The Government of India set up of the National Mission for Manuscripts in February, 2003 for survey, cataloguing, conservation, preservation and dissemination of the manuscripts wealth of India. This Mission has made considerable headway by working in tandem with prominent manuscripts depositories, evolving a national catalogue of manuscripts, establishing conservation centres, giving training on reading scripts and promoting access through public outreach programme.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

**Public-Private Partnership in Trains**

4554. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are exploring the possibility of public-private partnership in running trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have formulated any scheme to seek private partnership in running of trains particularly tourist trains;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

**Permission to Private Airlines**

4555. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:  
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether various private airlines have been permitted to operate domestic scheduled air transport services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria for giving such permission to private airlines;

(d) whether the applications of some private airlines seeking permission to operate in the domestic sector the pending with the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which decision is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The following private airlines have been permitted to operate Scheduled Air Transport Services in the Country:—

1. Jet Airways (India) Pvt. Ltd.
2. Sahara Airlines Ltd.
3. Deccan Aviation Pvt. Ltd.
4. Blue Dart Aviation Pvt. Ltd. (Cargo)
5. Kingfisher Airlines Ltd.
6. Spice Jet Ltd.

(c) The criteria for giving such permission to private airlines is contained in Civil Aviation Requirement Section 3 Series C Part II.

(d) and (e) At present two applications for grant of No Objection Certificate for scheduled air transport services are pending approval. The details are as under—

- (i) M/s Magic Airways Pvt. Ltd.—pending for examination of the issue of investment by persons of Indian origin.
- (ii) M/s Mukti Airways Pvt. Ltd.—pending for want of security clearance of the board of directors of the company.

#### **ONGC Power Plant in Tripura**

4556. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation is going to set up a gas based thermal plant at Palatana in South Tripura District;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) In order to monetize locked up assets in the isolated gas pools in Tripura State, a Combined Cycle Gas-based Thermal Power plant at Pallatana, in South Tripura District is envisaged to be set up, for which a Special Purpose Vehicle, the "Tripura Power Development Company Pvt. Ltd." (TPDC) was constituted by ONGC, the Government of Tripura and M/s. Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Ltd. (IL&FS) with equity participation of 26%, 24% and 50% respectively. The TPDC has now been rechristened as

the "ONGC-Tripura Power Development Company Pvt. Ltd." (OTPCL).

(c) ONGC and OTPCL have signed a Fuel Supply Contract for the supply of natural gas for the proposed power plant. A technical consultant has been engaged for the preparation of the Detailed Feasibility Report.

#### **Raising of Height of Platform**

4557. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the height of the railway platforms in Group 'C' stations in rural areas is very low resulting a lot of inconvenience to the passengers particularly to ladies, children and senior citizens;

(b) if so, whether any measures are being taken by the Government to raise their heights at par with those of Groups A&B stations to give relief to the passengers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Railway stations are classified into 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D', 'E' & 'F' categories based on earnings from Passenger traffic at a station. Differential scale of amenities is provided based on category of station. As per norms Minimum Essential Amenities the height of platform is High level at 'A' & 'C' category, Medium level at 'B' & 'D' category and Rail level at 'E' & 'F' category irrespective of rural or urban areas. The required level of platform as per category of station has been provided at all stations.

#### **LNG Terminals**

4558. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal for creating LNG terminals;

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



(c) the time by which new terminals are likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) In the deregulated scenario, LNG terminals are likely to come up at different locations in the country on commercial considerations. At present, there are two LNG terminals in the country, viz., LNG terminal at Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) of 5 MMTPA capacity at Dahej and LNG terminal of Shell of 2.5 MMTPA capacity at Hazira. PLL propose to expand the capacity of their Dahej terminal to 10 MMTPA by 2008 and to set up a greenfield terminal at Kochi of 5 MMTPA capacity by 2009. Dabhol LNG terminal of 5 MMTPA capacity is expected to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2006. In addition, two more terminals, one at Mangalore and the other at Ennore, are at the planning stage.

#### **Panipat Refinery**

4559. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has decided to expand the capacity of Panipat Refinery from 12 million tonnes to 15 million tonnes;

(b) if so, the total cost involved therein; and

(c) if so, the time by which the expansion work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated cost of expansion of Panipat Refinery from 12 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) to 15 MMTPA is Rs. 806 crore.

(c) The project is scheduled to be completed by March, 2008.

#### **Childline Service**

4560. SHRI GANESH SINGH:  
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the name of cities in which childline service is presently available;

(b) the name of Voluntary Organisations (VOs) identified for running childline service in the country, particularly in Gujarat, State/UT-wise;

(c) the funds allocated/released by the Union Government to VO's during each of the last three years and the current year for this purpose, State/Union Territory-wise;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to extend this facility to some more cities in the country; and

(e) if so, the details and names thereof alongwith the funds earmarked for this purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The information is available at the official web site of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. viz. [www.socialjustice.nic.in](http://www.socialjustice.nic.in).

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Preparatory work to launch the service in new cities is an ongoing exercise undertaken by Childline India Foundation, Mumbai, the nodal agency for monitoring and expansion of Childline service.

Assistance is provided to organizations implementing street children as well as Childline projects under the scheme 'An Integrated Programme for Street Children' Rs. 12.20 crore has been allocated for the year 2005-06 of which Rs. 1.40 crore has been earmarked for North-Eastern States. No State-wise earmarking of funds is done.

#### **Purchase of ILS**

4561. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has purchased a number of Instrument Landing System (ILS) for installation at various airports involving crore of rupees but the same remained unutilized;

(b) if so, the reasons for not installing the ILS at the airports and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether C&AG has also reported this matter in its Report No. 3 of 2005 (Commercial); and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) purchased 20 Instrument Landing System (ILS) during 2001-03 meant for replacement/installation at various airports. There was delay in installation of ILS at 8 airports due to delay in land acquisition, obstacle clearance etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) AAI has since overcome the obstacles with consistent efforts and installed 6 out of 8 ILS. The 7th ILS is likely to be provided at the new runway of Vishakhapatnam airport after completion of the runway. 8th ILS will also be installed at Jammu airport after commissioning of extended portion of runway which is held up due to delay in demolition of an old security wall. Instructions have been issued to AAI to take corrective measures to avoid such recurrence in future.

*[Translation]*

#### **Blockage of Pipelines by ULFA Extremists**

4562. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ULFA extremists have blocked the supply to refineries in Assam recently by damaging pipelines;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the loss suffered as a result thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any measures to ensure security of refineries in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two incidents took place, details of which are given below:—

(i) On 6.8.2005, at around 2300 hrs., crude oil supply from Oil India Limited (OIL) to Guwahati Refinery was suspended due to a blast in OIL's

crude pipeline near Sibsagar, between Moran and Jorhat. Crude oil supply to the Guwahati Refinery was maintained by M/s Oil and Natural Gas Corporation. Crude oil processing at Guwahati Refinery remained normal. However, owing to the blast, Oil suffered an estimated loss of Rs. 248.46 lakh.

(ii) On 7.8.2005, at around 2105 hrs., Diesel pumping in the Digboi-Tinsukia Pipeline (DTPL) was suspended owing to a blast in DTPL at Tengapani Tea Estate between Makum and Tinsukia. After necessary repairs, DTPL pumping operations resumed on 9.8.2005. Digboi refinery operations remained normal because of adequate quantity in product tanks. IOCL suffered on estimated loss of Rs. 20 lakh on account of this blast.

(c) and (d) The security of oil installations in Assam is looked after by the security staff of the Oil Companies, the Central Industrial Security Force and Assam Police. The security status is reviewed on a regular basis in coordination with the State Government. The Inspector General of Police (Security) reviews the security arrangements of Oil Sector Refineries, Pipelines and Installations on a quarterly basis in the Intelligence Sub-Committee Meetings.

*[English]*

#### **Promotion of Traditional Culture**

4563. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to encourage the traditional/regional culture;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith status of ongoing projects in respect of Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether the Government proposes to implement the new projects with co-operation of State Governments as well as private-enterprises to promote arts and cultural industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The mandate of the

Ministry of Culture is to preserve and promote all forms of art and culture. Along with programmes for the preservation of India's ancient heritage, the activities of the Ministry of Culture encourage and disseminate a variety of contemporary creative arts as well. The status of the ongoing projects in Tamil Nadu are as under:

Zona Cultural Centre, Thanjavur of Ministry of Culture have approved 23 programmes for the current financial year 2005-06 to safeguard and promote the art and culture of Tamil Nadu. Apart from approved programmes several programmes are being arranged and conducted through National Cultural Exchange Programme, Special Programmes and Collaborative Programmes, Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme etc.

Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi is supporting the culture of Tamil Nadu through disbursement of grants to Cultural Institutions.

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi is giving due share in its various schemes for Tamil Nadu. Sahitya Akademi has published 350 titles in Tamil including translation and monographs on Tamil Writers.

Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai is an Institution of National Importance. It is organizing various activities for the preservation of traditional values in Indian Art, Classical Dance and Music. Cultural Performances and lecture-demonstrations are conducted at Kalakshetra Foundation for the benefit of students.

Apart from the above, Ministry of Culture is providing financial assistance to Tamil Nadu under the Schemes on Scholarship to Young Artistes, Senior/Junior Fellowship to Outstanding Artistes in the field of Performing, Literary and Plastic Arts, Research Support to Voluntary Organisation, Promotion & Dissemination of Tribal/Folk Arts and Culture.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The National Culture Fund (NCF) was set up with the aim of inviting the participation of the corporate sector, NGOs, State Governments, public/private sector and individuals in the task of promoting, protecting and presenting India's cultural heritage as well as creation of new galleries, museums and imparting of training, in cultural activities.

#### **Heritage Zones**

4564. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UNESCO has agreed to create Heritage Zones comprising of important monuments in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether UNESCO team has proposed to visit important monuments in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) There are no proposals for visit of any UNESCO team at present. However, UNESCO Missions visit some of the World Heritage Sites for assessment of the state of conservation.

#### **Employment to Ex-Servicemen**

4565. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Directorate-General of Resettlement (DGR) has requested the State Governments to obtain security cover for the establishments under their jurisdiction through DGR empanelled security agencies;

(b) if so, the response of the State Governments in this regard; and

(c) the number of ex-servicemen got employment through DGR in each State so far during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): (a) The latest guidelines of the Department of Public Enterprises provide that the Directorate General of Resettlement will be the nodal authority to sponsor ex-servicemen security agencies including State Ex-servicemen Corporations to all the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs).

(b) Some States have requested that their State Ex-servicemen Corporations should be allowed to apply directly to the CPSUs as was the provision earlier.

(c) A Statement is attached.

**Statement**

Sl.No.	State/UT	Number of ex-servicemen employed through DGR sponsored security agencies (from 1.1.2005 to 10.8.2005)
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1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	915
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	85
3.	Assam	285
4.	Bihar	345
5.	Chhattisgarh	537
6.	Goa	98
7.	Gujarat	1124
8.	Himachal Pradesh	204
9.	Haryana	632
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	379
11.	Jharkhand	753
12.	Karnataka	1371
13.	Kerala	488
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1223
15.	Maharashtra	2110
16.	Meghalaya	6
17.	Nagaland	—
18.	Orissa	1489
19.	Punjab	160
20.	Rajasthan	527
21.	Sikkim	3
22.	Tamil Nadu	690
23.	Tripura	38
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1068

1	2	3
25.	Uttaranchal	134
26.	West Bengal	1362
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5
28.	Delhi	3035
29.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	6
30.	Pondicherry	36
Total		19088

Note: Employment of ex-servicemen in Central Government PSUs is an ongoing process.

**Cadre Review of Engineering and Administrative Services in MES**

4566. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cadre review of Engineering Services in Military Engineering Service (MES) has been carried out;

(b) if so, whether cadre review of Administrative Services in Military Engineering Service has also been carried out;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the cadre review of Administrative Services is likely to be carried out?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The cadre review of the administrative cadre of the Military Engineer Services (MES) has not been carried out.

(c) The examination of the cadre review proposal by the Departmental Cadre Review Committee has not been completed.

(d) The finalization of the cadre review involves consultation with the Department of Personnel & Training and the Ministry of Finance. Hence, no time frame has been fixed.

**Committee for Precious Art Objects**

4567. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up any committee or proposes to set up a committee to draw up a list of precious art objects not to be sent out of country for foreign exhibitions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other measures being taken to ensure that the precious art objects which are sent abroad for exhibitions are not damaged?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Expert Committee to identify such art objects which are too fragile or are too precious to be parted with even temporarily and therefore should not be sent abroad for exhibition purposes, except in very exceptional circumstances, was constituted long back in 1987. Thereafter Government of India issued guidelines for sending exhibitions abroad and accepting exhibitions from abroad vide letter dated 30.09.1988. The said guidelines have been amended by the guidelines dated 18.06.1999.

(c) A seven member National Screening and Evaluation Committee has been constituted for screening and evaluation of art objects to be sent abroad. The Committee makes recommendations regarding the antiquity and the art objects to be sent abroad including its classification and insurance value. Art objects to be sent abroad are further subjected to scientific conservation, photo-documentation, etc. Special care is taken for packing of the art objects, crating, handling at various stages and transportation. Objects are duly insured on wall-to-wall basis against all the risks and secured by round the clock manned and electronic security. On return the art of objects are again checked properly vis-a-vis earlier scientific condition reports, photographs by National Screening and Evaluation Committee to detect any damage. However, before sending/accepting the art objects, an agreement is entered into with lending/loaning organisation clearly indicating the responsibilities and obligation of the lending and borrowing organisation.

**Appointment of Persons Deployed for Railway Construction work in Kanyakumari**

4568. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of persons employed during the construction work of Railways in Kanyakumari District in 1988-89 were short listed in the Railway Department with a view to provide them employment against the future vacancies;

(b) if so, whether all the short listed persons have been given employment in the Railways;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 36 persons who fulfilled the eligibility criteria, have been absorbed in Trivandrum division (which cover the jurisdiction of Kanyakumari District).

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

**Prasar Bharati**

4569. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:  
SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY:  
SHRI PRASANTA PRADHAN:

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

(a) the aims and objects of Prasar Bharati;

(b) whether the Government is considering for full funding of Prasar Bharati on the lines of other independent institutions like UPSC, Election Commission of India etc.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati is a public broadcaster, engaged in not only transmitting news, but also in producing creative programmes for the purpose

of both education and entertainment. It cannot, therefore, be compared to UPSC or Election Commission. However, Government will provide such funds as are required to enable Prasar Bharati to fulfil its mandate.

#### **Smart Card Project**

4570. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:  
SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army has entrusted the project of Smart Card based Canteen and Grocery Management System to Delhi based firm M/s. Smart Chip Limited without taking into account the security related risks in the project;

(b) if so, whether the Government has investigated the matter; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Implementation of the Quarter Master General's (QMGS) Branch Software on CIMS (Canteen Inventory Management System) software interfaced with smart cards has been awarded to M/s Smart Chip Limited after following the laid down procedures. Clearance on account of security was not sought as Army Head Quarters have assessed that the data pertaining to the CIMS is not classified. However, all the employees of Smart Chip Limited who are involved in implementation of CIMS are required to obtain security clearance from the respective formation Head Quarters before taking up the work. They are not allowed to access any classified data or any area other than the canteens. The security interest is, therefore, not jeopardised.

*[Translation]*

#### **Railway Stations in Madhya Pradesh**

4571. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of railway stations in Madhya Pradesh shown as places of tourists in interest on the Indian railway map;

(b) whether the Railways are considering to include some other railway stations particularly Jabalpur railway station in Madhya Pradesh as places of tourist interest;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) The Indian Railways do not classify the railway stations on the basis of their tourist importance. However, in certain timetables the known tourist places are indicated for the convenience of the passengers.

*[English]*

#### **Construction of G.Ma. Office Buildings**

4572. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new General Managers office buildings that are under construction for all the seven new zones established two years ago;

(b) the details of the funds provided for the construction of G.M. office in Hubli the Headquarters of South Western Railways in Karnataka;

(c) whether there is any opposition with regard to the present proposed site of the SWR-HQ building from the local people; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 1. **East Central Railway, Hajipur:**

(i) Total space to be constructed—15750 square metre (sqm.),

(ii) Space constructed so far—3150 sqm.

(iii) Space under construction—12600 sqm.

#### **2. East Coast Railway, Bhubaneswar:**

(i) Total space to be constructed—20000 sqm.

(ii) Space under construction—20000 sqm.

(iii) Progress—50%.

#### **3. North Central Railway, Allahabad:**

(i) Total space to be constructed—17800 sqm.

(ii) Space under construction—15300 sqm.

(iii) Progress—Tender finalized on 25.06.05.

**4. North Western Railway, Jaipur:**

- (i) Total space to be constructed—20595 sqm.
- (ii) Space under construction—20595 sqm.
- (iii) Progress—Tender awarded for architectural consultancy.

**5. South East Central, Biliapur:**

- (i) Total space to be constructed—13000 sqm.,
- (ii) Progress—Re-location of the building is planned due to finding of underground caves during test piling at the site.

**6. South Western Railway, Hubli:**

- (i) Total space to be constructed—17900 sqm.,
- (ii) Space constructed so far—2000 sqm.
- (iii) Balance to be constructed—15900 sqm.
- (iv) Progress—Work awarded to M/s. IRCON. Drawing and site finalized.

**7. West Central Railway, Jabalpur:**

- (i) Total space to be constructed—15000 sqm.
- (ii) Space constructed so far—4500 sqm.
- (iii) Space under construction—10500 sqm.
- (iv) Progress—90%.

(b) The funds provided for setting up of new zone at Hubli which included construction of GM office for the current year (2005-06) is Rs. 11.00 crore.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Disinvestment in Railways**

4573. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering disinvestments in certain areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Induction of Mine Protected Vehicle**

4574. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether insurgency prone areas of J&K and North East are badly affected by underground mines;

(b) if so, whether the Army propose to induct indigenously developed and manufactured mine protected vehicle;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which mine protected vehicle will help in curbing activities of militants/terrorists?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Mines are not being used by terrorists in insurgency prone areas of Jammu and Kashmir and the North East. However, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), similar to mines, are being used sporadically by terrorists at times buried underground.

(b) and (c) The Indian Army has a proposal to induct indigenously manufactured mine protected vehicle. The indigenous mine protected vehicle has been developed by Ordnance Factory, Medak.

(d) Mine protected vehicles provide a high degree of freedom of movement in areas prone to IEDs and enables swift reaction with greater degree of protection.

**Corruption in Oil PSUs**

4575. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases of corruption in public sector oil companies particularly in Indian Oil Corporation have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported during the current year till date and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the concrete measures taken by the Government to check corruption in Public Sector Oil Companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On the basis of complaints received in the Ministry/Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and surprise checks, scrutiny of contracts carried out by Vigilance Units of PSUs, 504 cases of irregularities, including corruption in PSUs, have been reported during the current year. Out of these, 401 cases relate to Indian Oil Corporation. Complaints so received are enquired into or investigated through the Vigilance Units of PSUs or referred to CBI depending upon the nature of the complaints or the outcome of preliminary investigation and punitive action is taken as provided for in the conduct rules or the Law.

(c) The systems and procedures are regularly reviewed and updated in the Ministry as well as in PSUs to strengthen the Vigilance administration. It has been constantly impressed upon PSUs that they should implement, in letter and spirit, measures suggested by Central Vigilance Commission for enhancing greater transparency in commercial decisions making. Some of the measures to arrest the menace of corruption are as under:

- (i) initiation of E-payments;
- (ii) wide publicity to the tenders including use of the website for placing tenders;
- (iii) close monitoring of the award of jobs on a nomination basis;
- (iv) establishment of quality control cells;
- (v) greater stress on vigilance awareness;
- (vi) carrying out regular and surprise inspections by the Vigilance Wing;
- (vii) review of the delegation of powers;
- (viii) scrutiny of Annual Property Returns;
- (ix) preparation of agreed list and list of officers of doubtful integrity for keeping a special watch on their activities.

### **Night Duty of Drivers**

4576. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Drivers in Railways are put on night duty continuously for ten nights;

(b) if so, whether this will not have adverse effect on their alertness and result in accidents;

(c) if so, whether the Government would consider measures for reduction of continuous night duty; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Instructions exist to avoid continuous night duty by drivers.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

### **Joining of Duties**

4577. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Rules for the employees permitted an employee to be taken back on duty with immediate effect, especially when declared fit for duty by Railway Medical Officer/Railway hospital;

(b) if so, whether any officer may refrain any employee from joining duties even after declared fit by hospital doctors of Railways;

(c) if not, whether there are numerous cases in the Northern Railway where employees were refrained to join duties after declared fit by the Railway hospital/doctors; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.



**Abandoning of Rail Projects**

4578. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have abandoned a number of projects midway due to paucity of funds;

(b) if so, the details of such incomplete projects; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Railways on complete these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Backlog of OBC Vacancies in ONGC**

4579. DR. R. SENTHIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy being followed for filling up the vacancies reserved for OBC in Oil and Natural Gas Corporation;

(b) the number of OBC candidates appointed by ONGC in different Grades during 2004 and 2005 till date;

(c) whether there is any backlog of OBC vacancies in ONGC;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to clear the backlog of reserved vacancies for OBCs?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) ONGC have reported that they are following the policy/guidelines of the Government of India in filling up vacancies reserved for OBCs.

(b) The number of OBC candidates appointed in ONGC during 2004 and 2005 is as follows:

Group	Year	
	2004	2005 (Till July, 2005)
A	47	Nil
C	08	Nil
D	Nil	Nil

(The Group-B post is a promotional post in ONGC.)

(c) and (d) The recruitment of personnel at various levels is a continuous process in ONGC. Whenever any shortfall arises in the category reserved for the OBCs, ONGC take action to fill it up the vacancies in the subsequent recruitment process.

There is a shortfall in the following categories:—

Group	Shortfall
A	66
C	22
D	10

(e) ONGC have reported that they are strictly following the guidelines prescribed by the Government for earmarking OBC vacancies. Besides, relaxation of standards in written examinations, as also in interviews, they are allowed to fill up vacancies earmarked for OBCs, whenever a sufficient number of candidates is not available in this category, as in the case of SC & ST candidates. ONGC plan to recruit OBCs in the Group A category during the current year.

[Translation]

**Security Measures at Bombay High**

4580. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:  
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM;  
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA;  
SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY;  
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA;  
SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK;  
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA;  
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU;  
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY;  
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI;  
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL;  
SHRI T.K. HAMZA;  
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA;  
DR. K. DHANARAJU;  
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR;  
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted any enquiry committee to go into the causes of major fire broke out in offshore oil platform in Bombay High recently;

(b) if so, the details of composition of the said committee alongwith the time fixed for submitting its report;

(c) whether the Government had set up a committee on Security Measures at the time of fire in MHN platform three years ago;

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

(e) whether the Government has implemented the recommendations made by the said committee;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the preventive measures taken or proposed to be taken to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) An enquiry committee is being constituted by Government of India in this regard.

(c) Regarding the fire incident at BHF platform (Bridge connected to Mumbai High North) on 14.02.2001, a one-man enquiry committee comprising Major General (Retd.) S.C.N. Jatar, former CMD of Oil India Ltd. and former MD of ONGC Videsh Ltd., had been constituted by ONGC. The committee submitted its report in April 2001.

(d) A number of precautionary measures were reemphasized for future revamping jobs in the Offshore by the Committee. These were as under:—

- (i) Improved work practices.
- (ii) Enhanced coordination and Permit to Work (PTW) system.
- (iii) Laying down a clear procedure during revamping activities.

(e) and (f) Based on the recommendations, the following procedures were strengthened by ONGC:—

- (i) Introduction of Integrated Permit To Work system (PTW), and providing for such systems at strategic control locations.

(ii) Enhanced coordination.

(iii) Standard Operating procedure and guidelines on safety during revamping activities.

(iv) Development of Simultaneous Operations matrix (SIMOP).

(v) Standby Multi Supply Vessels (MSVs) and offshore supply vessels (OSVs) for Fire Fighting.

(vi) Mandatory Sea Survival and Basic Fire Fighting for all offshore crew belonging both to ONGC and its contractors.

(vii) Pre and post revamping Hazard and Risk analysis.

(viii) Development of Management of Change (MOC).

(ix) Improved regular house keeping audit.

(x) Deployment of Third Party Certifying Agencies during execution of any revamping job.

(g) Since then, a number of revamping actions have been undertaken and interfacing of new facilities like MNW (platform), MSP (platform) and MUT (Mumbai High Uran Trunk Lines for Gas and Oil transportation) carried out. During pre-monsoon 2005-06, massive construction activities involving about 200 boats/barges and vessels with more than 4000 personnel of 43 nationalities for 12 major projects costing Rs. 6,500 crore were carried out without any accident. ONGC is already in the process of upgrading its standard operating procedures for operation of MSVs and OSVs close to the installations.

In view of the tragic incident at BHN platform on the 27th July, 2005 as high-powered committee consisting of former Chairman, ONGC, former Chairman GAIL and former Director (Technical), ONGC has been constituted by ONGC to ascertain the causes of accident, review the emergency response and recommend action for correction and improvements. Besides, the Government is also in the process of setting up an Independent High Level Inquiry Committee as stated in reply to part (a) of the question. The recommendations of the two committees, once these are received, would be examined and measures would be taken to further tighten the safety of assets/installations of ONGC and ensure security of lives of personnel.

**Recognition to Trade Unions**

4581. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have issued any guidelines to all the Railway Zones for giving recognition to all trade unions associated with Bharatiya Railway Mazdoor Sangh (BRMS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether recognition has been granted to Northern Railway Employees Union under Northern Railways in compliance with the aforesaid guidelines;

(d) if so, whether aforesaid Northern Railway Employees Union is getting facilities at par with other unions;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Instructions were issued to the General Managers of all the Zonal Railways on 26.06.2002 empowering them to consider grant of recognition to affiliates of Bharatiya Railway Mazdoor Sangh and others on their Railway if the Unions apply for the same, provided they had a membership of at least 30% of the non-gazetted employees they seek to represent. The membership strength of 30% of the total non-gazetted employees of the respective zones was to be decided on the basis of the annual return forms for the latest year submitted by the zonal unions to the respective Registrar of Trade Unions and as certified/accepted by him.

The above orders were, however, set aside by the Hon'ble High Court of Madras in their verdict dated 17.10.2003 in Writ Petition No. 25274 of 2002. The decision of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras was also upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

**Constitution of Cadre**

4582. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Defence is aware that the Ministry of Home Affairs has been issuing Memoranda for constituting cadre with a view to provide promotional avenues to the staff working in official language section of Ministry of Defence for years;

(b) if so, whether the Government would consider to fix any time limit for the constitution of cadre in Ordnance Factory, Jabalpur as per the directives of Ministry of Home Affairs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the Ordnance Factory Board, there is already a cadre consisting of the following posts:—

1. Hindi Officer
2. Senior Hindi Translator
3. Junior Hindi Translator.

As such, there is no proposal to constitute a separate cadre in respect of Ordnance Factory, Jabalpur.

[English]

**Supply of Gas to Power Plants**

4583. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has failed to keep the promise to deliver gas to the power plants;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure sufficient gas is being supplied to the power plants?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Against total allocations of APM (Administered Pricing Mechanism) gas of 38.61 MMSCMD to the existing power plants, GAIL's average

supply of gas to these Plants was around 28 MMSCMD in first quarter of 2005-06. Besides APM gas, 2.5 MMSCMD of regasified LNG is also being supplied to the power sector at market prices. In view of the depletion of existing domestic gas supply sources, efforts are being made to augment through import and additional exploration the availability of natural gas in the country. These efforts include import of natural gas in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)/through transnational pipelines, and increase in domestic availability of natural gas from NELP sources. The gas from new sources would, however, be available at market driven prices.

#### **Group 'B' Officers in Railways**

4584. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Group 'B' (Gazetted/Non-Gazetted) Officers of Ministry of Railways are working on ad-hoc basis for the last 9-10 years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Ministry of Railways have been following the guidelines issued by DOPT in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Section Officers working in Ministry of Railways for the last nine years have been ignored to get the revised pay scale at par on CSS Grade *i.e.* Rs. 8000-12000;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether these officers are working in the post and grade against regular vacancies; and

(h) if so, the time by which the services of these officers are to be regularized and the revised grade given in them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) There are a few Group 'B' (Gazetted/Non-Gazetted) officers in Ministry of Railways who are working on ad-hoc basis for the periods ranging upto 9-10 years. Their regularization has been delayed either because of a Court Case or due to temporary nature of posts or due to non-constitution of a Screening Committee for the purpose of ratifying direct

recruitment against the earmarked quota of vacancies in the grade. These ad-hoc promotions have been made as per the provisions of the Recruitment Rules and guidelines issued by Department of Personnel and Training.

(e) and (f) No Sir. All the regular Section Officers with four years approved service in the grade have been placed in the revised pay scale at par on Central Secretariat Service Grade *i.e.* Rs. 8000-13500.

(g) and (h) Except for a few who are working against temporary posts, the remaining ad-hoc officers are working against regular vacancies. Efforts are being made to remove the constraints coming in the way of their regularization and it is expected that they will be regularized shortly after the issues are sorted out. Once regularized these Section Officers would become eligible for grant of revised non-functional scale of Rs. 8000-13500/- on completion of four years of approved service as per the policy and will also be granted arrears etc., if due.

#### **Issue of Railway Passes to Employees**

4585. SHRI MANORANJAN BHATKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)-whether the Government is aware that if both husband and wife employed in Railways as Gazetted Officers are eligible to avail 6 sets plus 6 sets First Class Free Railway Passes per annum from the day one of their entry into service and 1 set plus 1 set Second Class Free Railway Pass per annum for non-gazetted railway employees up to 5 years from the day one of their entry into service and after 5 years 3 sets plus 3 sets free passes made issuable to non-gazetted railway employees;

(b) if so, the reasons for this disparity regarding eligibility conditions fixed for non-gazetted railway employees of issue of 1 set Free Railway Pass up to 5 years;

(c) whether in CSS Cadre if both husband and wife are employed as government servants either husband or wife is eligible to avail LTC facilities; and

(d) if so, the reasons as to why the same rules are not applicable in Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The eligibility of Railway employees to different number of set of passes is based on their status and pay.

(c) As per the extant instructions, where husband and wife both are Government servants, they could at their option, choose to declare separate home town and both of them may claim the concession separately under the normal provisions of Central Civil Services (CCS) (Leave Travel Concession) Rules, 1988 in respect of the members of their respective families subject to the condition that if husband or wife avails the facility as a member of the family of the other, he or she will not be entitled for claiming the concession for self independently.

(d) Railway employees and employees of CSS cadre are governed by different sets of Rules. As such, no comparison can be drawn.

#### **Revival of Concept of Assisted Sidings**

4586. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to revive the concept of assisted siding, which was earlier in force but not any more;

(b) if so, whether under this assisted siding concept, the Railways will share the cost of a new railway siding with the concerned customers only; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A statement is attached.

#### ***Statement***

#### ***Revival of concept of Assisted Sidings***

It has been decided that Railways will share the cost of a new railway siding if the industry comes up with a long-term commitment of traffic for 10 years or more, commensurate with the investment of Railways. It will help both Railways and Industry in the long term. Details of the scheme are as follows:

(i) Under this arrangement, Siding owners will be required to bear the cost of the land, earthwork, sub structure of the track, ballast, buildings outside the premises of the siding owner.

(ii) The cost of the removable super structure including track, sleepers, fastenings girders of bridges, points & crossings, fencing, signalling and interlocking appliances, machineries of any kind and the overhead electric equipment shall be borne by the railways, outside the premises of the siding owner.

(iii) Entire cost of the siding within the applicant's (siding owner) premises shall be borne by the siding owner.

Necessary notification has already been issued and the scheme has come into force from 1.04.2005. Details of the scheme are also available on Indian Railway website [www.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.indianrail.gov.in).

#### **Reinstatement of Disabled Employees**

4587. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the GAIL (India) Limited has terminated the services of some disabled employees;

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

(c) whether some organizations of disabled people has demanded reinstatement of these disabled employees;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) GAIL (India) Ltd. decided not to provide regular employment to four physically challenged persons who had undergone on-job training. The grounds advanced by GAIL for not directly offering them regular employment was that this is not provided for in section 34 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Potential Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. Although the persons concerned were advised to get their names registered with the special employment exchange so that they could be considered when requests

were sought for several positions of physically handicapped persons from fifteen special employment exchanges, including the one at Delhi, the names of these four persons were not forwarded by any of the special employment exchanges. The affected persons then filed a Writ Petition (Civil) no. 2117-2119/2004 before the Hon'ble High Court on the 9th February, 2004. While the Hon'ble High Court disposed of the writ petition, it granted relief to the petitioners, holding that even though their names had been sponsored by the special employment exchange, the company was not bound to strictly adhere to only those names sponsored by the employment exchange and could consider the petitioners after giving wide publicity to the recruitment drive so that all physically challenged persons could be considered for employment by the Government. In compliance with the directives of the Hon'ble High Court, the Company kept in abeyance the process of recruitment through special employment exchanges and issued fresh advertisements in leading newspapers and Employment News. In response to the newspaper advertisement, the company received approximately eight thousand applications, including those of three of the four physically challenged persons. Meanwhile, the affected individuals filed a review petition before the Hon'ble High Court which was dismissed on 6 December 2004. Although all four physically handicapped persons were shortlisted among 5032 applicants for the written test conducted on 3 October, 2004, none of the physically challenged persons concerned availed of the opportunity afforded them by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court. Thereafter, three of the physically handicapped persons filed a fresh writ petition before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court, which was disposed of on counsel for the petitioners withdrawing the petition when the writ petition came up for hearing on 27 October 2004. The petitioners then filed an appeal before the division bench of the Hon'ble High Court, Delhi which was dismissed on 13 December 2004. At about the same time, three of the physically handicapped persons approached the National Human Rights Commission which closed the case on 31 January 2005. Meanwhile, GAIL had sought the legal opinion of the Attorney General as well as their solicitors, both of whom held that there were no grounds in law for creating supernumerary posts to offer these persons employment in lieu of their participating with other applicants for selection.

(c) and (d) The Disabled Rights Group has sought the intervention of the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, who has met the affected persons and the Convenor of the Group and explained the position to them.

(e) Discussions have been held between Government and the GAIL management to find a solution within the four corners of the law and rules relating thereto. It is now being examined, in consultation with the GAIL Board, whether compassionate grounds, compatible with the law and rules could be found to appoint or otherwise assist the physically challenged persons concerned.

*[Translation]*

#### **Booking of Goods in Fake Names**

4588. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Mohanlal Ganj): Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that after the enforcement of value added tax system (VAT) in some States, some alleged traders are booking their goods with fake names and get it released from the Railways thereby causing loss of revenue to the Government; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Railways to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) After enforcement of value added tax system (VAT), no specific complaint has been received except a general reference from Andhra Pradesh State Government.

(b) Joint teams of Railways and State Government officials have been formed to assess the quantum of problem.

#### **Vacation of Encroached Land**

4589. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have given 5 acre land on lease in Lanka Colony at Khagaul in Patna to Kendriya Vidyalaya for construction of a new building of the school and staff quarters for the employees;

(b) if so, whether two roads have been constructed by encroaching upto 1.25 acre of the said 5 acre land;

(c) whether Danapur Division has received any request from the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan for vacation of the said land; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Railways have licensed in 1989, 8.57 acres of land to Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan for school building at a nominal licence fee of Rs. 300.00 per annum for a period of 99 years, at Khagaul. The children park and staff quarters for Kendriya Vidyalaya staff are part of the school.

(b) Yes, Sir. Two roads have been constructed. The total area of the two constructed roads is about 0.16 acres and not 1.25 acres.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Jobs Opportunities**

4590. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Western Central Railway Zone, Jabalpur is providing adequate job opportunities to local entrepreneurs and unemployed persons as was envisaged at the time of its establishment; and

(b) if so, the details of the works undertaken by the said railway zone since its establishment till date and the number of job opportunities provided to the local entrepreneurs and unemployed persons from Jabalpur and Jabalpur division therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) New construction activities for creation of infrastructure worth crores of Rupees has picked up pace which include construction of office buildings, quarters for officers and staff at various locations and rest houses. There is growth in activities of Printing, provision of stores, vehicle movement, cleanliness etc. This is resulting in continuous improvement in job opportunities.

*[English]*

#### **Losses to Refineries**

4591. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector Oil Refineries in Maharashtra have damaged and become non-operational due to heavy rains in July/August, 2005;

(b) if so, the losses suffered by these refineries; and

(c) the steps taken to make them operational?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) During heavy rains and flooding in July 2005, some of the processing units of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)'s Mumbai Refinery were shut down as a precautionary measure to prevent any major untoward incident. Subsequently, all the shut down units were put on-stream.

Also, due to heavy rains in Mumbai on 26.7.2005, according priority to the safety of operating personnel and equipment, a safe shut down of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)'s Mumbai Refinery was undertaken on that one day. The refinery was re-started on 28.7.2005.

While BPCL's refinery suffered a loss of about Rs. 1.47 crore an account of equipment damage, no financial loss/damage was suffered by HPCL's refinery.

#### **Marketing of LPG by Private Companies**

4592. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow new companies for marketing of Liquefied Petroleum Gas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria for allocation of areas to such new companies; and

(d) the time by when these companies will start their marketing of LPG?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) In addition to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) who are

marketing LPG in the country, since April 1993 Government have allowed private sector companies to participate in the scheme of parallel marketing of LPG, under which these companies can import LPG and sell it at market-determined prices.

The Government have also authorized Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), GAIL (India) Limited and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) to market indigenously produced LPG in the country, subject to the following:—

- (i) Sale of LPG in the Urban and Rural markets would be in the ratio of 75:25.
- (ii) Sale of LPG in domestic and non-domestic (bulk or packed segment) would be in the ratio of 80:20.
- (iii) The above ratios of sale of LPG in Urban-Rural and domestic/non-domestic segments may be reviewed by the Government from time to time and the authorized companies would be bound by Government directions in this regard.
- (iv) ONGC, GAIL and RIL would have to strictly adhere to the provisions of the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 dated 26.4.2000 and the LPG (Regulation of Use in Motor Vehicles) Order, 2001 dated 1.8.2001 for sale of LPG in domestic and non-domestic markets.

The authorized Private companies as well as Government oil companies are free to set up LPG distributorship in accordance with their commercial considerations in urban and rural areas.

#### **Smuggling through Goods Trains**

4593. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Railways that smuggling of drugs, weapons, daily need items, ammunitions etc. is taking place between Gade (India) and Darshua (Bangladesh) through a goods train;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to check smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Selling of Scraps**

4594. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scraps collected and sold out in various Railway Divisions during each of the last three years and the total amount earned by selling of these scraps, zone-wise;

(b) whether the sale centres have been set up to sell the scraps in each Railway division;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Railways suffer heavy losses by pilferage of scraps and metals;

(e) total losses suffered by the Railways as a result thereof during the said period; and

(f) the action taken against the officials involved in such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) A Statement is attached.

(b) No, Sir. The zonal Railways and Production Units arrange the sale of scrap at convenient locations and not division-wise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.



**Statement**

*The details of scrap collected and sold out in the last three years and the total amount earned by selling of these scraps, zone-wise is given as under*

**Year 2002-03**

Railways/PU	Ferrous Scrap Including Rails (MTs.)*		Non-Ferrous Scrap (MTs.)*		Wagons (FWUs) %		Coaches (Nos.)		Locos (Nos.)		Total Sold Value
	Collected	Sold	Collected	Sold	Collected	Sold	Collected	Sold	Collected	Sold	(Cr. in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Central	184800	166459	1375	1281	4402	4206	164	124	18	9	193
Eastern	99078	95448	2032	1938	2148	1807	188	128	45	50	118
Northern	157630	153939	675	512	2734	2702	117	107	11	6	170
North Eastern	46503	47343	1067	866	368	351	254	251	10	10	44
Northeast Frontier	20369	19887	74	71	291	250	44	37	2	2	16
Southern	102305	103393	3263	3139	579	579	248	248	2	2	103
South Central	117199	115773	1497	657	713	631	81	64	5	0	105
South Eastern	202638	197692	1226	992	2533	2418	66	45	19	12	192
Western	70906	69080	2138	1939	1383	1358	114	102	3	3	84
North Western	29420	26933	384	306	528	486	36	29	8	8	40
Chittaranjan Locomotive Works	3491	3258	147	137	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Diesel Modernisation Works	4089	4278	464	436	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Diesel Locomotives Works	2530	2662	27	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Integral Coach Factory	5701	5009	120	102	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Metro Rail	63	363	22	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Rail Coach Factory	4468	5305	76	54	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Rail Wheel Factory	14041	21742	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>1065031</b>	<b>1038564</b>	<b>14590</b>	<b>12450</b>	<b>15679</b>	<b>14788</b>	<b>1312</b>	<b>1135</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>1111</b>

Note: Scrap is sold Zone-wise/Production-Unit wise and not division wise.

**Year 2003-04**

Central	57521	53076	920	758	1164	955	98	85	2	2	96
Eastern	87507	76778	1879	1481	2412	2145	183	122	4	4	130

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Northern	125588	114059	557	333	1543	1465	152	111	5	0	168
North Eastern	23587	22981	592	573	32	31	87	81	0	0	31
Northeast Frontier	28641	26814	80	77	424	414	36	29	1	1	35
Southern	87116	86559	1613	1541	341	339	292	274	0	0	116
South Central	107555	99648	1291	1149	741	676	184	184	7	7	124
South Eastern	72259	58013	517	322	966	952	59	57	11	11	89
Western	61642	54985	1053	1048	476	383	101	75	5	2	85
North Western	43033	41173	721	650	668	662	195	192	1	1	68
North Central	59233	50194	58	57	1839	1616	11	11	0	0	42
East Central	34432	31317	140	112	350	278	71	59	0	0	91
East Coast	34945	30872	60	0	228	133	8	2	0	0	40
South East Central	35413	31617	147	140	733	625	14	11	4	3	47
South Western	14594	13653	845	725	202	201	55	54	0	0	21
West Central	55175	51018	1159	1127	1336	1276	9	9	17	16	83
Chittaranjan Locomotive Works	2375	2355	107	70	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Diesel Modernisation Works	4824	4127	489	383	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Diesel Locomotives Works	2857	2308	38	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Integral Coach Factory	5998	5512	77	63	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Metro Rail	531	524	50	54	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Rail Coach Factory	6245	5528	65	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Rail Wheel Factory	14996	14996	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>966067</b>	<b>876106</b>	<b>12446</b>	<b>10740</b>	<b>13455</b>	<b>12151</b>	<b>1535</b>	<b>1356</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1314</b>

**Year 2004-05**

Central	55622	32699	983	756	937	822	68	48	2	0	72
Eastern	38236	34681	2290	1582	1339	896	173	122	39	39	105
Northern	58114	39493	531	341	1979	1979	228	227	5	5	104
North Eastern	10002	6472	611	581	124	124	98	93	0	0	23
Northeast Frontier	20620	8868	397	359	1065	796	72	30	1	1	21
Southern	68716	58513	2970	2914	545	545	263	261	28	28	119

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
South Central	62634	46103	1724	1675	709	532	70	69	15	12	88
South Eastern	28170	25546	1445	1156	2783	2685	58	52	13	12	77
Western	29123	18781	1179	1154	1331	1101	157	104	8	8	56
North Western	16139	15263	824	808	357	357	78	78	4	3	33
North Central	39220	39829	219	202	3386	3356	4	1	0	0	113
East Central	22687	31453	212	212	704	687	47	47	0	0	47
East Coast	18477	16292	0	0	331	302	12	8	0	0	27
South East Central	13270	14280	111	92	774	535	15	12	6	4	38
South Western	8335	7220	748	233	62	62	44	37	4	4	13
West Central	32406	25443	162	128	1406	1312	15	7	15	13	61
Chittaranjan Locomotive Works	2332	2264	95	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Diesel Modernisation Works	4226	2204	516	393	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Diesel Locomotives Works	2437	1956	18	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Integral Coach Factory	5336	4527	58	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Metro Rail	182	741	5	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Rail Coach Factory	4580	1485	78	64	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Rail Wheel Factory	10280	7005	6	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Total	551144	441418	15182	12757	17832	16091	1402	1196	140	129	1032

\*MTs=Metric Tonne, % FWUx=Four Wheeler Units & Nos.=Numbers.

[*English*]

**Supply of surveillance/counter surveillance equipments**

4595. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:  
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the company which supplies in bulk of surveillance and counter surveillance equipments to the military Intelligence is involved in forgery and sale of such equipments to private parties;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) As and when matters relating to firms indulging in fraudulent activities are reported to the Government, the same are investigated. Based on the results of the investigation necessary action is taken. A case has been recently referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for inquiry, in which a firm was prima facie found to be engaged in fraudulent activities. Further action will be taken after receipt of investigation report from the CBI.

*[Translation]***Supply of Adulterated Diesel**

4596. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Railways that adulterated diesel is being supplied to Melani Railway Junction, U.P. (NER) by the Indian Oil Corporation Unit, Shahjahanpur;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have conducted any inquiry into it;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the action taken by the Railways against the officials found guilty; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

12.00 hrs.

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE***[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited for the years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the respective accounting year.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2769/2005]

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIJAY HANDIQUE): On behalf of Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1)
  - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India), New Delhi, for the year 2004, alongwith Accounts, under sub-section (1) of section 31 of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990.
  - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India), New Delhi, for the year 2004.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2770/2005]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 21 of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990:—

- (i) Annual Accounts of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India), New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) Annual Accounts of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India), New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (3) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2771/2005]

- (4)
  - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Samath, for the year 2003-2004.
  - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Samath, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, for the year 2003-2004.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2772/2005]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to lay on the Table of the Outcome Budget 2005-2006 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2773/2005]

Sir, with your permission, may I say this? This is a historic document. We are doing it for the first time.  
...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to him. This is an important announcement the hon. Minister is making.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The Government is doing it for the first time. We hope this will become an annual practice. This may not be the most perfect document but it is, I believe, a great beginning and as the years go by, this Outcome Budget will become as important as Annual Budget presented in this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for this innovation.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Now that the Outcome Budget is presented, there should be some time for discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, of course.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIJAY HANDIQUE): On behalf of Shri Shankarsinh Vaghela, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.O. 877(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd June, 2005 constituting an Advisory Committee consisting of Chairman and Members, mentioned therein, issued under section 4 of the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2774/2005]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the First Annual Statement (Hindi and English versions) on pending Law Commission Reports.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2775/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIJAY HANDIQUE): On behalf of Shri K. Chandra Shekhar Rao, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Employees' State Insurance (Central) (1st Amendment) Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 316 in weekly Gazette of India dated 12-18 September, 2004 under sub-section (4) of section 95 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2776/2005]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2777/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English

versions) between the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited and the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2778/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Chartered Accountants (Amendment) Regulations, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 1-CA(7)/83/2005 in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 2005 under section 30B of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2779/2005]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): I beg to lay the following papers:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a)
  - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Jammu and Kashmir State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the year 1998-1990.
  - (ii) Annual Report of the Jammu and Kashmir State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the year 1998-1990, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2780/2005]

- (b)
  - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Maharashtra Agro-Industries Development Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.
  - (ii) Annual Report of the Maharashtra Agro-Industries Development Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2781/2005]

- (c)
  - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro-Industries Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2003-2004.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro-Industries Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2782/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1)
  - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jammu and Kashmir State Sheep and Sheep Products Development Board, Srinagar, for the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.
  - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jammu and Kashmir State Sheep and Sheep Products Development Board, Srinagar, for the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2783/2005]

- (3)
  - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jammu and Kashmir State Sheep and Sheep Products Development Board, Srinagar, for the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jammu and Kashmir State Sheep and Sheep Products Development Board, Srinagar, for the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2784/2005]

- (5) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Goa Meat Complex Limited, Panjim, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Goa Meat Complex Limited, Panjim, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2785/2005]

[*English*]

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 Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2786/2005]

- (3) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2787/2005]

- (5) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2788/2005]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nagaland University, Kohima, for the year 2003-2004.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nagaland University, Kohima, for the year 2003-2004.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2789/2005]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Teacher Education, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Teacher Education, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Teacher Education, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

- (10) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2790/2005]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): On behalf of Shri S.S. Palaninickam, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (8) of section 10 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980:—

- (i) Report on the working and activities of the Syndicate Bank for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2791/2005]

- (ii) Report on the working and activities of the United Bank of India for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2792/2005]

- (iii) Report on the working and activities of the Indian Overseas Bank for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2793/2005]

- (iv) Report on the working and activities of the Bank of India for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2794/2005]

- (v) Report on the working and activities of the Indian Bank for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2795/2005]

- (vi) Report on the working and activities of the Allahabad Bank for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2796/2005]

- (vii) Report on the working and activities of the Bank of Baroda for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2797/2005]

- (viii) Report on the working and activities of the Bank of Maharashtra for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2798/2005]

- (ix) Report on the working and activities of the Canara Bank for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2799/2005]

- (x) Report on the working and activities of the Central Bank of India for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2800/2005]

- (xi) Report on the working and activities of the Corporation Bank for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2801/2005]

- (xii) Report on the working and activities of the Oriental Bank of Commerce for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2802/2005]

- (xiii) Report on the working and activities of the UCO Bank for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2803/2005]



- (xiv) Report on the working and activities of the Union Bank of India for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2804/2005]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Small Industries Development Bank of India, Lucknow, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts, under sub-section (5) of section 30 of the Small Industries Development Bank of India Act, 1989.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Small Industries Development Bank of India, Lucknow, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2805/2005]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:—

- (i) The Central Excise (Second Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 196(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ii) The Authority for Advance Rulings (Customs, Central Excise and Service Tax) Procedure Regulations, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 12(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th January, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iii) G.S.R. 534(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th August, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 6/2002-CE (NT) dated the 1st August, 2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2806/2005]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under various sections of the Central Excise Rules, 2002:—

- (i) G.S.R. 144(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the five Notifications mentioned therein.

- (ii) G.S.R. 251(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th April, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 43/2001-CE (NT) dated the 26th June, 2001.

- (iii) G.S.R. 313(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the earlier E.R. I, II and III forms to be in line with changes brought about in Indirect Taxes such as eight digit Tariff and new duty types like CENVAT and S.E.D.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2807/2005]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 527(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th August, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to confer on a Central Excise Officer the power of adjudging a penalty under Chapter-V of the Finance Act, 1994 under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2808/2005]

- (6) A copy each of the Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Mysore and State Bank of Travancore for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and Auditors' Report thereon under sub-section (3) of section 43 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2809, 2810 & 2811/2005]

- (7) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 924(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 2004 specifying the 14th day of August, 2004 as the prescribed date in relation to the Scheme for the amalgamation of

the Global Trust Bank Limited with the Oriental Bank of Commerce, under sub-section (11) of section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2812/2005]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): On behalf of Shrimati Subbulakshmi Jegadeesan, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities (Amendment) Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 478(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 2005 under section 36 of the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2813/2005]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Adoption Resource Agency, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Adoption Resource Agency, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Adoption Resource Agency, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2814/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tobacco Board, Guntur, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tobacco Board, Guntur, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2815/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Commission for Women, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Action Taken Report (Hindi and English versions) on the recommendations contained in the Annual Report of the National Commission for Women, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Commission for Women, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2816/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): On behalf of Shri Namo Narain Meena, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, for the year 2003-2004.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2817/2005]

12.06 hrs.

## MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[*English*]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

- (i) 'In accordance with the provisions of rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on 24th August, 2005, agreed to the following amendments made by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th August, 2005, in the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 2004:—

### Enacting Formula

1. Page 1, line 1,-

*for "Fifty-fifth" substitute "Fifty-sixth"*

### Clause 1

2. Page 1, line 3,-

*for "2004" substitute "2005" '*

- (ii) 'In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 24th August, 2005 agreed without any amendment to the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill, 2005 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 23rd August, 2005.'

12.08<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

### Eighth Report

[*English*]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): I beg to present the Eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings on Airports Authority of India—Loss of Revenue due to delay in award of licences to operate Money Exchange Counters.

12.08<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hrs.

## COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

### Minutes

[*English*]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Eleventh to Thirteenth sittings of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions held during the current session.

12.09 hrs.

## COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES

### First Report

[*English*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): I beg to lay on the Table the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee of Privileges.

12.09<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hrs.

## COMMITTEE ON COAL AND STEEL

### Statements

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore, South): I beg to lay on the Table (Hindi and English versions) of the

Statements showing further follow up action taken on the recommendations contained in the following Action Taken Reports of Committee on Coal and Steel:—

- (1) 19th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on "Fire and Subsidence Control in Coal Mines (2001)";
- (2) 79th Report (Rajya Sabha) on "Modernisation, Restructuring and Expansion Programmes of Hindustan Copper Limited (2002)";
- (3) 46th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on "Demands for Grants (2003-2004)" of the Department of Coal;
- (4) 4th Report (14th Lok Sabha) on "Demands for Grants (2004-2005)" of the Ministry of Coal; and
- (5) 5th Report (14th Lok Sabha) on "Demands for Grants (2004-2005)" of the Ministry of Mines.

12.09½ hrs.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

### Eighth and Ninth Reports

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT (Mumbai North East): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy (2005-06):—

- (1) Eighth Report on the subject 'Biomass Power/-Co-generation Programme—An Evaluation' of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.
- (2) Ninth Report on the subject 'Implementation of Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme' of the Ministry of Power.

12.09¾ hrs.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

### One Hundred Fifteenth and One Hundred Sixteenth Reports

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of (Hindi and English

versions) of the following Reports of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs:

- (1) One Hundred Fifteenth Report on the Disaster Management Bill, 2004; and
- (2) One Hundred Sixteenth Report on the State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Bill, 2004.

12.10 hrs.

## STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (I) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Sixth and Fourteenth Reports of the Standing Committee on Information Technology, pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIJAY HANDIQUE): \*On behalf of Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, I am laying this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology (14th Lok Sabha) (2004-05) in pursuance of the direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin—Part II dated September 01, 2004.

The Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology (14th Lok Sabha) was laid in the Lok Sabha on 14.12.2004. The report related to the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in their Fortieth Report (13th Lok Sabha) on 'Direct to Home (DTH) Telecast'.

In the Sixth Report, the Committee made five recommendations/observations in all. The Action Taken Notes on these recommendations/observations have been furnished to the Committee on 10.08.2005. These recommendations mainly pertain to the Direct to Home (DTH) Service in India.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would request that this may be considered as read.

\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, see No. LT 2818/2005.

*Annexure**Action Taken Report on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Sixth Report of Standing Committee on Information Technology pertaining to Ministry of Information & Broadcasting*

Recommendation No.	Recommendation	Action taken by the Government	Whether accepted or not by the Government	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5

**45. A. Need for Comprehensive Legislation**

6. In its Fortieth Report, the Committee were deeply concerned to note that the Government allowed telecast of Direct to Home services all of a sudden without any in-depth study though DTH was considered to be a very powerful media. Further, it was allowed for private telecasters much before formulating a regulatory framework even though on an earlier occasion Government had not allowed it, for want of comprehensive regulatory framework, propriety demanded providing opportunity to Parliament to discuss such an important issue. Even the decision to allow DTH was announced outside the Parliament. The Committee deprecated the unseemly and unnecessary hurry shown in the matter without getting any study done about the viewership, cost, subscription rates etc., particularly when there was only one contender for the license. Even though the matter was under consideration for three years, no spadework worth the name was done. The Committee further noted that the detailed guidelines as formulated by the Government for DTH telecast, incorporated stringent provisions against violation of any terms and conditions of the licence, which included monetary penalties and even cancellation of license. The guidelines also provided for taking over of the entire network of DTH service in case of emergency and national security. The Committee was at a loss to understand how Government could take over a service when no law or procedure had been laid down for the same. The guidelines were thus ambiguous and required to be made enforceable through adequate legal framework, which has been absent. The Committee felt that when operations of DTH telecast start, there

Direct-to-Home (DTH) Broadcasting Service refers to distribution of multi channel TV programmes in Ku Band by using a satellite system by providing TV signals direct to subscribers' premises without passing through an intermediary such as cable operator. DTH platform is essentially a distribution platform for TV channels like cable networks. DTH guidelines issued in March 2001 permit total foreign investment, including FDI/ NRI/OCB/FII in the paid up equity of a DTH company up to 49%, with a cap of 20% on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Besides, a DTH Company is always required to have Indian Management Control with majority representatives on the Board, as well as the Chief Executive of the company being a resident Indian citizen.

This Ministry has received a number of applications for grant of DTH license. One private service provider has already launched its service in October 2003. Two more private companies have

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	<p>would be unrestricted availability of TV channels in the country. However, it was difficult to visualize at that stage what long term "benefits" or impact it would accrue to or have on the people.</p> <p>7. The Ministry, in their Action Taken Notes, have submitted the following reply:</p> <p>"The Government took the decision to start DTH service in the country in November 2000 after the group of Ministers (GoM) had deliberated and considered all the issues connected thereto. Detailed guidelines for starting DTH service were issued in 2001 after inter-Ministerial consultations. Two applications have been received, seeking permission to start DTH service, and are under active consideration.</p> <p>In 1996, when some foreign satellite broadcasters started planning for introduction of DTH service in KU band in India, it was felt that reception and distribution of the signals in KU band should be restricted. The Committee of Secretaries had noted the adverse impact of foreign TV programmes. The Ministry of I &amp; B had initiated the process of formulating a comprehensive law on broadcasting with a view to effectively regulate foreign satellite channels. However, this would have taken time and there was a possibility of foreign channels starting DTH services. Apart from resulting in a loss of revenue, these channels would not have been subject to any regulatory mechanism, particularly relating to the content of the programmes. In view of the experience with the haphazard and unregulated growth of cable networks all over the country, it was felt necessary to take measures to prevent a similar situation developing in DTH services. Though the proposed Broadcasting Law was also covering the DTH services, there was a felt need in the interim period, before the regulation came into force, of barring entry in the KU band. Hence, operation in KU band was banned in 1997.</p> <p>The matter was discussed by the GoM in March, 2000 when it was observed that with changes in the information technology and in the broadcasting and communication scenario, the</p>	<p>been issued Letter of Intent to start DTH service. Besides, the applications of three other companies are at various stages of consideration in the Ministry. Meanwhile, Doordarshan has also extended multi channel TV coverage to the entire country except Andaman &amp; Nicobar Islands through its Free-to-Air DTH service, with a view to provide TV coverage to areas uncovered and under-served by the terrestrial transmitters. It is now possible to receive 33 TV Channels and 12 radio channels with the help of a small sized receive system.</p> <p>A DTH Company is required to adhere to the Programme and Advertisement Codes, laid down by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting from time to time. It is under obligation not to carry any channel prohibited by this Ministry. It has to ensure that its facilities are not used for transmitting any objectionable or obscene content, messages or communication inconsistent with the laws of India and the use of facility or service for anti-national activities would be construed as an offence punishable under the Indian Penal Code and applicable laws and will attract immediate termination of DTH license.</p>		

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reasons for which DTH had not been allowed in 1997, were no longer relevant. Moreover, DTH as a superior technology offered an alternative for reception and distribution of television of programmes, both to the programme providers as well as to the consumers. The GoM considered the issues in its meetings between March and October, 2000 and concluded that DTH should be permitted in India, with suitable safeguards. It also weighed the advantages of DTH technology in convergence and in providing various IT enabled services. The GoM, therefore, unanimously recommended that DTH television services should be permitted in India, so as to take advantage of the latest technology, while ensuring that the concerns relating to national security, morality and monopoly were duly taken care of by providing conditions.

It has been worldwide documented experience that DTH system generally targets niche audiences and encourages spread of information technology. It is expected that in the initial stages, persons with higher disposable income will opt for DTH and only when the prices fall with demand, will DTH have widespread acceptance.

It is also expected that DTH operators will subsidise the cost of the hardware to increase viewership and accessibility.

As regards enforceability of the provisions of the guidelines, especially relating to penalties and of taking over of the service, these provisions are contained under Articles 6, 8, 9, 15 etc. of the Schedule to Form B *i.e.* the License Agreement to be signed between the Licensor (Government of India) and Licensee.

DTH has the advantage of offering a wide choice to the viewers, along with quality and convenience. Specific advantages of DTH include:

- Need for a small receive dish antenna, which is convenient to install and maintain.
- Easier to regulate as compared to cable services.
- More choice to consumers.

Thus, DTH guidelines lay down a number of safeguards with regard to the content being transmitted through a DTH platform.

It is submitted that in April 2005, in Inter-Ministerial Committee headed by Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, with members drawn from the Ministries of Home Affairs, Law & Justice, Women & Child Development, Health & Family Welfare, External Affairs & Defence and a representative from the Advertising Standards Council of India has been entrusted the task of content regulation on the DTH platform.

Further, the Government is contemplating setting up of an autonomous authority to regulate broadcasting services. Draft legislation is under preparation. The proposed legislation would cover all types of broadcasting services including DTH services and subsume all existing Acts and guidelines on the subject. It is envisaged that the proposed legislation would prescribe the eligibility criteria, licensing mechanism and other regulatory features for the broadcasting sector.

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- Better quality of reception, as it is based on digital technology.
- Ideally suited for sparsely populated areas (rural areas and small towns) since it is not dependent on terrestrial infrastructure."

8. The Committee note that in 1997 the operation of Ku Band was banned because of the adverse impact of foreign TV programme and the absence of a comprehensive law on broadcasting. In 2000 a GOM felt that these reasons were no longer relevant and since DTH is considered to be a superior technology and useful in convergence and in providing IT enabled services and in order to take advantages of the changes in the information technology and in the broadcasting and communication scenario, the Government gave their permission to start DTH services in India subject to observance of some guidelines.

9. The Committee fail to understand how in the year 2000, the social impact of foreign TV programmes on Indian citizens was no longer relevant and the GoM decided in favour of superior technology. Further, what were the reasons before the GoM that made to address sensitive issues pertaining to morality, security and monopoly to be regulated through guidelines rather than through a comprehensive legislation.

10. While acknowledging the need to take advantages of the changes in the information technology and communication scenario, the Committee strongly feel that the social cause of the effect of foreign TV channels on Indian citizen is of paramount importance and cannot be sacrificed. The Committee are also of the considered view that the guidelines cannot be a substitute for a comprehensive legal framework.

11. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation and urge the Government to enact the relevant law to regulate the entry/growth of DTH services encompassing all the aspects in view of the changed scenario without further delay. The Committee would also like to be kept informed about the steps taken in this regard.



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#### 46. B. Areas of concern

12. The Committee were not able to accept the Government's contention that the matter had not been brought before Parliament/Parliamentary Committee as the Parliament was not in session when decision was taken to allow DTH. There were sessions of Parliament between the periods of submitting report by GoM and its acceptance by the Cabinet. The Committee was of the opinion that if the Government was really interested in having the opinion of Parliament on the vital issue, it could have sought the views at least of this Committee which consisted of representatives of different section of Parliament. The Committee felt that the Government could have even introduced a bill on DTH in either House, as the issue was very sensitive and agitating. The Committee felt that validity period of ten years for License was an unusually long period. The Committee also did not appreciate regulation of such a highly sensitive and powerful media merely through administrative orders and not by legislation. Such ambiguities and lacunae could be overcome easily if Government had decided to place the matter before Parliament, specially as there was no emergency and significantly, no licence had been issued till date and there had been only one applicant so far. The Committee urged the government to take Parliament into confidence over such an important matter and consider bringing about a comprehensive legislation covering all aspects of DTH.

13. The Ministry, in its Action Taken Notes, has stated as under:

"All issues connected with opening up of Ku band and for introduction of DTH broadcasting were examined by a Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted on 31.01.2000.

The GoM considered the issues in its entirety at meetings held between March and October, 2000 and concluded that DTH should be permitted in India with suitable safeguards to take care of concerns relating to security, morality and vertical monopoly in distribution and broadcasting of

While the Ministry is contemplating the setting up an autonomous authority to regulate broadcasting services, it is yet to be decided, whether there should be one regulator both for carriage and content of broadcasting or whether there should be two regulators one for carriage and another for content. This Ministry is in correspondence with the Ministry of Communications & IT and a firm view is expected to be evolved shortly. The Ministry in the meanwhile is drafting a bill that envisages the setting up of a regulatory authority for the broadcasting sector.

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television services. GoM also considered the advantages of DTH technology, not only in distribution of television channels but also for its role in convergence and providing various IT enabled services. DTH services were allowed, subject to terms and conditions incorporated in the Guidelines issued on 15.03.2001.

DTH is a mode of broadcasting in which the broadcaster collects all the channels to be carried on the DTH platform and uplinks them for reception directly by the authorized subscriber. The COS, in December, 1996, had also recommended that there was an unequivocal need to restrict the unregulated entry/growth of DTH service in case there were no restrictions on the reception of signals in the Ku Band, foreign companies could have started DTH services and subsequently claim exemption/indemnity from the related provisions of the Broadcasting Law on the grounds that no restrictions could be placed retrospectively. The COS advised that the proposed Broadcasting Law be approved at the earliest. The regulatory framework for the entire broadcasting sector was sought to be established under the Broadcasting Bill, 1997, which was introduced in Parliament in May 1997. The Bill, *inter alia*, provided for licensing and regulating of DTH service and was referred to the Select Committee of Parliament for examination. The Select Committee held several meetings, but before it could finalize its recommendations the Parliament was dissolved. The Broadcasting Bill, 1997 lapsed. The provisions of 1997 Bill were re-examined in light of the technological developments and the Broadcasting Regulatory Bill, 2000 was drafted and circulated to concerned Ministries.

The Group on Telecom and IT Convergence, at its meeting on 14th February, 2000, decided that Ministry of Law will consider the possibility of drafting a comprehensive statute covering both carriage and content of transmitted information and thereby integrate the relevant laws. The Sub-Group of the main Group proposed a draft Communication Convergence Bill, which was considered by the Group and finally approved by the Cabinet. The Communication Convergence

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Bill 2001 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 31st August, 2001 and was referred to the Standing Committee on IT for examination and recommendation. The Committee has submitted its report to Parliament on 20.11.2002.

14. The Committee would like to point out that the Parliament was in session during February-May, 2000, July-August, 2000, November to December, 2000, February-April, 2001 etc. There could have been no reason before the Ministry not to bring the vital issue before Parliament or before the Committee.

15. It appears to the Committee that the Ministry has not only failed to appreciate the thrust of this recommendation but has also not taken its recommendation seriously. The concern of the Committee are that the Government gave its permission on 15.03.2001 to DTH services in India and thereafter introduced the Communication Convergence Bill on 31 August, 2001. The Bill is still under consideration of the august House. The Committee feel that the Government should have framed a legislative framework on DTH services before granting permission to start it. Had the Government introduced a Bill on DTH in either of the House, it would have not only paved the way for a wider and meaningful discussion on a wide spectrum of complex issues involved in regulation of DTH services, but would have also helped in removing the ambiguities and lacunae present in the guidelines framed by the Government.

16. The Committee deplore the inexplicable haste shown by the Government in introducing DTH services without a comprehensive law and also the manner in which the DTH services are sought to be regulated through administrative orders rather than through an effective legislation. The Committee, therefore, would like to stress the paramount importance of taking the Parliament into confidence and for enacting a law on DTH services so as to allay the apprehensions concerning the sensitive issues of morality, security and monopoly.

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### C. Communications Convergence Bill

47. 17. The Committee found it significant to note that certain provisions in the guidelines will take effect only on the enactment of the proposed Communication Convergence Bill. Therefore, the Committee felt that before allowing DTH telecast, the Government should have not only framed the requisite law as admitted by the Secretary, I&B during evidence but also waited till the enactment of the Communication Convergence Bill (on which the Committee has submitted its Report on 20 November, 2002 in Lok Sabha and on 21 November, 2002 in Rajya Sabha).

18. The Ministry, in its Action Taken Notes, has furnished the following reply:

"It is accepted that there is a need for a comprehensive broadcast law in the country, to address all issues relating to broadcasting. The DTH guidelines contain provisions that future regulatory laws on broadcasting would be applicable to the licensee, as and when they come into force. DTH is only a mode of broadcasting, in which the broadcaster collects all the channels at one platform and then uplinks them for reception directly by the authorized subscriber. The GoM considered the advantages of DTH, not only in distribution of television channels but also for its role in convergence and providing various IT enabled services".

19. The Ministry's reply is not convincing to the Committee. Though the Ministry had accepted the need for a comprehensive broadcast law in the country, yet they have not clearly outlined the steps taken by them to introduce such a law to regulate DTH services in the country. Further, the Ministry has not stated in their reply about the initiatives taken by them to get the Communication Convergence Bill passed, even though this Committee had submitted its report on the said Bill in 2002 itself. The Committee, therefore, would like to impress upon the Government the urgency of framing a requisite law to regulate the DTH services without further loss of time to address the issues relating to broadcasting. The Committee desire to be informed about the steps taken in this regard.

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The Communication Convergence Bill, 2001 was piloted by Ministry of Communications & Information Technology. This Ministry is in the process of drafting a suitable legislation for regulating broadcasting services. The proposed legislation would cover all types of broadcasting services, including DTH services.

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48. **D. Classification of Penalties**

20. The Committee noted with concern that the terms and conditions provided under various Articles which were of minor nature and violation thereof empowered the Government to take severe action, *viz.*, cancellation, revocation, suspension of a licence or taking over service etc. the Committee apprehended that in the absence of detailed regulations the Licensor can impose arbitrarily any penalty even for minor omissions. Therefore, the Committee recommended that irregularities should be classified under heads major and minor with appropriate legal consequences.

21. The Ministry in response has submitted the following reply:

"The terms and conditions contained in Schedule to Form B form part of the licence agreement and the parties to the Agreement would be bound by these breach of the terms and conditions is thus a breach of contract, which has to be settled in terms of the provisions of the Agreement. It would be difficult to classify the violations as major or minor but the principles of natural justice and fairness would apply, while deciding the penalty".

22. The Committee are unable to accept the reasons forwarded by the Government that it is difficult to classify the violations as major or minor. In the absence of clear-cut classification of the violations as major or minor, there is always a possibility that the minor violation may be construed as a major one an *vice versa* and arbitrary action could be taken against the licensee. This might entail a protracted legal battle between two parties unnecessarily. Hence, for the dispensation of justice in fairness, the Committee reiterate that the Government must classify the irregularities as minor and major and also classify the nature of violation, *viz.*, security, economic/financial or content violation and frame appropriate legal consequences without further delay. The Committee would like to be apprised about the steps taken by the Government in this regard.

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The Ministry notes the recommendation of the Committee. The matter is being examined in consultation with Ministry of Law.

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51. **E. Areas of Monitoring**

23. The Committee noted that the Government was empowered under the Cable Television Networks Act to take prompt corrective measures in the interest to security, sovereignty and integrity of India, public order, decency, morality through designated District Magistrate/SDM/ Commissioner of Police as the authorized officers for taking action against the erring cable operators. The Committee felt that the DTH telecast would be more powerful and sensitive compared to Cable TV and this might need stronger measures to be taken, but the Government instead of extending the areas of monitoring had restricted it only to the issue of security, morality and vertical monopoly. Therefore, the Government owed an explanation in that regard.

24. The Ministry, in its Action Taken Notes, has responded as follows:

"The areas of monitoring include issues of security, morality and vertical monopoly. The terms and conditions of licence broadly encompass the following areas of activities of the licensee viz.,

- (i) Adherence to the programme and advertisement codes, as laid down by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting from time to time; (Article 5)
- (ii) Non-carriage of any channels prohibited by the Ministry of I&B and ensuring that its facilities are not used for transmission of any objectionable or obscene content, messages or communication inconsistent with the laws of India. Save with the approval of the licensor, the licensee is prohibited from assigning or transferring, either directly or indirectly, its right in any manner whatsoever under the Agreement to any other party or enter into any agreement for sub-licence and/or partnership

It is submitted that in April 2005, an Inter-Ministerial Committee headed by Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, with members drawn from the Ministries of Home Affairs, Law & Justice, Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare, External Affairs & Defence and a representative from the Advertising Standards Council of India has been entrusted the task of content regulation on the DTH platform.

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	relating to any subject matter of the licence to any third party either in whole or in part; (Article 6)			
	(iii) compliance with the specifications of the open architecture (non-proprietary) set top box as laid down by the Government from time to time and provision of access to various content providers/channels on a non-discriminatory basis. All content provided by the DTH platform to the subscribers, irrespective of its source, shall pass through the encryption and conditional access system, located within the Earth station, situated on the Indian soil; (Article 7)			
	(iv) Adherence to any guidelines/regulations which may be laid down by the Licensor in the interests of consumer such as pricing of bouquet(s) or tier(s) of channels, etc. and carriage of channels of Prasar Bharati on the most favourable financial terms offered to any other channel; (Article 7)			
	(v) Provision of access to the licensing authority or its duly authorized representative all its facilities including equipment, record systems etc. and the requirement of the Licensee to furnish periodical information concerning channels or contents being transmitted or provided under the services, technical parameters, etc. in the format as may be prescribed for the purpose; (Article 8); and			
	(vi) Prohibition of DTH facility to be used for other modes of communication, including voice, fax, data, communication, internet, etc. unless specific licence for these value-added services has been obtained from the competent authority; (Article 10)			
	Violation of any of these, as well as other terms and conditions, would amount to breach of the terms of licence and notwithstanding any other			

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recourse under the terms and conditions of the Licence or any other law, would invite action in terms of the different provisions such as Article 4.2, Article 15 etc., which may include revocation of licence, or imposition of a penalty upto Rs. 50 crore by the Licensor on the Licensee".

25. The Committee perceive that under Cable TV Network Act, the authorized officers have been empowered to take corrective measures against the erring Cable TV Operators for acts which are prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India, public order, decency, morality etc. But such provisions are conspicuous by their absence in the guidelines framed by the Government to regulate DTH services. On the contrary, the Government has incorporated a penalty clause in the guidelines to be imposed on the licensee for violation of terms and conditions of the licence. The Committee feel that stringent penalty clause alone will not be deterrent enough to curb the undesirable and nefarious activities, if any, carried out by the licensee. As such, a suitable regulatory mechanism should be put in place to protect the interests of sovereignty and integrity of India, public order, decency etc. The Committee may be kept informed of the initiatives taken in this regard.

12.10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hrs.

- (II) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the Second Report of the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, pertaining to the Ministry of Law and Justice**

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWARJ): "I am laying this statement on the status

of implementation of recommendations contained in the Second Report of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice 2004-05 in pursuance of direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha.

In all, 23 recommendations were made by the Committee, where action is required on the part of the Government. The present status of implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of the said Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.



**Annexure*****Action Taken Report on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Second Report of Standing Committee of the Ministry of Law and Justice***

Recommendation No.	Recommendation	Action taken by the Government	Whether accepted or not by Government	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
10.	<p>The Committee notes that the pace of work of the Delimitation Commission has been slow due to a variety of reasons. The Committee now hopes that the Commission will be able to complete its work by the extended period, i.e. 11th July, 2005 and towards that end urges upon the government to extend all assistance to the Commission so as to facilitate completion of its mandated task within the extended deadline.</p>	<p>The Commission has reported that it has completed delimitation work in five States, namely Goa, Tripura, Mizoram, Kerala and Union Territory of Pondicherry. The work in respect of West Bengal, Rajasthan and Punjab is at final stages and the Delimitation exercise in respect of Tamil Nadu and Assam is likely to be completed by the end of September/mid-October, 2005. In respect of Gujarat, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh, the work is fairly at advanced stages and is likely to be completed by the end of October/mid-November, 2005. The Commission has further reported that in respect of 19 States/Union Territories, the working papers have been prepared and in respect of remaining State/Union Territories the working papers are likely to be prepared shortly. Accordingly, the Commission has confirmed that it shall endeavor to complete the delimitation work in respect of all the States/Union Territories by 31st July, 2006 and sought for extension of the deadline. Based on the said request of the Commission, the Government has extended the term of the Chairperson upto 31st July, 2006 so as to enable</p>		

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		the Commission to complete its mandated task within the said date of 31st July, 2006.		
19.	<p>The Committee notes that eight regular benches of ITAT are yet to be made functional. Besides, ten additional benches and twenty temporary benches of ITAT, which have been approved, are also to be made functional. Keeping in view the need for reducing pendency of cases in the Tribunal so that Government revenue is not blocked, the Committee recommends that the Government should make all-out efforts to make the regular, additional and temporary benches of the Tribunal functional without further delay and take immediate steps to fill up the vacancies in the Tribunal. The Government should also explore the possibilities of making the benches functional in rented buildings as an interim measure.</p>	<p>Proposal for filling up vacancies of Members, ITAT (including vacancies of newly created permanent benches) has already been submitted to the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC). Selection process for remaining vacancies including carried forward vacancies, existing as well as anticipated vacancies pertaining to year 2004 will be started after receipt of ACC approval for the proposal already submitted.</p> <p>Meetings of the special Standing Selection Committee to select candidates for the post of temporary Members for newly created twenty temporary benches of ITAT have been held on 26.05.2004 and 27.10.2004. The recommendations of the Committee are being processed. These recommendations will be sent to the ACC for their approval after acceptance by the Minister for Law and Justice.</p> <p>Thus, the selection process to fill the vacancies of Members of ITAT for permanent as well as temporary benches is in its last stage of its completion and is likely to be completed very soon.</p>	Accepted	
23.	<p>The Committee feels that the States, which have not revised the income limit for providing legal aid, should be persuaded by the</p>	<p>The State Legal Services Authorities including Union Territories, who have not increased the income ceiling</p>	Accepted	

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	Government to do so at the earliest. The Committee also feels that since the UTs are directly administered by the Central Government, there should not be any difficulty in raising the income limit in the remaining UTs.	limit till date, have been impressed upon to raise the same at the earliest.		
29.	The Committee having considered the reply of the Department and having noted the statement contained in the National Common Minimum Programme that Legal Aid Services will be expanded, recommends that the Government may examine the idea of Centrally Sponsored Scheme with hundred percent central funding for implementing NALSA scheme throughout the country may be examined by the Government. State Governments should also be persuaded to ensure that the Central grants are fully utilized for providing necessary infrastructure for free legal services to weaker sections, and thereby ensuring their meaningful and effective participation.	All the State Governments are being persuaded through State Legal Services Authority to ensure utilization the central grants for providing necessary infrastructure for free legal services to weaker sections, and thereby ensuring their meaningful and effective participation.	Accepted	
31.	The Committee finds that a substantial number of posts, i.e. 11 out of the sanctioned 28 posts were lying vacant in NALSA, which was not a healthy sign for its effective functioning. The Committee, therefore, recommends that urgent steps should be taken to fill up the vacant posts.	The National Legal Services Authority has initiated necessary steps to fill up the vacant posts urgently.	Accepted	
36.	The Committee notes that some States could not establish permanent Lok Adalats due to paucity of funds and infrastructure. It is of the view that Government should explore the possibility of establishing more permanent Lok Adalats in various States, so that	The possibility for establishing more permanent Lok Adalats in various States so that common man have access to speedy, inexpensive and substantial justice can be explored if funds and infrastructure are provided by Government.	Accepted	

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common men have access to speedy, inexpensive and substantial justice.

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| 41. | <p>The Committee was informed that the Law Commission has so far presented 188 Reports to the Government, out of which 47 Reports are pending implementation at various stages/levels and for variety of reasons. The Committee recommends that the Department of Legal Affairs, being the nodal agency for monitoring the implementation of the Law Commission's Reports, may ask all the administrative Ministries/Departments to keep record of various stages of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of Law Commission. The Committee has observed that there has been inordinate delay in implementing some of the Reports of the Law Commission. It may not be out of place to mention that the Sixth Report of the Law Commission presented to Government in 1957 is yet to be implemented. In this context, the Committee feels that it would be better to apprise Parliament once in a year the status of implementation of various Reports of Law Commission. Thus, Government may lay before each House of Parliament an annual statement to that effect, which could <i>inter alia</i> contain reasons for delay in implementing certain recommendations of the Law Commission.</p> | <p>Law Secretary has written D.O. letters to the Secretaries of the concerned Ministries/Departments on 28.09.2004 with the request to prepare a time bound action plan for implementation of Law Commission's Reports which are pending with them.</p> | <p>Accepted</p> |
| 43. | <p>The Committee notes that the establishment of Law Schools and a Law University is a welcome move and recommends that these may be established at the earliest.</p>  | <p>A fresh cabinet Note has been circulated to the concerned Ministries/Departments on 25.08.2004. The comments/views of the Ministries/Departments are still awaited.</p>  | <p>Accepted</p> |
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47.	<p>The Committee recommends that the Department should ensure that grants-in-aid provided to different institutions for promotion of legal education and research, should be commensurate with their contribution in the field and also take into account the funds raised by themselves. The Committee also recommends that the Department may undertake a critical appraisal of the working of the various organizations during the previous year before releasing grants to them in the next year. The Department should make efforts to promote new organizations with good track record in the field of legal education and research instead of releasing grants to the same set of organizations year after year.</p>	<p>Grantee institutions have been requested to furnish utilization certificates, annual report &amp; audited accounts of the grantee institutions, etc. in connection with grant-in-aid released by this Department to them during the financial year 2003-2004, to enable this Department to implement the recommendation.</p>		
53.	<p>The Committee is of the view that Government should ensure timely audit of accounts of ICADR and the amount released for construction of its own building is properly utilized for that purpose within a time-frame.</p>	<p>Utilization certificates, duly signed by Chartered Accountants in connection with the grant released by this Department to the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ICADR), New Delhi as on 31st March, 2004, have been obtained from the Centre. Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance have been requested to give a formal request in the name of President addressed to the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&amp;AG) of India for auditing the Accounts of ICADR by C&amp;AG. ICADR have been requested to furnish annual report &amp; audited accounts of the Centre for the financial year 2003-2004 for laying the same on Tables of both Houses of Parliament.</p>	Accepted	
66.	<p>The Committee is concerned over the cancellation of allotment of land</p>	<p>Having due regard over the cancellation of allotment of land</p>		Subsequent Reminders have

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	<p>in a prime location, to the Institute of Legislative Drafting &amp; Research. The Committee urges upon the Department to ensure that the Institute gets an independent premise at the earliest.</p>	<p>in prime location to the Institute of Legislative Drafting and Research, this Department has been again taken up the matter with Ministry of Urban Development &amp; Poverty Alleviation to reconsider their decision and re-allot the land for the Institute of Legislative Drafting and Research <i>vide</i> this Department's letter No. 45011/13/2001-Adm. I(LD) dated 29th September, 2004. Having received no response from the said Department, a reminder has been issued to them <i>vide</i> this Department's letter No. A45011/13/2001/Adm. I(LD) dated 21st October, 2004. The response from the Ministry of Urban Development &amp; Poverty Alleviation is still awaited.</p>		<p>been sent to Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation but so far no response has been received. The present position is that till the allotment of land is made the matter cannot be taken further by this Department.</p>
69.	<p>The Committee notes that in the changed scenario when elections were held throughout the country by Electronic Voting Machines, it would be appropriate that the Government chalks out a plan to provide the full requirement of machines to all the State Election Commissioners so that elections to Parliament, State/UT Assemblies or local bodies are conducted by those machines.</p>	<p>The Commission has decided to replace EVMs after 15 years and adopting the criteria 1.5 Lakhs EVMs of 1989-90 will have to be changed with new EVMs. The new EVMs will have certain new features which are being considered by the Commission.</p> <p>Most of the State Election Commissioners have evinced interest in using EVMs for local bodies elections in their States. The Commission has agreed, in principle, to loan EVMs to the State Election Commissioners subject to the following conditions:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) EVMs will be given only if the law governing Local Bodies Elections provide for use of EVMs.</li> <li>(ii) The Local Bodies follow same system of election</li> </ol>		

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		<p><i>i.e.</i> first past the post system and the election is for single seat.</p>		
		<p>(iii) The State Election Commission agrees to build a reserve of EVMs equal to 25% of the total requirement of EVMs for the Assembly elections in the State over a period of 3 financial years.</p>		
		<p>(iv) The State Election Commission actually procures EVMs equal to 10% of the total requirement of EVMs for the Assembly election in the State before June 30, 2006. The Commission is considering to relax this condition initially provided, the State Election Commission undertakes to procure and provide immediately replacement for such number of machines as may get locked in court cases after the Local Bodies election or get damaged.</p>		
		<p>(v) The EVMs to be purchased as per paras (iii) and (iv) above by the State Election Commissioners shall be kept in the control of concerned CEO/DEO and will be released only at the time of elections.</p>		
		<p>(vi) The State Election Commission meets expenditure towards pre-poll checking by the ECIL/BEL technicians/engineers, as the case may be, training of employees, batteries, post-poll clearing</p>		

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		of machines and their repairs (if needed), transportation from the place of storage and back and any other incidental expense that may have to be borne on account of loaning the EVMs.		
		(vii) The State Election Commission makes good of any loss occurring due to damage to the machines. The EVMs shall be returned to the concerned CEO immediately after the completion of Local Bodies Elections, and		
		(viii) Subject to any other condition(s) as may be imposed by the Commission, in future.		
75.	The Committee notes that a considerable time has elapsed since the inception of the EPIC Scheme. In that backdrop, it recommends that this is high time to have a fresh look in to the matter and devise a mechanism whereby the work is completed within a definite time frame.	In Arunachal Pradesh no revision of electoral rolls w.r.t. 01.01.2005 could be undertaken due to school exams, rains, etc. Therefore no EPIC campaign could be launched. It has been decided to undertake an intensive revision with 01.01.2006 as qualifying date by way of house-to-house enumeration. An EPIC drive would be undertaken next year.		
		In Maharashtra the process of revision of rolls for 2005 has been delayed due to natural calamities. The EPIC campaign will be taken up after final publication of the rolls in September.		
		In Bihar, an EPIC campaign is in progress. In Haryana a proposal has been received to print electoral rolls for all the		



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assembly constituencies with photographs of electors during the next revision of electoral rolls *i.e.* with w.r.t. 01.01.2006 as qualifying date. An EPIC campaign will be launched to cover the residual electors without EPIC.

In Jharkhand, an EPIC campaign will be taken up.

The existing progress is appx. 90% in Haryana, 57% in Bihar, 60% in Jharkhand. EPIC work is still in progress in Bihar.

In all the 140 assembly constituencies of the State of Kerala, all the 30 assembly constituencies of the Union Territory of Pondicherry, 2 assembly constituencies of the State of Haryana and one assembly constituency each of the state of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab the electoral roll has been prepared with the photographs of the electors during the revision of electoral rolls w.r.t. 01.01.2005 as the qualifying date. Instructions have been issued to all Chief Electoral Officers for creating permanent infrastructure in the offices of District Election Officers/Electoral Registration Officers for issue of on-line EPIC.

**82. Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) relating to Infrastructural facilities for the Judiciary**

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme relating to Infrastructural Facilities for the Judiciary has been under examination of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs since

Although the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of judicial infrastructure has been in operation since the year 1993/94, its evaluation has disclosed

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long. The Committee, from time to time, in its reports, has made important observations and recommendations relating to implementation of the scheme. That Committee in its 86th report on Demand for Grants (2002-03) of the Ministry of Law and Justice had, made important recommendations which are summarized below:

*While Centrally Sponsored Scheme relating to Infrastructural Facilities for the Judiciary had been a good beginning in the direction of smooth administration of justice, the funds provided under this scheme not seem to be enough, particularly looking at the demand projected by the States vis-a-vis funds earmarked by the Planning Commission. There is a strong case for increasing the budget allocation for the Judiciary. The Government should consider enhancing the central support to the State Governments. The Government should also redesign the pattern of Centre-State share, so that the States would have less budgetary pressure on them.*

The Committee endorses the observations made by the Committee on Home Affairs in its earlier Reports on Demands for Grants of Ministry of Law and Justice and recommends that the Government should be liberal in providing grants to State Governments for development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary, and persuade the State Governments for efficient utilization of the grants for the purpose.

**85. Delinking of budget of Department of Justice**

The Committee feels that the matter has been under examination by the Ministry for a considerably long period. It, therefore, recommends that the Ministry should follow-up the

that quite often the intended output was not achieved due to non-payment of States' share and unplanned execution. Beside, the scheme has remained an open-ended one, without formulation of specific state-wise targets, against which the level of satisfaction can be appraised. Therefore, on the advice of Planning Commission, a ten year perspective plan is being worked out which will account for both new constructions as well as renovation of old buildings. After the perspective plan is ready and collated on all-India basis, the matter will be taken up with the Planning Commission for adequate plan outlay, on the basis of which both outlay and modalities will be discussed in consultation with Planning Commission.

So far, 18 states have furnished the ten year perspective plan for construction of court buildings and residential premises of judges and judicial officers.

No final reply has been received so far. The matter is being pursued with Department of Economic Affairs. That Department will be impressed

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	<p>matter vigorously with the Ministry of Finance so that a separate Demand is allocate to the Department of Justice in the budget for the year 2005-06.</p>	<p>upon that at least for the year 2006/07 onwards there should be a separate Demand for Department of Justice.</p>		
88.	<p><b>National Judicial Academy (NJA)</b> The Committee notes that there are many audit objections in respect of the Annual Statement of Accounts for the period of five years <i>i.e.</i> from 1998-99 to 2002-03 and replies furnished by the Academy were not found to be tenable by the Statutory Auditors. The Committee calls upon the Government to take necessary action in the matter and ensure that the public funds are utilized in consonance with its laid down policies.</p>	<p>The Audit objection in respect of Annual Statement of Accounts of NJA for the period of five years from 1998-99 to 2002-03 are mainly related to the utilization of amount of Grants. The amount of the grants could not be utilized by the Academy in the time due to the following:-</p> <p>(i) The work of External Electrification was originally designed for 11 KV. But the M.P. State Electricity Board reported that consumer like NJA can not be given HT connection 11 KV as per the prevailing Rules and Regulations of MPSEB. Therefore, the work of External Electrification was redesigned for 33 KV for obtaining electrical supply from the Board.</p> <p>(ii) The construction activities were delayed due to failure of Electrical Contractor M/s EEL to whom contract for external and internal electrification work was awarded.</p> <p>In view of delay in execution of project, the following action was taken to expedite the execution of work:—</p> <p>(a) In August 2000, an office of the Academy was established at Bhopal with a view to minimizing the extent of delay by way of—a close and regular</p>		

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monitoring of various construction activities.

- (b) For monitoring and supervising the Project, services of a Chief Engineer. MPPWD were availed in the year 1999 on part time basis as Director of Works. Another Engineer of Executive Engineer rank and other employees of MPPWD were also employed on part time basis to assist him.
- (c) Due to delay in execution of the work of the external and internal electrification, the contract therefore, originally awarded to M/s EEL Engineering Limited, Pune, was terminated in September, 2000 and the contract for the left over works was assigned to M/s L&T (ECCG) Ltd. on the same terms and conditions and at the same rates as were applicable to the original contract with a clear stipulation that the works should be completed by 23rd June, 2001.
- (d) Time extension to various contractors have been granted without escalation and also by serving the right to impose liquidated damages.
- (e) The tender procedure was streamlined and penal clause for levy of compensation for delayed performance of the contract was included in the tender documents for all subsequent works.

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Out of the total grants of Rs. 78,95,67,000/- received upto 2001-02, the Academy has already utilized the grant of Rs. 67,31,57,068/- upto 31st March, 2005 on various construction activities. Most of the contractors have completed their substantial work and the remaining is likely to be completed soon.

**92. Fast Track Courts (FTC)**

The Committee notes that out of 1734 Fast Track Courts sanctioned by the Eleventh Finance Commission, 246 are yet to be made functional. The delay in setting up of such Courts within the stipulated period may cause the sanctioned amount to lapse, thus defeating the objective of expeditious administration of justice. The Committee, therefore, urges upon the Government to make all out efforts to persuade the State Governments to make the remaining 246 Fast Track Courts operational. Further, while keeping up the efficiency and utility level of Fast Track Courts, the Department of Justice should devise ways and means to avoid hurried decisions by such courts so that innocent persons are not punished. Government should also consider to avail the benefit of the experience of the senior retired Judges for the Fast Track Courts.

The Eleventh Finance Commission recommended for constitution of 1734 Fast Track Courts as in interim measure for limited period of five years *i.e.* upto 31st March 2005 to reduce pendency of cases. The State Governments who were asked to take action as per recommendations of the 11th Finance Commission set up number of courts according to their requirement also keeping in view of various other factors like availability of court rooms, pendency at subordinate court level.

The Central Government has approved the continuance of the 1562 functional Fast Track Courts for a further period of five years *i.e.* upto 31st March 2010 with a provision of Rs. 509.00 crore with full financial assistance to the States.

**97. Special/Family Courts**

The Committee reiterates the recommendation made in the 101st Report of the Committee on Home Affairs on Demands for Grants (2003-04) of Ministry of Law and Justice that Government should fix a target for establishing at least one

The Family Courts are set up by the State Governments in consultation with the High Courts for every area in the State where population exceeds one million and for such other areas in it may be deemed

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Family Court in each district, so as to resolve family disputes and related matters expeditiously.

necessary. Family Courts have not been established by the States in each District. So far only 153 Family Courts in the country have been established. The Department of Justice been requesting all the State Governments/UTs time & again for setting up Family Courts in each district of the country. However, some States like Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, UTs of A&N Islands and Lakshadweep have expressed several reservations for not setting up of Family Courts. The reasons for not setting up of Family Courts are, *inter alia*, lack of financial resources, difficult topography and insufficient institution of matrimonial cases.

**102. Vacancy of Judges**

The Committee recommends that the vacancies of Supreme Court Judges as well as the High Court Judges should be filled up expeditiously.

As against the sanctioned strength of 26 Judges in the Supreme Court, 23 Judges (including the Chief Justice) were in position as on 1.8.2005 leaving only three vacancies to be filled up.

As against the sanctioned strength of 670 Judges in all the High Courts, 536 Judges were in position as on 1.8.2005 leaving 134 vacancies to be filled up.

The filling up of vacancies of Judges in the High Courts is a continuous, consultative process among the Constitutional authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep on arising on account of retirement or elevation of Judges as Chief Justice of High Courts/Judges of the Supreme Court. The Chief Justices of the High

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		Courts are being periodically reminded for filling up the vacancies in their High Courts.		
110.	The Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation to restore the pre 1993 position in the matter of appointment of Judges of Supreme Court and the Chief Justices of High Courts and appointment and transfer of Judges of High Courts.	The suggestion has been noted.		
114.	<b>Benches of Supreme Court</b> The Committee recommends that the Government should decide its course of action to resolve the matter expeditiously.	The Chief Justice of India has informed in his letter of November 16, 2004 that the subject matter was again discussed in a Full Court meeting of the Hon'ble Judges on 14.12.2004 and that the Full court is of the considered opinion that the demand for establishment of the Benches of the Supreme Court cannot be accepted.		
119.	<b>Pendency of Cases</b> The Committee hopes that the Government, with its resolve as contained in the National Common Minimum Programme, would be able to drastically cut the delays in the High Courts and the Lower Judiciary.	The Government has been periodically monitoring the pendency position in various courts. The steps taken for speedy disposal of pending cases, include timely filling the vacancies of judges, increasing the judge strength, grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches, organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals, encouraging alternative modes of dispute resolution like negotiation, mediation and arbitration and setting up of special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunals, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts, Labour Courts, etc.		

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In addition, the Government has extended the term of Fast Track Courts for a period of another 5 years *i.e.* upto 31.3.2010 at a cost of Rs. 509 crores. It has also taken up computerization of all the district & subordinate courts in the States & UTs at a cost of Rs. 384.53 crores. Both the schemes are fully funded by the Central Government. It has also requested the State Governments to prepare a perspective plan for ten years indicating therein the actual number of courts buildings and the judges' residential buildings which are proposed to be constructed in the next ten years under the centrally sponsored scheme for development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary.

121. **General**

The Committee notes that in almost all Ministries a separate head for medical expenses has been created, excepting the Ministry of Law and Justice. The Committee feels that if other Ministries could open this head, this Ministry could also have taken time action, to ensure uniformity in the system.

A separate head for Medical expenses has already been created.

12.10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

(iii) **Signing of Memorandum of Understanding on Ken-Betwa Link**

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): 'I am making a statement regarding the Signing of Memorandum of Understanding on the Ken-Betwa Link.

The great son of India, former Union Irrigation Minister late Dr. K.L. Rao dreamt of linking the rivers of the

country. However, it could not materialize. Late Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Shrimati Indira Gandhi Ji did not allow the dream of Dr. K.L. Rao to die. In 1980, under her leadership, the National Perspective Plan (NPP) was conceived envisaging transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins and in 1982, the Central Government through a Resolution constituted a society known as, National Water Development Agency (NWDA) to study the feasibility of the interlinking of rivers proposals suggested in the NPP. Late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi Ji desired to identify the links both the in the Himalayan and in the Peninsular zones and directed NWDA to take a leading role. NWDA began their task of identifying the links since late 1980s' and identified



30 links, 16 under Peninsular component and 14 under Himalayan component for preparation of feasibility reports in line with the proposal of NPP.

Meanwhile, during a hearing in a PIL in the hon. Supreme Court during the tenure of the NDA Government on a different issue of Yamuna river's pollution, the *amicus curiae* requested the hon. Court to give a direction to the Central Government to consider the networking of rivers. The hon. Court directed to treat this issue as an independent PIL with cause title 'Networking of Rivers' and directed the Centre and States to respond.

Accordingly, the NDA Government headed by the then hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji, formed a Task Force, headed by hon. Member of Lok Sabha, Shri Suresh Prabhu. The Task Force submitted their Report on time, but could not evolve consensus amongst the political leadership of the country together or for any link bilaterally. The UPA Government, in their Common Minimum Programme (CMP), gave special emphasis, based on discussion and decision, in a fully consultative manner to identify and confine the linking policy within the peninsular zone.

Accordingly, within the completion of first year of the UPA Government, we have finally concluded the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two States after prolonged negotiations at various levels, *i.e.* Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh to have the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Ken-Betwa link. Uttar Pradesh had some definite reservations on certain issues which they would like to address at the DPR stage. This is a historic decision and a step forward to fulfil the dream of the late Dr. K.L. Rao and the architect of the National Perspective Plan, the late Smt. Indira Gandhiji, through the sustained efforts of the UPA Government.

The Ken-Betwa Link proposal will benefit both the States in their districts, namely Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Panna, Raisen and Vidisha in MP and Hamirpur, Jhansi and Banda in UP, by way of increased and stabilized irrigation, consequent increase in the production of food and commercial crops, improved availability of drinking water, flood and drought mitigation and other increased economic activities like pisciculture, afforestation, tourism, generation of hydro power and ecological improvement programmes. This link will ensure overall development of the region.

I thank the engineers and technicians of the NWDA, which began its journey in 1982. I profoundly thank the

hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh for his sustained intervention and interest in this matter. It is needless to mention that to implement the Common Minimum Programme's one of the key issues, the initiative and support of the Chairperson of the National Advisory Council, Smt. Sonia Gandhi ji had motivated us to make the breakthrough. I also like to thank the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Babulal Gaur for their cooperation and consent for the Detailed Project Report, based on this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today, *i.e.* 25.8.2005.

We have signed it today, Sir.

12.13 hrs.

(iv) (a) Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on Demands for Grants (2004-05) pertaining to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): With your permission, I beg to lay the statement on the Table of the House.

\*I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of direction 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin—Part II dated September 01, 2004.

The First Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (14th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 20.08.2004. The report relates to the examination of Demands for Grants of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2004-2005.

Action Taken Statements on the recommendations/ observations contained in the report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on 3.12.2004.

\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 2821/2005.

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

There are 28 recommendations made by the Committee in the said report where action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations mainly pertain to issues like Accretion to reserves, Strategic storage of crude oil. Petroleum Regulatory Board, increase in frequency of bids under NEPL rounds, concerted efforts by Oil PSUs to improve their performance, vigorous implementation of energy conservation measures, aggressive exploration activities, tapping of alternative sources of energy, use of money

collected from cess on crude oil to act as cushion in case of reduction in import/excise duty and to compensate for subsidy on LPG and kerosene, revival of Anti-Adulteration Cell, launching of premium grade petrol, etc.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

### *Annexure*

#### *Action Taken Report on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the First Report of Standing Committee on Demands for Grants 2004-05 of Ministry/Department of Petroleum and Natural Gas*

Recommendation No.	Recommendation	Action taken by the Government	Whether accepted or not by the Government	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	No. of wells drilled in 10th Plan did not prove to be hydrocarbon bearing leading to wasteful expenditure. In-place hydrocarbon accretion continues to be low in 10th Plan like in 9th Plan. Strategic storage of crude oil and Petroleum Regulatory Board have still not been put in place.	The exploration efforts of exploration companies have resulted in 19 hydrocarbon discoveries under NELP regime so far. In exploration & production business long lead time is required from knowledge building to exploration activities, to accretion of reserves and putting them on production. Investments made in 9th & 10th plan cannot be treated as wasteful because they have resulted in knowledge building, addition of reserves as well as in arresting the decline in production from major producing fields. Recommendations of the Committee on strategic storage of crude oil have been noted and action is being taken to finalise the details in this regard. A revised Petroleum Regulatory Board Bill incorporating provisions for	Accepted in respect of the recommendations regarding setting up of a strategic storage of crude oil and setting up of Petroleum Regulatory Board.	

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		setting up of a technical body, appellate authority, the terms & conditions of service of the officers & staff of the Board etc. is being finalized.		
2.	ONGC/OIL should pursue accretion process vigorously. Frequency of bids under NELP rounds should be enhanced.	ONGC/OIL have taken following steps to pursue accretion process more vigorously: The seismic data is being digitized, key seismic lines are reprocessed for value addition and entire data reinterpreted, new time structure maps are prepared, new geological models are prepared. Offering of NELP rounds involve multiple activities which usually take about one year.	Accepted, subject to the time required for completion of various activities for bidding under NELP rounds.	
3.	Committee be apprised of factors that resulted in lower natural gas production in 2003-04 as compared to 2002-03. Ministry to take adequate steps for development of natural gas market in Assam, A.P. & Rajasthan.	Steps taken by ONGC to increase production of natural gas, inter-alia, include IOR/EOR plan for major fields & deployment of new initiatives, technology and equipment for production enhancement.  Adequate pipeline infrastructure has been developed in Assam, AP and Rajasthan but development of gas market is supply driven.	Accepted, subject to the constraints mentioned in Col. 3	
4.	Public sector oil companies to put in concerted efforts to improve their performance in future.	As a result of the mid term review of their 10th Plan programmes, the PSUs will be able to put in the concerted efforts to improve their performance in the remaining period of the 10th Plan.	Accepted	
5.	Adequate precaution be taken in collection and interpretation of predrill seismic data to ensure drilling exercise does not turn out to be futile in the end.	The following precautions are being taken in collection and interpretation of pre-drill seismic data: — Use of pre-drill 3D acquisition, processing and interpretation.	Accepted	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Process validation through best international reputed consultants.</li> <li>— Text probing of large structural prospects.</li> <li>— Mid course of correction through post drill analysis.</li> </ul>		
6.	Next round of NELP bidding to be completed expeditiously and proper dissemination of relevant data be ensured to attract prospective clients.	Fifth round of NELP is on the anvil. Exclusive web portal highlighting salient geo-technical aspects has been launched. Data viewing rooms were opened in Delhi, Houston and London for viewing of data by companies.	Accepted	
7.	Vigorous implementation of energy conservation measures, aggressive exploration activities, tapping of alternate sources of energy be implemented.	<p>PCRA is entrusted with the task of conservation of petroleum products and to speed synergistic linkages between oil conservation, economic development &amp; environmental protection. Methods adopted include field activities, education campaigns, R&amp;D activities and HRD activities.</p> <p>Following steps have been taken to increase E&amp;P activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Improvement of recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing EOR/IOR.</li> <li>— Increase exploration efforts through NELP</li> <li>— Explore new areas especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas.</li> <li>— To develop faster newly discovered fields.</li> <li>— To acquire acreages abroad.</li> <li>— To develop alternate energy sources such as CBM and gas hydrates.</li> </ul>	Accepted	

1	2	3	4	5
		MOPNG is trying to implement the programme for ethanol-blended petrol. Work on bio-diesel & hydrogen as alternate fuels for future is also in progress.		
8.	Due attention should be given to timely completion of four new refinery projects to avoid cost overruns.	The progress of major ongoing projects is constantly monitored through monthly progress reports, quarterly performance reports, through Board meetings etc. and corrective measures are taken keeping in view the dynamic market conditions.	Accepted	
9.	Oil PSUs should place their orders for equipments with reputed vendors and in case of default in delivery, liquidated damage clause should be invoked. Oil PSUs should take mid course corrective measures based on recommendations of Planning Commission to improve utilization of plan funds.	Oil PSUs place purchase order for equipment and other items on proven & reputed vendors. In case of default in delivery liquidated damages clause is invoked by OIL PSUs. Oil PSUs have taken corrective action based on the mid term appraisal of 10th Five Year Plan.	Accepted	
10.	There should be minimum increase in fuel & non-fuel cost to lessen the burden on common man. The subsidy on domestic LPG & PDS kerosene should continue.	The following measures have been taken to lessen the burden of price rise on common man—  — Excise duty on domestic LPG has been reduced from 16% to 8% w.e.f. 16.6.04.  — Customs duty on domestic LPG & PDS kerosene has been reduced from 10% to 5% w.e.f. 19.8.04.  — Excise duty on kerosene has been reduced from 16% to 12% w.e.f. 19.8.04.  Consumer price of domestic LPG & PDS kerosene have not	Accepted	

1	2	3	4	5
		been increased after 1.3.02 despite increase in international prices, except for Rs. 20/cylinder increase in retail selling price of domestic LPG w.e.f. 16.6.04.		
11.	The policy of involving oil sector PSUs in sharing the subsidy burden may continue.	The under recoveries of oil marketing companies on account of gap between cost price and selling price of PDS kerosene and domestic LPG is being shared among oil PSUs. The Committee's recommendation to continue the present arrangement has been noted.	Accepted	
12.	A price stabilization fund should be created to bring stabilization in prices of petroleum products by using money collected from cess on crude oil to act as cushion in case of reduction in import duty/excise duty on LPG, kerosene, petrol & diesel and to provide subsidy on LPG & kerosene.	The price band mechanism for petrol & diesel has an inbuilt mechanism to allow variations in product prices in tandem with import parity. As such no price stabilization fund is considered necessary for petrol & diesel. This Ministry is in agreement with recommendation of the Committee that cess collected under OIDB Act should be used to meet balance subsidy requirement after taking into account the budgeted subsidy which is presently being borne by Oil PSUs.	Not accepted, in respect of price stabilization fund. Accepted the recommendation regarding utilization of cess towards subsidy burden.	
13.	A fixed/specific duty should be levied on each petroleum product instead of ad-valorem duty. Sales tax levied by states should also be specific instead of valorem.	GOI have reduced customs duty on PDS kerosene & domestic LPG from 10% to 5% w.e.f. 19.8.2004.  MOPNG has requested State Govts. to reduce/maintain sales tax on petrol & diesel at earlier agreed levels i.e. 12% on diesel and 20% on petrol. MOPNG has taken up the issue to replace advalorem sales tax rates with specific rates.	Accepted	

1	2	3	4	5
14.	The amended Petroleum Regulatory Board Bill should be moved as soon as possible.	Revised Bill is being prepared in consultation with Law Ministry and is expected to be moved as early as possible.	Accepted	
15.	The Anti Adulteration Cell which was wound up on 31.7.2004 should be made functional forthwith to check the menace of adulteration of petroleum products.	The AAC was wound up w.e.f. 31.7.2004 as functioning of the cell had not made the desired impact on curbing adulteration of petroleum products. This Ministry has requested State Govt./UT administrations to strengthen their inspection mechanisms to ensure that checks are carried out and stringent action taken against errant dealers. Chief Ministers of all State Govt./UT have also been requested to activate their enforcement agencies in detecting & prosecuting cases of adulteration and also involving elected local bodies and consumer organizations in this endeavour. Oil companies have been advised to consider creation of separate wing headed by ED to report to Director other than Director (Marketing) to oversee monitoring of all activities and operations to curb adulteration of petroleum products.	Not accepted due to reasons given in Col. 3	
16.	Ministry should contain the expenditure for the year within the sanctioned budget of Ministry and follow instructions of MOF to observe austerity in non-plan expenditure.	The actual expenditure during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 was well within the budget estimates for these years. The expenditure during 2004-05 has also been kept within the sanctioned budget.	Accepted	
17.	GOI should finalise the related issues as mode of finance, maintenance of inventory, fiscal concessions etc. for setting up strategic storage tanks.	The recommendations of the Committee have been noted and necessary action to finalise the details in this regard are being undertaken.	Accepted	

1	2	3	4	5
18.	GOI should vigorously pursue the issues of shortage of ethanol for blending with petrol, delay in grant of transport permits with State Govts. and should take urgent steps to cover the entire country with 5% ethanol blended petrol by end of 2004-05.	Shortage of molasses which is raw material for production of ethanol has affected the scheme of blending ethanol with petrol. The shortage is expected to continue in the coming sugarcane crushing season also. Due to non-availability of sufficient ethanol, covering the entire country with 5% ethanol blended petrol by the end of 2004-05 does not appear to be feasible.	Covering of entire country with 5% ethanol blended petrol by the end of 2004-05 does not appear to be feasible due to reasons given in Col. 3	
19.	GOI should urgently complete the trials of bio-diesel blended diesel programme and launch the same in various parts of country on large scale subject to satisfactory outcome of trials.	The price of bio-diesel obtained through tender is 3-4 times more than price of petroleum diesel. Although trials have resulted in reduction of smoke and have not caused any operational problem in buses but till the price of biodiesel becomes competitive, launching of bio-diesel programme in various parts of India on a large scale would not be feasible.	Launching of country wide bio-diesel programme not considered feasible at this stage due to reasons given in Col. 3	
20.	GOI should encourage the coal gasification process as alternative energy development and pursue the project in consultation with Planning Commission and Ministry of Power & Deptt. of Fertilizer.	In order to meet the gap between demand and supply of natural gas, GAIL, as one of the measures, has been examining the issue of exploiting synthesis gas (Syngas) recoverable from coal especially in eastern sector. Syngas is a mixture of carbon monoxide and hydrogen which can be commercially used for power generation, fertilizer, hydrogen and methanol production. Based on preliminary discussions which M/s. Shell who are one of the pioneer in field of coal gassification, Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) is being prepared. For finalisation of location of plant and coal	Accepted	



1	2	3	4	5
		availability MOU between GAIL & Coal India Ltd. has been initialised and CIL is awaiting its Boards approval. Further action including consultation with Ministry of Power, Deptt. of Fertilizer and Deptt. of Chemicals & Petrochemicals would be taken up depending upon the DFR.		
21.	The oil marketing companies should launch premium grade of petrol like 'XTRAPREMIUM' of IOCL and "POWER" of HPCL which can deliver peak performance to vehicles. OMCs should obtain feedback from vehicle owners about using such premium brand petrols which will enable them to bring in further improvements in the product.	<p>Regular inter-action with customers at retail outlets as well as surveys/tests have revealed that vehicle owners have experienced one or more of following benefits after using premium grade petrols:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Extra mileage</li> <li>— Extra power &amp; greater acceleration</li> <li>— Easy starting</li> <li>— Smoother running</li> <li>— Knock free drive</li> <li>— Reduced emissions.</li> </ul> <p>Oil companies have taken steps to expand the coverage of premium brand of petrol by launching them in new markets and in additional retail outlets in existing markets.</p>	Accepted	
22.	The CNG system should be extended to cities in eastern region of country such as Kolkata. There should be no time overrun in implementing these projects owing to lack of funds.	<p>Supply of CNG in cities require following facilities—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— source of natural gas supply usually through trunk pipeline.</li> <li>— natural gas distribution network in city</li> <li>— CNG dispensing station comprising basic facilities, access to gas distribution network, CNG compressors, cascades and dispensers.</li> </ul> <p>There is no natural gas pipeline in eastern states of WB, Bihar, Orissa &amp; Jharkhand. The</p>	Accepted, in principle, subject to availability of natural gas	

1	2	3	4	5
		<p>nearest source of gas supply is GAIL's Jagdishpur terminal about 800 km. from Kolkata. CNG projects in these cities will be taken up when source of gas supply is identified and it is found feasible to lay pipelines to supply gas for CNG projects. Funds are no constraint.</p>		
23.	<p>A small but separate Cell be created in IGL to exclusively pursue the job of liaisoning with land owning agencies and OMCs for obtaining sites for CNG facilities specially East Delhi.</p>	<p>A dedicated team of IGL personnel from its Planning Department is constantly in touch with the land owning agencies to get some more plots in East Delhi. Two sites have already been identified in IFC pocket in Gazipur, Mayur Vihar Phase III and are likely to be in possession of IGL in near future.</p>	Accepted	
24.	<p>The frequency of exploration bids for CBM blocks should be increased. Committee be appraised of block-wise progress of CBM activities for next 2 years alongwith specific milestones to be achieved.</p>	<p>Two rounds of bidding of CBM blocks have been completed. 16 contracts have been signed for exploration and production of CBM. 7 blocks in different coal fields have been identified for offer under 3rd round of CBM. The block-wise details of CBM activities have been given in the ATN.</p>	Accepted	
25.	<p>The activities for National Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP) should be followed as per road-map. More emphasis should be given to R&amp;D activities, scientists possessing adequate expertise should be appointed and extra financial benefits besides commendation certificates should be given to them.</p>	<p>At present, all activities under NGHP and its projects are being implemented as per NGHP road-map. Scientists engaged in NGHP are highly experienced, possess adequate expertise in oil and gas exploration/production and have good exposure to gas hydrate related scientific activities. As recommended by the Committee, MOP&amp;NG would consider reward in terms of financial benefits for scientists achieving significant break through.</p>	Accepted	

1	2	3	4	5
26.	The declining trend in field activities of PCRA should be arrested. PCRA should put in more efforts and step up field activities in future.	PCRA would make all efforts to step up its field activities in future.	Accepted	
27.	PCRA should make analysis in declining trend in implementation of promotional soft loan schemes in industrial, transport and agricultural sectors to promote efficient use of energy and its conservation. If necessary, the rate of interests charged for such loans may be reduced to encourage more customers to go in for procurement of energy saving instruments which would lead to further energy conservation.	PCRA has taken the following measures to arrest the downward trend in soft loan disbursement schemes: — Regional and Sub-Regional Offices are being sensitized to spread the awareness about soft loan promotional schemes. — A proposal for lowering the rate of interests, along with other modifications in the existing schemes for soft loan is under consideration.	Accepted	
28.	MOP&NG should take immediate and stringent steps to curb pilferage of crude oil.	Various preventive measures in last two years to curb incidence of pilferage of crude oil. These include: — Mobile patrolling of oilfields. — Bringing of vulnerable and high yielding self-flow wells/ sucker road-pumps under Sarpanch security system/ Gram Rakshakpal. — Sensitize local about serious environmental system and fire hazards involved in theft of crude oil. — Quarterly onland security coordination committee meetings under chairmanship of DG, Police. — Distribution of awards to police officers who detect/ burst gangs involved in oil theft/pilferage, etc. — Possibility of putting in place pipeline monitoring system to detect any third party intervention on pipeline in real-time to enable security to response immediately.	Accepted	

12.13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.*[English]*

(b) Statement correcting reply to Unstarred Question No. 6082 dated 5.5.2005 regarding "LNG from Qatar"

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): "Sir, I beg to correct the reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 6082 answered on the 5th May, 2005 regarding LNG from Qatar as follows:—

Part of the Question

For

Read

(a) & (b)

(a) & (b) During the visit of the Emir of Qatar, a proposal was made by the Indian side for progressively increasing the purchase of LNG from Qatar to 20 million tonnes over the next twenty years. Qatar has agreed in principle of work towards this target. Commercial negotiations will commence shortly.

(a) & (b) During the recent visit of the Emir of Qatar, a proposal was made by the Indian side for progressively increasing the purchase of LNG from Qatar to 20 MTPA over the next ten years.

\*Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2882/2005

This correction statement has been necessitated due to inadvertent error in the answer. The reasons for delay in correcting the reply are given in the Annex.

Inconvenience caused to the hon. Member is regretted.

#### *Annexure*

*Statement showing reasons for delay in reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 6082 dated 5.5.2005 by Shri K.C. Palanisamy, Member of Parliament, regarding LNG from Qatar*

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 6082 by Shri K.C. Palanisamy regarding LNG from Qatar was replied by this Ministry on 5.5.2005. There were some inadvertent errors in the reply to the Question.

The errors came to notice on 6.5.2005 while framing a reply to the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 5059 dated 10.5.2005 regarding Import of LNG from Qatar. Action was initiated immediately to rectify the errors and send a revised reply for laying in the House. However,

since the Budget Session of the Parliament was closing on 13.5.2005, the time available did not permit to lay the revised reply in the House, after completing all the formalities, in that Session.

12.13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hrs.

(v) Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (2004-05) pertaining to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): Sir, I am laying this statement on status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the direction 73A

of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 1st September, 2004. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can lay it on the Table of House.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Without wasting the time of the House, I beg to lay the remaining part of the statement.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a question of wasting the time but of utilising the time in a better manner because there is very little time available.

"The Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 17.8.2004. The Report relates to examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for the year 2004-05.

As action taken statement on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Agriculture on 16.11.2004.

\*Laid on the Table and also place in Library, See No. LT 2823/ 2005.

There are 24 recommendations made by the Committee in the said Report where action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations mainly pertain to the issues like inadequate Budget allocation to the Ministry, provision of 100 per cent grant for processing of horticultural produce in the North-Eastern region, earmarking a certain percentage of credit to the FPI sector in the priority sector bank lending, creation of processed food development fund, early finalisation of Integrated Food Law, liberalisation of pattern of assistance for infrastructure development/food park, merger of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), National Horticulture Board (NHB) with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, supply of fruits to school children as midday meal, higher allocation of fund for technology upgradation scheme, establishment of National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), creation of separate Department for food processing industries in each State, etc.

The present status of implementation of various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my statement and the same is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents given in the Annexure. I would request that this may be treated as read.

#### *Annexure*

##### *Status of Implementation of Recommendations made by Standing Committee on Agriculture in their 4th Report (14th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries*

Recommendation No.	Gist of Recommendation	Status of Implementation
1	2	3
1.	The Committee strongly recommend that curtailment of funds for this Ministry may be avoided at RE stage of the current year and BE of the remaining two years of 10th Plan Period may be substantially increased so that Food Processing Sector is able to play the envisaged catalytic role in transforming the national economy in a big way.	The recommendation of the committee was brought to notice of the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission. Though BE of 2004-05 of Rs. 110 crore was reduced to RE of Rs. 85 crore, however, an amount of Rs. 180 crore has been provided in BE 2005-06.
2.	The Committee, recommend that the Ministry should reconsider the matter and launch the	North Eastern States are being treated as difficult areas. Accordingly, financial assistance @ 33.33% of the project

1	2	3
	100 per cent centrally funded Scheme for tapping the tremendous and unique potential of Horticulture Produce of the North Eastern Region also hilly States for rejuvenation of the entire economy of the region.	cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakh is being granted for project in North East as against 25% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakh in general areas. For setting up of units/facilities for processing horticulture produce, 50% of the capital cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 4.00 crore is provided under Mini Mission IV programme. As financial assistance is in nature of grant and a stake is required from the promoter, it is not possible to provide cent per cent central fund for the projects in North East. However, a proposal to enhance the rate of assistance from 33.33% to 50% of the project cost has been formulated and had been sent to the Planning Commission for their Consideration. The Planning Commission has not agreed and the matter shall be taken up again.
3.	The Committee, strongly desire that the Ministry of Food Processing Industries take up the matter again with the Ministry of Finance and make out a stronger case for earmarking a certain percentage credit tot he Food Processing Sector by the financial institutions.	As desired by the Committee, the proposal to earmark a certain percentage of credit to the food processing sector under priority sector lending has been again referred to the Department of Banking for consideration. Their response is awaited.
4.	The Ministry should seriously take up the matter of creation of a "Food Development Fund" with the Planning Commission again in order to make institutional finance available to new entrepreneurs on soft terms so as to give a fillip and stimulus to the all development of the Food Processing Sector.	Several plan schemes like infrastructure development scheme, technology upgradation/establishment of FPI units, HRD, quality assurance R & D, backward & forward linkages, generic promotion etc., have been implemented for promotion of food processing industries. An amount of Rs. 180 crore has been provided for expenditure under these schemes in BE 2005-06. An enhanced amount is likely to be allocated for these schemes in the subsequent years. According to available information bank credit is hardly a problem for genuine entrepreneurs. As such, creation of food development fund may not be viable proposition. The Ministry already undertakes EDP programmes with a view to enhance entrepreneurial skills of the intending persons.
5.	The Committee desire the Ministry of Food Processing Industries to expedite the matter and present the integrated draft Food Laws to the Parliament at the earliest.	Group of Ministers (GoM) set up for examination and finalization of integrated food law has since cleared the proposal. The cabinet has in its meeting dated 04.08.2005 in-principle approved the Integrated Food Law. Further necessary action has been initiated.
6.	The Committee, strongly recommend that the allocation for infrastructure Scheme should be enhanced positively at the RE Stage for 2004-	Allocation for the infrastructure scheme has been increased to Rs. 49.00 crore in 2005-06. Progress/ functioning of food parks is being reviewed on regular

1	2	3
	<p>05 and also in the coming years so that all the activities under the Schemes are fully operational in order to develop infrastructural facilities for Food Processing Sector. The Committee further desire the Ministry to liberalise the pattern of assistance and generate awareness about the Food Parks in order to attract more viable proposals and make concerted efforts to make all the sanctioned Food Parks fully operational as early as possible.</p>	<p>basis. In order to discuss various issues including problems being faced by food parks, a Conference of State Nodal Agencies was held in New Delhi on 13th October 2004. A Conference of State Ministries of Food Processing was also held on 5th November 2004. State Governments have been requested to make vigorous efforts in coordination with implementing agencies so as to make food parks operational at the earliest. As recommended by the Committee, a proposal to liberalize the pattern of assistance under infrastructure scheme for Food Park, abattoirs has been formulated and sent to the Planning Commission. Their approval is still awaited.</p>
7.	<p>All promotional organizations viz. APEDA, MPEDA, NHB etc. working in the field of food processing, preservation and storage should be brought under single administrative control of MFPI.</p>	<p>The matter regarding merger of APEDA, NHB etc., with MFPI has been considered by the Committee of Secretaries and found not acceptable so far. A proposal has again been moved to the Cabinet Secretariat.</p>
8.	<p>The Ministry in coordination with State Nodal Agencies and Directorate of Fruit and Vegetable Processing should examine the feasibility of supply of fruits in consultation with the Ministry of Human Resources Development for distribution to schools as part of Mid Day Meal.</p>	<p>Matters relating to schools fall within purview of the Ministry of HRD/State Governments. Accordingly, the recommendations of the Committee have been forwarded to the Ministry of HRD for necessary action.</p>
9.	<p>The Committee strongly recommend that the Scheme of cold chain be implemented as early as possible. The Ministry should also take all the essential measure in cooperation with the concerned Ministries for improving the roads leading from farm where perishable goods are produced to the Urban Market Areas. The Government may also consider providing of refrigerated Rail Wagons, cargo and Vessels to transport the perishable food items from the remote locations to major markets and consumers centres so that growers get remunerative prices and the from the remote locations to major markets and consumers centres so that growers get remunerative prices and the consumers get quality fresh food item.</p> <p>The Committee desire that the Ministry may identify the district and regions having major fruit and vegetable clusters so that these could be made the nodal points for creation of Food Processing infrastructure facilities.</p>	<p>The Scheme of Cold Chain facility has since been implemented.</p> <p>Food processing infrastructure facilities like food parks are generally created in regions/areas having adequate agricultural produce clusters. So far 50 Food Parks have been sanctioned in different parts of the country. As regards improvement of roads, provision of refrigerated rail wagons etc., the recommendation has been brought to the notice of the Ministries of Surface Transport and Railways for taking necessary action.</p>

1	2	3
10.	The Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission be pursued to realize the importance of Human Resource Development in the Food Processing Sector and increase the allocation in future stages.	The MFPI is taking necessary steps for development of human resources for FPI sector within the available resources. Meanwhile enhanced amount of Rs. 37.00 crore has been provided for HRD scheme in BE 2005-2006.
11.	A coordinated approach needs to be adopted for promoting cultivation of processable varieties and popularize the same among processors and farmers. The Committee expect the Ministry to prepare, compile and disseminate information on all processable varieties of Fruits and Vegetables and attract entrepreneurs in the field of Food Processing.	A scheme of backward linkages has been implemented by the Ministry facilitating inter-alia for cultivation of processable variety of farm produce. Ministry also extends financial assistance to research institutions like ICAR and other R&D institutes, which undertake programmes for research of processable variety of farm produce. These recommendations have also been brought to the notice of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education with request to nominate representatives of the Food Processing Industry on Boards of ICAR etc. so as facilitate better understanding of mutual interest.
12.	The Ministry should direct their attention and coordinate with Indian Council of Agricultural Research, (ICAR) Agricultural and Processed Export Development Authority (APEDA), National Horticultural Board (NHB) and the State Department to popularise the development of organic food processing and its marketing.	The recommendation has been noted for appropriate action in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture and other agencies.
13.	The Ministry to extend the Food Fortification Scheme to all the flourmills and examine earnestly the feasibility of making the existing Scheme for fortification popular and institute measures accordingly to control malnutrition.	The matter regarding food fortification, nutrition etc., is being handled by the Department of Women & Child Development. However, the provisions of the scheme were discussed in the Conference of SNAs held on 13th October, 2004 and they have been requested to take necessary steps for popularizing the scheme among the entrepreneurs.
14.	The Ministry should mount an effective publicity campaign through print and electronic media including local news papers giving detailed information about benefits likely to accrue from its Schemes, procedure for availing the benefits, terms of investment, avenues for earning a handsome return etc. so as to attract more entrepreneurs.	The recommendation of the Committee has been noted and necessary action already taken to give publicity about benefits of the schemes of the Ministry.
15.	The Committee feel strongly that collection and compilation of relevant data is an essential since-qua-non for the formation of National Policy for Food Processing sector and therefore expect	An action plan/vision document for development of food processing sector has been prepared. Necessary action to collect and compile data about FPI sector for use of the Ministry is also in progress.



1	2	3
	the Ministry of make concerted endeavours in this direction.	
16.	The Committee, strongly recommend that in order to strengthen the Food Processing Sector, SNAs and PPRC should be strengthened further and enhanced allocations made in the future years.	A proposal to amend the scheme for providing higher grant of SNAs has been formulated and sent to the Ministry of Finance for their consideration. Their approval is awaited. As regards PPRC, it has been decided to upgrade the Institute to include activities like processing of millets, oilseeds and pulses within its ambit. Necessary fund is provided to the institute from the Budget of the Ministry.
17.	The Committee recommend that the Scheme for Quality Control and Research Development should get higher allocation and the Ministry should take the responsibility to use these allocations fully by formulating attractive schemes to develop all the segments of Food Processing. Provision should be made within the Scheme to provide attractive incentives to the research personnel employed in the projects.	The budget allocation for the scheme of quality assurance & R&D has been increased from Rs. 3.00 crore in RE 2004-05 to Rs. 10.00 crore in BE 2005-06. A proposal to liberalize the provision/pattern of assistance under the Scheme is also under consideration.
18.	The Committee strongly recommend that the scheme for establishment/modernization of FPIs should be scheme for establishment/modernization of FPIs should be accorded due importance and accordingly made higher allocations.	The Government has since increased budget allocation for the scheme for technology upgradation/establishment/modernization of FPIs from Rs. 35.00 crore in BE 2004-05 to Rs. 49.00 crore in BE 2005-06. Approvals for enhancing allocation of fund from Rs. 98 crore to Rs. 295 crore in X Plan are being sought.
19.	The Committee appreciate the efforts being undertaken by the Ministry about NIFTEM and expect early finalisation of the feasibility report so that the apex body for food developing, food technology and management is set up at the earliest.	Detailed Project Report on NIFTEM is ready. The proposal has been accepted by the Planning Commission in principle.
20.	The Ministry of Food Processing Industries to borrow the technologies adopted by countries like Japan, Thailand and Bangladesh to exploit the existing vast marine as well as inland fishery resources in India. Special attention also needs to be directed to promote cold water fisheries and the fisheries in perennially water logged areas.	Keeping in view the recommendation of the Standing Committee all States/UTs have been requested to take necessary steps for popularizing mechanical dryer in fish drying and also for utilizing available applied research in tapping solar energy for fish drying. Assistance of NCDC has also been sought to advise fisheries cooperatives in this regard. CFTRI Mysore and Central Institute to Fish Technology, have also been requested to initiate measures to intensify research on technology for cost effective mechanical dryers.

1	2	3
21.	It is essential that the Ministry institute a mechanism for receipt of Utilization Certificates within the stipulated time frame. In case of apparent failure, the Ministry can consider to stop the second installment and also take stringent action against the defaulters making them to refund the money, together with penal interest thereon. The Committee would also like to furnish a statement of the grants sanctioned, state-wise and the utilization certificates received and awaited.	A time frame has since been prescribed for obtaining UCs in respect of 1st and 2nd installments. 2nd installment is withheld if UC for 1st installment is not received. The requisite information about UCs is being collected and will be furnished to the Committee on receipt of the same from State Governments.
22.	The Committee, strongly recommend that the Ministry should reexamine the scheme to make it encouraging and popular so that more viable proposals come forward to the Ministry for availing of assistance with a view to attaining the objective of standard quality and hygienic milk and milk products in the country.	The procedure regarding processing of applications for grant to FPI units including dairy units has been simplified and streamlined. As a result several cases for assistance to dairy units have been approved.
23.	The Ministry should take all the necessary steps in coordination with the concerned Ministries to patent the Indian Vegetarian Food items in right earnest.	The recommendation has been forwarded to the Departments of Commerce and Industrial Policy & Promotion for taking necessary action in the matter.
24.	The Committee recommend that the Ministry of Food Processing Industries being the nodal Ministry to develop Food Processing Industries in the country, should persuade the State Governments for creation of a separate Ministry/Department exclusively to deal with Food Processing Industries, where they do not exist for the speedy Development of Food Processing Industries.	Based on the recommendation of the Committee, the State Govts. were persuaded to create a separate Ministry/Deptt. exclusively to deal with promotion of FPIs in the respective States. The Govts. of U.P., W.B. and Karnataka have since set up separate Ministry/Depts. for food processing. Similar information from other States is awaited.

12.14 hrs.

- (vi) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the Second Report of the Standing Committee on Energy on Demands For Grants (2004-05) pertaining to the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources**

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF  
NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS

MUTTEMWAR): Sir, with your permission, I beg to lay the statement on the Table of the House.

\*I am laying this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 2nd Report of the Standing committee on Energy (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the direction 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin—Part II dated September 01, 2004.

\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 2824/2005.

The 2nd Report of the Standing Committee on Energy (14th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 19.08.2004. The report relates to the Examination of Demands for Grants of Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Source for 2004-2005.

Action Taken Statements on the recommendations/ observations contained in the 2nd report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Energy on 24.11.2004.

There are 17 recommendations made by the Committee in the said report where action is called for

on the part of the Government. These recommendations pertain mainly to issues like augmenting budgetary resources, implementation related issues of various renewable energy programmes, especially small hydro power, wind power, biomass power and remote village electrification.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement which is laid on the Table of House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out the contents of this Annexure. I would request that this may please be considered as read.

### *Annexure*

#### *Action Taken on the Recommendations/Observations Contained in the 2nd Report of the Standing Committee on Energy (2004-05)*

Sl.No.	Recommendations	Para Nos.	Status of Implementation
1	2	3	4
1.	Variations in expenditure are due to inherent lacunae in the budgetary mechanism of the Ministry which require urgent attention and intensive discussions with the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission to ensure the full utilization of allocated budget in a uniform manner spreading over all the four quarters of the financial year.	2.9	The Ministry's schemes involves provision of Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to a host of agencies, including State Governments. Thus, for implementation purposes, it is solely dependent upon them and consequently the quantum and pattern of utilization of funds is sometimes affected by field level constraints over which the Ministry has no direct control. Despite the aforesaid, every effort is made to ensure that the quantum and pattern of utilization of funds are satisfactory.
2.	MNES/IREDA should take effective steps to review their procedures etc. and simplify requirements of documents so that the targeted utilization of IEFR funds can be achieved.	2.10	Despite best efforts, there will be some variation between BE/RE and actual IEFR as IREDA's requirement of resources is dependent upon actual disbursements that are affected by a host of external factors such as delays by borrowers in project implementation, delays in repayments etc., over which IREDA has no direct control. Even then, every effort is made to narrow down variations to the minimum. Further, IREDA has taken steps to simplify its systems, procedures and documentation requirements.
3.	The Ministry should seek budgetary support for increased outlays in R&D and chalk out a	2.11	During 2005-06, the BE for R&D and support for technical institutions increased from

1	2	3	4
	programme to utilize the amount. The Committee may be informed of the action taken in the matter.		Rs. 24.25 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 54.10 crore during 2005-06, which corresponds to around 9 per cent of the GBS. In the medium-term, the aim is to increase this share to around one-third of GBS in fulfillment of the goal of making the country a net-foreign exchange earner in the new and renewable energy sector and in keeping with charter of the Ministry, being a scientific department.
4.	The Committee recommends that the Ministry should conduct a detailed study into this issue and formulate a viable scheme of energy from metropolitan waste.	2.12	A scheme for Municipal Solid Wastes (MSW) to Energy has been formulated. However, on account of a recent interim order of the Supreme Court its operation has been stayed. Final orders of the Court are awaited.
5.	Steps to be taken to encourage the private sector participation in implementation of SHP projects and remove the difficulties faced by them in the execution of the SHP projects. The Committee recommend that these should be identified with the help of entrepreneurs and corrective steps be taken.	2.33	The aim is to deploy around 2 percent of the additional power generating installed capacity from Small Hydro Power (SHP) during the 10th and 11th Plan periods corresponding to around 2000 MW. As much as 2 per cent, <i>i.e.</i> , 267 MW of the additional power generating installed capacity that has been commissioned during the first 3 years of the 10th Plan (2002-2005) has come from small hydro power. The target of 2 percent from small hydro power is being maintained. The incentive scheme of the Ministry that supports SHP projects has been reviewed to make it more effective for private investment with the level of CFA for both the private and public sectors pegged at the same level. A detailed resource assessment is proposed to be carried out with the aim of bringing down transaction costs of small hydro power developers.
6.	The committee feels that the Government should also examine whether the amount provided as a financial support under SHP programme for the projects to identify new sites is sufficient or needs any enhancement.	2.34	The financial assistance provided under the scheme of identifying new sites has by and large served its purpose as SHP development is meeting the broad aim of 2% of the additional power generation installed capacity in the country being contributed by this sector.
7.	Appropriate steps should be taken to attract investors for canal based SHP projects.	2.35	As stated in response to Recommendations Serial No. 5, CFA for the private sector has been made at par with the public sector which should further help in attracting investment in the SHP sector, including canal based and dam-toe-end projects.

1	2	3	4
8.	SHP projects which can be renovated and modernized in a cost-effective manner should be encouraged to undertake R&M works in a time-bound manner.	2.26	The existing scheme encourages taking up R&M of existing state/public sector SHP projects which are over 7 years old subject to fulfillment of scheme conditions and the proposal having a positive benefit-cost ratio.
9.	The variation in the actual expenditure vis-a-vis BE/RE under wind power programme clearly reflects the faulty budgetary estimation of the Ministry which in the opinion of the Committee needs to be rectified. The Ministry should also have close monitoring for such activities.	2.46	Wind Power Projects do not receive any Central Financial Assistance. However, funds are sought only for promotional and institutional support for activities such as resource assessment etc. Thus, it is likely that there may not be a one to one correspondence between budget allocation and targets for the sector. For instance, the likely investment in wind power sector during 2004-05 is estimated at around Rs. 5500 crore against which the actual expenditure for the year was only Rs. 13.69 crore on the sector.
10.	The Committee desires that the Ministry should keep its efforts to attract private participation in wind power potential states so as to achieve the targets.	2.47	Under the Electricity Act, 2003, regulators are empowered to determine a quota for grid-interactive renewable power and fix preferential tariffs for the same. Since the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) are quasi-judicial bodies, the role of the Ministry is limited to providing inputs for the electricity and tariff policies. However, steps are being taken to improve resource assessment data base and categorize the quality of potential sites on a 7 point scale, akin to that adopted in the United States.
11.	The Committee desires that sufficient funds should be allotted for R&D under wind energy programme and should ensure that the funds available are optimally utilized.	2.48	The aim of the Ministry is to support design, development and commercialization of indigenous MW scale wind electric generators of international standards, specifications and performance parameters and that are lower in costs. Internationally, wind power generation costs are coming down and efforts are underway to align indigenous wind power generation costs to international levels by, among other things, better resource classification and more advanced resource data base as stated in response to Recommendation Sl. No. 10.
12.	The Committee recommends that the Government should make all out efforts to utilize the allocated amount fully under Remote Village Electrification Programme and inform accordingly.	2.60	The Recommendation has been noted for appropriate necessary action.

1	2	3	4
13.	The Committee desire that the Ministry should multiply their efforts and ensure the participation of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Cooperative Societies, NGOs etc. on a large scale under Remote village Electrification Programme.	2.61	The Recommendation has been noted for appropriate necessary action.
14.	The committee recommends that the Ministry should approach the Planning Commission/ Ministry of Finance for an increase in outlay for Remote village Electrification Programme so that the coverage of this programme to be increased from 5000 villages to 10000 villages or more during the 10th plan itself.	2.62	The 10th Plan outlay for the Village Electrification Programme for electrification of 5,000 villages is Rs. 735 crore. However, to align the scheme to the aims of the Rajeev Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) and the National Electricity Policy 2005 (NEP), it now envisages electrification of remote census villages through distributed generation by making available a minimum "lifeline" supply level of 1 kWh/ household/day of reliable and quality electricity of specified standards at reasonable rates, as a merit good. Consequently, an amount of Rs. 910 crore would be required during the 10th Plan period. The additional fund requirement of Rs. 175 crore for providing electricity to 5000 remote census villages will be met out of the existing 10th Plan outlay of the Ministry. The Planning Commission has been requested to accept the same. During the 11th Plan, however, the remaining 20,000 remote census village are proposed to be covered for which a provision of around Rs. 5400 crore will be sought at an average rate of Rs. 27 lakh per village at 90 per cent CFA level.
15.	The Committee feels that Government should review IREP and RVEP programmes and see whether these can be run as a unified programme so that there is no duplication of efforts and if kept separate should be supplementary to each other.	2.63	While the Remote Village Programme is expected to cover only around 25,000 remote census villages, IREP or a related programme could cover the remaining 5.55 lakh electrified or to be electrified census villages in the country for provision of non-electricial renewable energy services of lighting, cooking and motive power. The Remote Village Electrification programme whose aims are aligned to national goals should ideally retain its distinctive character for focused implementation and effective monitoring.
16.	The Committee thrust the Government would make persistent Research and Development in biomass and a multi-fold expansion of the deployment of these systems in the coming years	2.71	A separate bio-energy development groups has been created in the Ministry with the sole aim and purpose of developing all bio-energy related technologies. Alongside, the National Institute of

1	2	3	4
	may become a reality. The Committee may be apprised of the efforts made in this direction.		Renewable Energy (NIRE), an institution of this Ministry at Jalandhar, Punjab, would also focus solely on bio-energy and synthetic fuels.
17.	The Committee strongly recommends that the Ministry should draw up an action plan including technology and research support for exploitation of bagasse co-generation and Committee would also like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard. Similarly, the Committee feel that the Ministry should formulate a policy which facilitate single window clearance for such projects in sugarcane producing States, e.g., Maharashtra, U.P., Tamil Nadu etc. The Government could also consider giving financial incentives for such projects.	2.72	Many sugar mills for historic reasons, especially those in the cooperative sector are not financially sound apart from facing liquidity problems. They have also not been in a position to expand to the minimum "economic size" of 2500 tonnes/day. Consequently, many sugar mills with a potential for cogeneration are unable to access bank loans for putting up cogeneration facilities. Further, cogeneration is more viable in sugar mills having a longer crushing season, especially those along the coast line. Thus, many sugar mills not having these limitations have already gone in for cogeneration or are showing interest to do so. The Ministry supports cogeneration through provision of CFA. Since the matter of preparing bankable proposals for cogeneration is a complex issue because of the limitations stated above, alternate routes are being explored to introduce joint ventures wherein the JV partner would bring in a bulk of the requirement of additional funds for setting up cogeneration facilities and share the benefits with the sugar mill owner of the sale proceeds of surplus electricity.

12.14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

**(vii) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Second, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Reports of the Standing Committee on Railways**

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): Sir, with your permission, I beg to lay the statement on the Table of the House.

'I am laying this statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 2nd, 5th, 6th and 7th Reports of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways (2004-05) in pursuance of Directive 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha

issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II, dated 1st September, 2004.

The 2nd Report of the Committee on "On-going & Pending Projects," presented to the Lok Sabha on 02.12.2004, contained 4 recommendations which were considered by the Ministry of Railways and Action Taken Notes thereon were furnished to the Committee on 05.05.2005 (English version) and on 25.05.2005 (Hindi version).

The 5th Report of the Committee on "Safety and Security in Indian Railways," presented to the Lok Sabha on 22.12.2004, contained 26 recommendations and Action Taken Notes indicating the action taken by Government thereon have been furnished to the Committee on 27.05.2005 (English version) and on 07.06.2005 (Hindi version).

The 6th Report of the Committee on "Rail Network in North East Region—Expansion and Investment",

[Shri R. Velu]

presented to the Lok Sabha on 02.04.2005 contained 12 recommendations and Action Taken Notes indicating the action taken by the Government thereon have been furnished to the Committee on 03.06.2005 (English version) and on 28.06.2005 (Hindi version).

The 7th Report of the Committee on "ATNs on 1st Report on Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the Ministry of Railways," presented to the Lok Sabha on 02.03.2005, contained 4 recommendations and Action Taken Notes thereon have been furnished to the Committee on 27.05.2005 (English version) and on 06.06.2005 (Hindi version).

Statements showing details of all the recommendations contained in these Report and implementation status thereof are enclosed. Since the statements are voluminous, I request that the same may be taken as read.

12.15 hrs.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the remaining part of the Session will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's order Paper.
2. Consideration and adoption of the recommendation of Railway Convention Committee (2004) contained in their Second Report on 'Rate of Dividend for 2005-06 and other ancillary matters'.
3. Consideration and passing of the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2005 as passed by Rajya Sabha.
4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, as passed by Rajya Sabha:—
  - (a) The Hindu Succession (Amendment) Bill, 2005;
  - (b) The Displaced Persons Claims and Other Laws (Repeal) Bill, 2005;

- (c) The Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Amendment Bill, 2005;
- (d) The Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum (Amendment) Bill, 2005; and
- (e) The Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

- (1) The problem faced by the students of MBA, Department of NIT, Durgapur and their career is being jeopardised.
- (2) Due to damage of ROB at Panagarh NH-2 within three years of its construction and NH-2 four-laning are not constructed as a result from Moregran junction to Panagarh is completely jammed which is the life line of Eastern India.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava — Not present.

Shri Ramdas Athawale — not present.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Speaker, Sir, following items may be included in the agenda of next week:—

1. There is a need to launch special drive for recruitment in para-military forces for the youths of hilly border areas of Uttaranchal by fixing special quota like Jammu-Kashmir.
2. Keeping in view the future of students there is a need to make urgent appointment to the hundreds of vacant posts of lecturers and teachers lying in government High Schools and Intermediate Colleges in the hilly states of the country especially in Uttaranchal.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): The following items may be included in the next week's list of Business:

1. The reservation for the women belonging to the scheduled castes be provided on the basis of their population, the right to decide the women candidate's seat should be left to the political



parties and not to the Government or Commissions.

2. Ten percent seats for women should be reserved separately instead of 33% and the reservation for SC women should be made separately. The seats reserved earlier should remain same.

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR MANJHI (Gaya): The following subject may be included in the next week's List of Business:

Need to declare the Pitra Paksha Fair to be held in Gaya city in Bihar as a National Fair.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): The following subjects may be included in the next week's List of Business:

1. The destitutes, handicapped and deaf and dumb people who are included in the category of below poverty line are getting very little assistance from the Government. These people are facing difficulty in earning their livelihood. There is a need for the Government to declare Guaranteed Work Scheme for their development, accommodation and treatment and provide guarantee of other facilities like free education, treatment and facilities for the development of one lakh people in a year in every state be provided.
2. Guru Ghasidas University under Bilaspur Lok Sabha Constituency in Chhattisgarh has been running for many years. There is a provision under the Central rules for setting up a university in the scheduled castes dominated areas. Out of the 90 Assembly seats, 34 seats are reserved for the tribal people and 10 seats for the scheduled castes. Therefore, the Guru Ghasidas University situated in the scheduled castes dominated areas be made a Central University.

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following subjects may be included for consideration in the next week's List of Business:

1. The National Highway No. 27 is in a very dilapidated condition from Suhagi till Charghat before the beginning of Uttar Pradesh territory. It is a very important highway and thousands of

vehicles ply on it everyday. There are a large number of industrial units, schools and degree level schools on both sides of this highway due to which this route always remains busy. There is always an apprehension of accidents and they do take place also due to the dilapidated condition of this highway. Therefore, there is a need for consideration of making necessary allocation of fund for renovation of the said NH-27.

2. Land from the farmers is acquired by the CIL to open coal mines for mining and marketing of coal. There is a need for consideration of CIL's working in regard to the resentment arising among people due to thousands of cases related to rehabilitation, job and monetary compensation remaining pending, obstruction in coal supply for small scale industries due to adoption of e-education system and gross irregularities committed in allocation of captive blocks for industries and core sector.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following subjects may be included in the next week's List of Business:

1. The FM Channel started from the Doordarshan Kendra in Jaipur should air programme for 24 hours like Delhi and it should play more Bhakti Sangeet and national programmes.
2. More financial assistance and financial package should be given to Rajasthan under Gadgil Formula as per the Rajasthan's population, area, geographical situation and it receives only one per cent water of the rivers in the country.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chandramani Tripathi—not present.

Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey to speak.

*[Translation]*

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker, kindly include the following item of public importance in the List of Business for the next week:—

"The work of gauge-conversion on the Udaipur-Chittorgarh Rail Division has been completed by the

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey]

Railways recently keeping in mind the needs of the general public. Even so, thousands of passengers would have to face hardships until the gauge-conversion work on the Nimach-Rattlam division is completed. Hence, work on this division which is on the priority list, may be completed expeditiously in public interest."

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice for Privilege Motion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is under my consideration.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: It has been mentioned therein that the reply given in respect of APM was incorrect.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow an important matter to be discussed.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You are aware that the subject of Calling Attention is being taken up at present. So you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): Sir, I have given notice to speak about use of non-iodized salt which is affecting the fisheries industry. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your name is not here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Sir, it is a very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: It may be very serious. But your name has to come out successfully in the ballot. Better luck next time. I will compensate you in some other manner.

...(Interruptions)

12.23 hrs.

### CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

- (i) Situation arising out of unsatisfactory utilization of funds under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Uttaranchal and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Rural Development Minister towards the following matter of public importance which needs to be given urgent attention and request him to give a statement in this regard:

"Situation arising out of unsatisfactory utilisation of funds under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana in Uttaranchal and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Mr. Speaker, 'Rural Roads' is a state subject enlisted at serial number 13 in List-II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. However, the Rural Development Ministry provides funds to the states in the form of hundred percent Central Assistance for the construction and repair of rural roads under the Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, you can lay the speech on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, I lay the rest of the statement on the Table of the House.

\*2. The Union Government is fully aware of the fact that the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Uttaranchal is not progressing satisfactorily. 67 out of 69 roads works sanctioned in stage-I (2000-01) have been completed. 53 of the 92 road works sanctioned in stage-II (2001-03) have been completed. In stage-III the Rural Development Ministry had sanctioned 52 road works on 7.6.2003. None of the road works sanctioned in stage-III has been completed so far. Rural Development Ministry has been urging the State Government to expedite the completion of the works for which sanction had been given earlier.

3. The Ministry had asked the State Government on 20 May 2003 to forward its proposals regarding stage-IV (2004-05) which involves an amount of Rs. 60 crores by 30 October.

The State Government was informed about the size of proposals of Stage-IV on 1st February 2005. Having assigned all the works for stage-III, the Chief Minister of Uttaranchal was requested to send proposal worth Rupees 215 crore both for stage IV and stage-V on 29th April 2005. The proposals for stage-IV and stage-V have not been received from the State Government so far.

4. Funds for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana are released to states under fixed terms and conditions of guidelines of the programme, which includes achieving certain levels of actual and financial progress of the last stages. Rs. 140.41 crore was released for stage-II in two instalments—Rs. 70 crore for 2001-2002 and Rs. 70.41 crore for 2003-04. The State Government has informed about the expenditure of Rs. 56.13 crore in stage-I and that of Rs. 65.89 in stage-II. It has been informed that no expenditure has been incurred during stage-III. The unspent balance amount with the State Government is Rs. 79.02. no fund has been released for stage-III so far.

5. Ministry of Rural Development has suggested to the State Government to expedite the work from time to time. The State Government has stated that the reasons for the slow progress in work are long and multi-level procedure for transfer of forest land, limited season for working, bad weather, unavailability of contractors having adequate capacity, land-slide and too much rain during rainy season resulting in damage to roads, much length of the roads to be built for which only single working phase machines are available, rocky and hilly region being hurdle in moving machines, and delay in the construction of connecting bridges. The points on which the ministry is trying to put pressure on the State Government are following:

- (a) It was stated to the State Government during regional review meeting on 8-9 May 2003 that the progress in works sanctioned during 2001-02 is very slow and that the work could not be started in 10 districts due to lack of sanction of forest land. The State Government was directed to examine whether the works of this stage or such works, which could not be started due to issues like lack of sanction of land, can be started in the following stage. It was advised to complete the works under this stage in a time-bound manner. It was specially requested to the State Government to expedite the procedure for sanction of land and to examine the need for sanction of forest land for future construction of road under this scheme.
- (b) It was told to the states during regional review meeting held from 10-12 November, 2003 that the progress in works is a matter of concern and the states should solve this problem. The matter was raised once again during the regional review meeting with states held from 26-27 October 2004.
- (c) The Joint Secretary to the Ministry went on a tour to Uttaranchal during April 2005 due to slow progress in work and extensively reviewed the implementation of P.M.G.S.Y. in the State.
- (d) The Minister of Rural Development informed the Chief Minister of States about the slow progress in work and also suggested remedial measures to expedite the progress in works. The ministry also assured the state to extend all possible

\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, see No. LT 2826/2005.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

help. The Chief Minister was also requested to review the position and to issue instructions to take remedial measures.

- (e) The Ministry concluded that there is need to enhance Organizational, technical, managerial and contractual capacity of the state to increase the progress of implementation in the state. Keeping this in view, it was suggested to the State Government. (on 13th June 2005) that it may appoint a Project Implementation Counsellor (P.I.C.) to assist the units of programme implementation. P.I.C.s will be provided funds from P.M.G.S.Y. P.I.C.s may assist project implementation units in preparing proposal for the project, receiving works, supervision of construction, monitoring of execution of the project, providing training to the workers of project implementation unit and contractors and taking social and environmental security measures.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am disappointed on receiving such a reply from Hon'ble Minister. The problem was placed before him and he has furnished a lot of datas in two-two and half page statement. But that will not solve the problem because he has not shown any concern about that. It is quite unclear from the reply as to what kind of inference could be arrived at by analysing the said data alongwith the possible solutions that could be adopted to solve the existing problems arrived at through the said data analysis.

I would like to refer to the figures given by the hon'ble Minister in his statement and in reply to questions asked in the House in this regard. I expected the hon. Minister to reach at cestern conclusion after analysing the aforesaid data. He has stated the reasons as to why funds are not being utilized and why roads are not being constructed. He has accepted the reasons and figures furnished by the State Government in this regard. Have you ensured the work is being undertaken with the same pace with which the work was carried out earlier? According to figures furnished by you this scheme was started in the year 2000. Work on it was started in the beginning of 2001 and Rs. 60.63 crores were provided during the first year *i.e.* from January 2001 to January 2002 out of which Rs. 54.11 crores were utilized. The Government sanctioned 69 roads and out of them 65 roads were completed. More than 284 kilometers of roads

were completed with one year. Difficulties are experienced in the very first year to launch of any new scheme but some how schemes were completed. In 2001-2002 when another Government took over there which is giving one or another excuses, now, no work has been done. It has sanctioned Rs. 70 crores but no work was done. Hon. Minister has given the collective figures for the two years *i.e.* for 2002-2003. In these two year 92 items of work were sanctioned and 53 roads were completed upto June, 2005. 65 roads out of 69 were completed within a year and on the other hand 53 roads out of 92 were completed in four years. Only 101 kilometers of roads were constructed during a time span of four years whereas 284 kilometers of roads were constructed in a year.

Further, in 2003-2004 neither funds were provided nor roads were constructed. Neither sanction is received for work is done during the entire year and the work remains stalled. Similarly in the year 2004-2005 neither funds were provided nor any work was done but in figures furnished it is said that funds are already available with them. So funds are not released as well. It is said that construction of rural roads is the duty of the State Governments. The Government is providing funds but work is not being done by the states and you are absolving of all responsibility. What sort of control you are having from here, it is very disgusting. I was expecting that some work will be done under it. I met the hon. Minister two three times in this regard, besides writing letters. He has replied to my letters and the present as well the previous Government also used to say from time to time that where work is not being done, warnings are being issued and they are asked to explain the reasons for non-performance. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reasons attributed by the hon. Minister happens to be reasons given by them. In para 5(A) he has stated that in the regional review meeting convened on 8-9 May, 2003 orders were issued to the state to conduct inquiry and the state in its reply has informed him that the state was informed of slow progress of work, but

*[English]*

The reply reads:

"The State Government has informed that the slow progress of work is due to lengthy and multistage process of transfer of forest land, limited working seasons, extreme weather conditions, non-availability of contractors with adequate capacity, excessive rains and landslides. ..."

[*Translation*]

Were these things not there in the first year? Were these things not there in the year 2000 and 2001? Initially the Government was new and the scheme was new. Now this Government is in the office for the last three years and you have assumed that everything is right. Is the Union Government so helpless that it cannot do anything? You are simply issuing warnings. Don't we have any way out to get the work done? Hon'ble Minister, Sir, it is not fair. Hon'ble Minister Sir, the reasons which have been attributed by them are not genuine and I fail to understand as to why your ministry is not aware of the genuine reasons. I want to tell you that after formation of the new Government *i.e.* after formation of Congress Government after B.J.P. Government a dispute arose as to who will do this work either the Ministry of Rural Development or PWD. During our regime it was done by P.W.D. as it was having mechanism, manpower and an entire organisation. The Ministry of Rural Development doesn't have any mechanism and this task has been assigned to it. There was a rift between them on this issue. Perhaps rules do not permit me to explain the reasons of rift between them? The Ministry of Rural Development doesn't have any system and manpower for this. Therefore, they have assigned this task to a company namely Mega Tech. A group of five persons was formed and work was assigned to a company. A team of 5-6 people has been constituted in 13 districts. Not even a single person visited my district and that is why a complaint was made. I would like to remind you that your predecessor wrote a strongly worded letter to the Chief Minister that this is not fair. They don't have any system for this. Thereafter you have written as to what sort of warning was issued. The reason is not that it is raining or land sliding has been taking place. This is happening in the entire country and Uttaranchal. In a year 284 kilometers of roads have been constructed. The reason is that the work has been assigned to such organization which doesn't possess capability and capacity keeping in view the vested interests. This was the rift between them. They did only half the work. The roads are still incomplete. The company which took up the work, did not complete it. Now, again it has been handed over to PWD. The work done by them is not visible there even today. Those engineers have fled. On being asked, the officials working in the PWD say that they are not aware of the progress of the work on road. Hon'ble Minister, Sir, this is the aspect which you should address. The State Government should have called their

explanation. By agreeing with them, you supported them which is not fair. Now you have allowed them further concessions. You should constitute a team of consultants and send a central team if need be. This power also should be withdrawn from them. If they are proving so much incompetent, action should be taken against them. It is said that funds are not being released because they have unused funds. As on date the amount of Rs. 74 crore is lying unused and you have not released funds for two years. Approximately 150 crore rupees are lying under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. In my constituency, several locations are there where people have to walk for two days to reach there. These roads are not being sanctioned. I did not rise here to criticize rather I want some reforms. We want roads for those places as we are facing difficulties. The people over there are crying for help. They are crying for roads while funds are surplus.

If a State Government does not comply with your decision then will you keep on lingering the project in such manner? I met you on several occasions to pursue the matter, the predecessor minister had sanctioned four roads in special circumstances but the State Government is not taking up them on the pretext of population etc.

MR. SPEAKER: This matter relates to the State Government. The centre provides funds only.

[*English*]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: No, Sir. This is not the point.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Khanduri, I have already allowed you to speak for 12 minutes on this issue.

[*Translation*]

I gave you an opportunity to speak.

[*English*]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, I am grateful to you for it.

[*Translation*]

Those people have to walk for two days to reach a road. Hon'ble Minister, Sir, I want to draw your kind

[Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri]

attention towards this fact that due to less population in that area, those four roads are not being sanctioned. I want to know from you as to whether any road has not been constructed during the last four years in relaxation of these norms? This norm of population in hilly area is 250. You have said that roads will be sanctioned when the population reaches one thousand mark. I want to know whether any road in the country has not been constructed in relaxation of these norms. I know that these norms have been relaxed in certain cases. The point is that the predecessor Minister had sanctioned these roads and the State Government is not taking up the same. This is a thing of concern. You are supporting them which is not fair.

The last thing I want to point out is that the issue of population was discussed last time and the norm was relaxed from 500 to 250 in the cases of hilly areas. On provision in this regard was that population upto half a kilometer on either sides of alignment of the road will be taken into account for that purpose. What has your ministry introduced now? Will the population of the end village be considered? Whether two or three thousand people living along the proposed road do not have any concern with it? They are also beneficiaries. Therefore, they should tell as to whether sanction to consider the population on either side of the alignment of the road should be given?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bachi Singh Rawat. Mr. Rawat, kindly note that you have given the notice at 1220 hours, but I am giving you this opportunity because you come from that area. You can only ask a question from the hon. Minister, and no speech to be made here.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): I am asking a straight question by referring to only two facts. There are four hilly districts viz. Almora, Pithauragarh, Bageshwar and Champavat in my parliamentary constituency. No road has been constructed there since 2001-2002 under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. The roads which were constructed have been broken and washed away completely by the land slide etc. This way, the roads have come to naught. Will you provide separate funds for the roads which have broken but not reconstructed? Khanduriji has alleged that funds have been misused. Mega Tech company charged

consultancy at the rate of 5% and went away. You should have control over it. The money should be recovered after conducting an enquiry. The Forest (Conservation) Act is a great hurdle in its way. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: No other hon. Member would be allowed to ask questions on this issue as the issue is specifically meant for the State of Uttaranchal.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': The roads can be constructed if the Forest (Conservation) Act is amended. Will the Government take this point into consideration?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, the concern of the hon'ble Member about the matter regarding which he has presented the Calling Attention Motion is justified. The State share in the sixth year of implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana comes to a total of Rs. 395 crore out of which Rs. 200 crore has been released so far. They have utilized Rs. 121 crore out of the above amount of Rs. 200 crore and an amount of Rs. 79 crore lies unspent. Thus, a balance of Rs. 79 crore is lying with the state and Rs. 195 crore is lying with us. Funds are lying unutilized and work is not being carried out properly. Hon'ble Member has clarified that earlier this work was being carried out under the aegis of the Ministry of Rural Development. Subsequently, it was entrusted to PWD. This is under the State Government's jurisdiction. Our hands are tied. We can only monitor the works and made inquiries. I had written to the hon'ble Chief Minister on the preceding 29th of April telling him about the sorry state of affairs and asking him to supervise the situation and to take corrective measures. A meeting of the Secretaries of the 13 States, where work is not progressing satisfactorily, has been called on the 29th of month, four days from now, to ask them about the problems that they are facing in this regard. We will look into all the problems that are causing delay in work and also ask the State Governments about the problems being faced by them because they also have problems. We would find out from them the problems they are facing. They would get full cooperation from us which is necessary to ensure that the public works are carried

out, roads are constructed and the work is of a high quality. We are prepared to provide full cooperation. We will complete all formalities and would hold consultations with them in this regard.

Hon'ble Member's second question refers to two or three districts. Chamoli has two roads. One road runs from Kumar Band to Ghes and the Second runs from Udda Manda to Patiyun Chaupra. The Zila Parishad and the State Government have also made recommendations regarding these roads. They have asked the Empowerment Committee to look into the matter. The work on these roads has not been undertaken as the population of this place is below one thousand. You had drawn my attention towards this issue so I had the matter examined. Neither the Zila Parishad nor the State Government has raised the issue of the other two roads that lie between District Rudraprayag and District Pauri-Garhwal. I expect the hon'ble Member to. ...(*Interruptions*)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: These roads have not been mentioned because the situation has changed and politics is being played. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: There is no politics in this. It has been clearly laid down in the guidelines that recommendations for construction of roads would be given to the Zila Parishad. These recommendations would be forwarded to the Centre through the State Governments. In case any such recommendation is not accepted by the Zila Parishad it has to furnish the reasons for not taking up the recommendations of the hon'ble Member. Guidelines are clear in this respect. Hence, I would like to inform hon'ble Member Shri Khanduriji and other hon'ble Members, through you, that anyone who wants to give a recommendation regarding the construction of any road to the Zila Parishad may do so. If the Zila Parishad does not take up the recommendation it would have to give the reason for ignoring the hon'ble Member's recommendation. We want that weight should be given to the recommendations of hon'ble Members and that the State Governments should also take up such recommendations. We will also respect their recommendations and there is no question of disregarding the hon'ble Members. Formalities for construction of two roads have been completed. Recommendations with regard to the other two roads may be forwarded through the Zila Parishad and the State Government. Thereafter, we will consider the matter.

Shri Bachi Singhji, has raised the question that. ...(*Interruptions*)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: What about the half kilometer. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I will give it full considerations. You send it. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You will consider all their suggestions.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The suggestions outlining the solution to problems would also be considered. Shri Bachi Singh Rawat has raised the point that his constituency consists of hilly terrain. You are aware that construction of roads in hilly areas is a very difficult job. All the equipment has to be taken to the top. People say that a certain section of the agency handling the work just ran off. Many such problems are encountered in such places and despite availability of funds work is not done. Even so, under the scheme forwarded by the Government, areas with population upto one thousand in the plains and areas with a population upto five hundred in the hills would be provided with road linkages within a period of four years. I would like to state that lack of funds would not be allowed to be a problem with respect to this scheme. It has been included within the ambit of the ambitious Bharat Nirman Yojana as well. In his time, this scheme had a budget provision Rs. 2300 to Rs. 2400 crore which has been increased to Rs. 4200 crore in the current year. Uttaranchal had a share of Rs. 60 crore. ...(*Interruptions*) Its share has been increased to Rs. 95 crore by us. If more funds are needed, we will provide more funds. ...(*Interruptions*)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: You are in possession of all the funds.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not act like this. You are a very disciplined member.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: We will hold consultations with all the parties concerned and with the States. We will provide mutual collaboration and take the assistance of the hon'ble Members to ensure that funds are utilized properly and the needs of the people are fulfilled. We will also provide assistance to the hon'ble Members to enable them to provide required facilities for the people.

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening.

[English]

Nothing will be on record. Without my permission, nobody can speak.

12.42 hrs.

- (II) Situation arising out of unprecedented fall in price of green tea leaves particularly in Nilgiri Hill District of Tamil Nadu causing hardships to the small tea growers and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 35.

Shri K. Subbarayan — Not present.

Shri R. Prabhu.

SHRI R. PRABHU (Nilgiris): 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:

"The situation arising out of unprecedented fall in price of green Tea leaves particularly in Nilgiri hill district of Tamil Nadu causing hardships to the small Tea growers and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

"THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Hon. Speaker, Sir, in recent years, the prices of tea have generally been depressed. Even though during the year 2004, the average all-India auction price registered some increase after five years of depressed prices, the prices have come down thereafter. The all-India average auction price of tea during January to July 2005 was about Rs. 58/- per kg. in 2004 for the corresponding period. The decline in prices has been more pronounced in the case of South India. The average auction price of tea in South India which was about Rs. 49/- in January 2005 as compared to the average price of about Rs. 43/- per kg. in January 2004, fell to below Rs. 36/- In July 2005, after reaching a peak of about Rs. 51/- in March 2005.

The small tea growers in Nilgiris district in Tamil Nadu, who account for nearly 40 per cent of the tea

production of the district, were also affected as the average green leaf price also declined along with the prices of made tea. The prices of green leaf in other parts of the country have declined to some extent, but the fall has been the highest in the Nilgiris area.

The drop in prices could partly be attributed to the profusion in growth of leaf during the peak cropping season which has led to increased plucking and at the same time to comparatively poor quality of green leaf plucked for supply to the processing factories. It would appear that excess leaf was brought to the factories in expectation of better prices which resulted in the fall. However, it would be worthwhile to note that good quality leaf continues to get reasonably good prices and better quality made tea also fetches good prices despite the decline in average prices.

In order to address the issues of quality, the Tea Board has launched a Quality Awareness Programme in July 2000 in the Nilgiris, and it is being continued till date. This programme is being implemented in collaboration with the UPASI Krishi Vigyan Kendra, the Department of Horticulture, Government of Tamil Nadu.

The Bought Leaf Factories that have been associated with the Quality Awareness Programme have started procuring selectively good quality leaf and pay the growers higher prices. Because of the prices fetched by some of these factories for made tea, the green leaf price paid to small growers in June 2005 by these factories has been as high as Rs. 8.50 per kg., for quality leaf, whereas poor quality leaf has fetched half that price.

The Nilgiris Small Tea Growers' Association and the hon. Member of Parliament, Shri R. Prabhu have from time to time and have very recently requested that a minimum price be fixed for green tea and also for made tea. It may not be easy to fix one minimum price for made tea as the price depends on differences in categories—Whole, Broken, Fannings and Dust—which again have different grade variations. There are also different manufactured types of tea such as orthodox and CTC. More importantly, again, quality also is significant in the price that a particular tea fetches in the market.

The quality of tea ultimately depends on the quality of green tea leaf plucked and supplied. If a minimum price for green tea leaf is fixed and if the cost of production of made tea, on the basis of the price of the green leaf used as input, is higher than the price buyers



are willing to pay, then such manufacturing units may not be able to purchase the green tea leaf at a price already fixed.

In addition to the efforts of the Tea Board to persuade the factories to produce quality tea, it has become necessary to enforce quality norms which conform to standards laid down under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. Various steps have been initiated by the Tea Board in this regard, including action against those factories which have been found to have produced substandard tea.

Sir, I share the concerns of the hon. Members who have raised this issue. The Government is keeping a close watch on the situation.

SHRI R. PRABHU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for accepting this Calling Attention Motion, which is going to affect the livelihood of the people of Nilgiris district. Like the hon. Minister has stated, tea is one of the most consumed beverages in this country and also abroad, next only to the consumption of water.

Nilgiris district in South India has the unique distinction of being the first district in South India to start tea production. It goes way back to 1835. For the nearly last two centuries they have been producing tea. They have 45,000 hectares of tea plantations. They produce 70 million kilograms per year. Like the hon. Minister has said, 40 per cent of the tea grown in the Nilgiris is by small tea growers, who own marginal farms from 10 cents to about five acres.

The hon. Minister is aware that for the last seven or eight years, there has been a crisis in the tea industry. As soon as this Congress-led UPA Government came into office, the hon. Minister's first action was to give interim relief to the small tea growers. He gave a subsidy of Rs. 2 per kilogram for four months last year.

Sir, the hon. Minister has appreciated the problem of the tea industry and he has summarised it and said that there is excess production and the supply is greater than the demand. Taking advantage of this situation, the bottle leaf factories who process the small growers teas has suppressed the price. The hon. Minister has just stated that good quality tea leaves get a price of Rs. 8.50 but you find a factory nearby this factory paying only Rs. 2 or Rs. 3. This is because the factories which get lesser quality these factories take advantage and reduce the

price to Rs. 3. Tea is also sold through auctions there. Ninety per cent of the tea is sold through auctions. In the auctions, there is collusion between the brokers and the buyers and the bottle leaf factories. In the Nilgiris district, brokers give huge sums of money to the bottle leaf factories as loans at higher rates of interest. Because of that, they are able to manipulate the prices in the auctions. The hon. Minister has stated that it would be difficult to get a minimum support price. We have been agitating for this for a long time. But I would like to remind him that the Tea Act of 1953 envisages a minimum support price or a maximum price of tea.

Sir, the Tea Marketing Control Order under which the auctions take place is very clear. Section 30(1)(a) of the Tea Act, 1953 gives the power to the Central Government to fix a minimum or a maximum price for tea sold by auctions or otherwise. I would like the hon. Minister price for tea sold by auctions or otherwise. I would like the hon. Minister to refer to this and accept fixing a minimum statutory price for the small tea growers of tea leaves, in principle. If he accepts this, in principle, he could make an Expert Group to fine tune with modalities.

I would also request the hon. Minister to ask STC and MMTC to intervene in the auctions and procure tea at a fair price. The Defence makes a lot of purchases of tea, and it is nearly 7 million kilograms per year. Now, the Defence purchases are made by STC and MMTC through agents. Here, I would request the hon. Minister to request MMTC to directly procure tea from the small tea growers in co-factories, which are the co-operative factories in Nilgiris.

Now, the hon. Minister said about quality. Naturally, once the minimum statutory price is fixed, the factories themselves would grade the leaves and within one or two years, the quality would improve. Also, the pruning and rejuvenation of the leaves should take place, and the small growers should be encouraged and given a one-time subsidy of Rs. 7,500 per acre, to have a rejuvenation programme and pruning programme.

Sir, in December, 2004, the hon. Minister was kind enough to call all MPs from the tea growing areas and had a meeting, where a lot of suggestions were put forth, a lot of decisions were taken, and a lot of decisions are under consideration. One of the important points that I had made at that time was that, I requested the hon. Minister to have a Small Tea Grower Development Agency

[Shri R. Prabhu]

under the Tea Board to look into the problems of the small tea growers. In my constituency alone, there are 65,000 small tea growers, and they belong to a particular community—a hill tribe community, and their livelihood is only from the small tea gardens.

Sir, we have the office of the Tea Board in Coonoor. Now, the hon. Minister has just stated that the Tea Board is responsible for looking at the quality, and they have a Food Adulteration Act. They are supposed to take action on the tea factories, which do not conform, to these regulations. But unfortunately, there is not enough support staff in the Tea Board in Coonoor. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to look into this and see that enough support staff is given for them to be more effective.

Sir, in conclusion, recently, we had made a request to the hon. Minister from all parties in Tamil Nadu including all our 40 MPs. We had requested him to have an interim relief given to the small tea growers. We had requested him to give Rs. 5/- as subsidy per kilogram for, at least, four to five months. But unfortunately, the State Government has jumped in the fray and given a subsidy of Rs. 1.50 per kilogram, and it is asking the Central Government to reimburse that. I would request the hon. Minister, whether he reimburses it or not, to give an additional subsidy of Rs. 3/- per kilogram for the small tea growers.

I would request him again to kindly consider announcing a statutory minimum support price for the small tea growers.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, two more hon. Members would be permitted, just to put one question each on this Calling Attention.

Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar, you gave your notice at 10 a.m. today. Please ask only one question.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): Yes, Sir, I would ask only one clarificatory question.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, Kerala is also affected as other States are affected, due to unprecedented fall in price of green tea leaves. It is a crisis. In Kerala, some of the estates are closed. I have got the information that one Padur plantation is closed for the last two years, and due to which thousands of tea workers are in absolute

poverty. Therefore, would the Union Government take up with the Government of Kerala to see why this plantation is closed?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Krishnaswamy, your notice was received at 12.42 hours. But because it is almost at the end of the Session, I am allowing you. But in future, it would not be done. One has to give notice, in time. You have to ask only one question, please.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Thank you. Sir, our leader Dr. Kalignar has also written a letter to the Central Government in this regard. Three to four years back, the same situation arose. At that time, our hon. leader, Murasoli Maran was the Minister of Commerce. At that time, there was a subsidy of Rs. 2 per kilogram. So, I want to know whether that would be announced now also.

MR. SPEAKER: You want a subsidy of Rs. 2 per kilogram.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, Sir.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, hon. Member, who has drawn the attention to this issue from time to time, brought this to my notice. As he has mentioned, I had a meeting with the MPs of that area. I also, for the first time, held a Stakeholders Conference covering all the facets of tea not only for the Nilgiri area also for the areas of Assam, Darjiling and Jalpaiguri also and tried to look at this holistically.

Decline of prices in Nilgiri is only a part of the problem, which the tea industry faces. As I have said many times on the floor of the House, the tea industry has undergone a dramatic change not only because of the gardens getting old, bushes not being rejuvenated but by the new events also that are taking place. Small-tea growers and the production, which has increased in Kenya and Sri Lanka are another phenomena. Kenya and Sri Lanka used to be very small producers of tea. But today, though they are not quite up to India, they have reached very close to the Indian tea production.

Sir, the quality and the prices are determined by the quality of the green leaves. As I have stated in my statement, prices for good quality green leaves have not declined so much. The hon. Member has very correctly pointed out—I appreciate the Member's concern—that the prices have declined. But for quality leaves, prices have not declined like that. Why have they declined? They

have declined only because the growers have been plucking more leaves. If they are supposed to pluck two leaves, they have plucked eight leaves. In anticipation of getting of good price, they have plucked even those leaves which should not have been plucked. When they take those leaves to the tea factories, their prices obviously will be much less. This is the real problem. This problem has to be addressed. A Quality Awareness Programme was launched. By virtue of this, we are succeeding in it and making the growers conscious of the fact that plucking more does not mean getting more money. It may mean more leaves but it does not mean a better price. So, this Quality Awareness Programme lies at the heart of solving this problem.

Sir, the hon. Member has also talked about minimum statutory prices. I must say that—and I cannot refrain from saying this—in February last year, after the announcement of the elections, the Government of the day at that time announced a scheme, which the Central Election Commission did not agree. They announced a subsidy scheme only for four months covering the period starting from the announcement of the elections to the date of the polls. Sir, these measures don't solve the problem. If a support price or a minimum price is given, the tea factories will have to pay that price for bad quality tea also. It would encourage the growers to pluck anything and everything. As I have informed the House, PFA also comes into play here. So, as regards minimum support prices, we will be happy to have a discussion with the hon. Member and the hon. Members, who are concerned with this issue, and also other stakeholders from Nilgiri.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: What about Kerala?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I am coming to Kerala. Let me first deal with Nilgiri.

To come to a long-term viable solution of this problem, if the hon. Member invites me, I will be happy to go there and sit with all the concerned to find a solution. I do appreciate the concern of the Members that this is a problem and it should be addressed.

Sir, regarding using of agents in these auctions, I will direct the STC and the MMTC to participate in these auctions to see that the objective of these auctions is rightly achieved.

Sir, I will also ensure that the Quality Awareness Programme is trimmed up wherever necessary. If there is any suggestion, I will look into that.

13.00 hrs.

As far as the Tea Board's support staff is concerned, the hon. Member has drawn my attention to it saying that the Tea Board's support staff is not there, I would say that whatever inadequacy is there, if any, I will have a look at it.

The other hon. Member has said that there are closed factories or closed plantations factories in Kerala. I will take this issue up with the State Government. Whatever the State Government and the Central Government can do in this, as per the suggestion of the hon. Member, if it is workable, we will consider it.

SHRI R. PRABHU: Sir, I invite the hon. Minister to come to my Constituency.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. The only thing is that he is waiting for your invitation.

SHRI R. PRABHU: Sir, I invite him on the floor of this House.

13.01 hrs.

### PUNJAB GENERAL SALES TAX (AS IN FORCE IN THE UNION TERRITORY OF CHANDIGARH) REPEAL BILL, 2005\*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Before we come to 'Matters of Urgent Public Importance', there are two Bills for introduction. Let us do it very quickly.

Shri Regupathy.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): Sir, on behalf of Shri Shivraj V. Patil, I beg to move for leave to

[Shri S. Ragupathy]

introduce a Bill to repeal the Punjab General Sales Tax Act, 1948, as in force in the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Punjab General Sales Tax Act, 1948, as in force in the Union Territory of Chandigarh."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: I introduce\*\* the Bill.

13.01½ hrs.

## FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS BILL, 2005\*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate the laws relating to food and to establish the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import, to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to consolidate the laws relating to food and to establish the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import, to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: I introduce\*\* the Bill.

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\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 25.8.2005

\*\*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There will be no luncheon recess today and we will continue. I will now come to 'matters of urgent public importance'. I will come to Shri Devegowda; but before that, there are two very brief points from two hon. Members, Shri Ajay Maken.

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY MAKEN (New Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much. Seven poor persons living on footpath during night were run over and killed by a truck in Delhi two days before. This is not the first such incident. Two main things come into light from this incident. DDA has accepted that there are 1.50 lakh homeless and shelterless people in Delhi. It was identified in 2001 census that there are 3.80 lakh buildings in Delhi, out of which 3.78 lakh are vacant. What a travesty it is in itself that it was found in census that the rich have purchased 3.78 lakh buildings for the sake of investment. Whether it be Rohini or Dwarka, a lot of buildings are vacant, even as there are 1.5 lakh people in Delhi who are shelterless. Twenty lakh people are living in slum areas. Our housing policy is so favourable to the rich that only the rich and middle class people can get house for living and the poor cannot get any place for living within Delhi. They live on foot path during night and are overrun for being poor.

I would like to add one more thing with it that there is an urgent need to build peripheral express highway in Delhi because all the vehicles crossing through Delhi are not destined to Delhi. The drivers of these vehicles have not their driving license issued from Delhi; their fitness checking is not carried out here; they do not have speed governors in them. They do not have the things which are mandatory for driving vehicles in Delhi. A suitable housing policy should be formulated for the poor living in Delhi. A peripheral express highway should be built in Delhi, simultaneously. I want to put it through you.

13.05 hrs.

## SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

- (1) **Re: Reported Increase in terrorist infiltration in NCT of Delhi**

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I am associating myself with that issue.

*[Translation]*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to state before you that the terrorist who exploded bomb at Sai Baba Temple in Hyderabad was arrested recently in Delhi. The person named Abdul Razzaq is a commander of Laskhar-e-Toiba and its leader in Dubai. Whatever he has revealed is very serious and dangerous. More than hundred ISI, Pakistan agents, terrorists, Jihadis and Khalistani terrorist have been arrested in Delhi during the past one year. The quantity of RDX and weapons seized from them is so enormous that most of the areas of Delhi could be exploded. Heavy amount of fake currency has also been seized from them. The information received from them revealed that they want to create panic, they want to destroy some important places, they want to attack some important places including Parliament and other big buildings. I want to say that Janmashtami festival is going to be celebrated shortly to be followed by the festival of Dussehra and Deepawali after some time. The Government will have to be cautious of it. The information received from the persons arrested has revealed that they are conspiring to destroy important places to create panic and to make terrorist attacks in Delhi. I would like to the Government to pay special attention to find out whether the persons who had entered India on Pakistani Visas have returned back or have stayed back here. The Bangladeshis who have come here have made their settlements here in spite of High Court's direction to send them back. The Home Minister has also accepted that hideouts of these terrorists have come up in many parts of Delhi and western Uttar Pradesh. The Government should pay special attention so that terrorists are not able to enact any major terrorist incident in future. It is only the tip of the iceberg. The Govt. should take it seriously to avoid any big incident.

*[English]*

Sir, the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister is here. Will the Minister like to say anything?

*[Translation]*

Hon'ble Minister it is a serious issue.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: It is a serious matter. Naturally, you will consider it.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, it is a serious matter. I will definitely bring it to the notice of the concerned Minister.

*[Translation]*

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 18th August, 2005 at 11 a.m. passengers boarding on Manikpur Satna D.M.U. train at Khutaha railway station under Jabalpur Division of Madhya Pradesh were run over by a goods train which was going from Satna to Manikpur. The body of a 7 years old girl stuck on barrier of the engine of the train was recovered from Damoura Railway Station which is at a distance of 70 k.m. from the site of accident. Five persons in total have so far died on the spot and in the hospital. Three people are seriously injured and they are in a mutilated condition. There are five stations between Khutaha and Damoura and it is a matter of surprise that nobody could notice the body stuck on the engine.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I visited the site of accident and met the families of the accident victims. It is surprising to know that not even a single rupee has been given as assistance to any of the families of the victims by Indian Railways till yesterday i.e. 23rd August 2005.

That accident could have been prevented. There are five bogies in this DMU train and there is mad rush of local passengers in this train. There is no platform between both the railway lines on the station. That is why passengers board and alight from both the sides of the trains. This is the cause of this accident. The station master could have stopped the goods train but he did not do so. That is why the accident took place.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the accident took place due to the negligence of railway employees. The Railway administration has so far not ordered a high level enquiry into the said accident. I demand that a high level inquiry should be conducted into that accident and an immediate relief of Rs. 5 lakh should be given to each family of the persons who died in this accident and Rs. 1 lakh to each person injured in the accident.

The platform of Khutaha station should be upgraded, the bogies in the DMU train be increased and the stoppage of all passenger trains should be ensured at the said station to stop the recurrence of such accidents.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: 'Zero Hour' will continue up to 2 o'clock. From 2 o'clock onwards, we will have the Private Members' Business. Please cooperate. Shri Devegowda wants to raise an important issue. All matters are important. I am not saying that other matters are not important. He wanted to raise a very important matter.

13.08 hrs.

(II) Re: Floods in various districts of Karnataka

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan): With your permission, I would like to raise a very important issue pertaining to the States of Karnataka as well as Maharashtra. Due to the recent unprecedented rains and heavy flood, both the States of Karnataka and Maharashtra have suffered very badly. The issue concerning the State of Karnataka was raised recently through a Calling Attention. Unfortunately, at that time I was touring that area. I wanted to know the ground realities before raising the issue on the floor of this House. Hon. Prime Minister wanted to visit that area but because of bad weather he was unable to go there. Even then he has announced certain relief measures. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has also visited some areas in Belgaum district. The hon. Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sharad Pawar has also visited some of the affected areas. He has also witnessed the damage that has taken place due to heavy floods.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Union Government for releasing about Rs. 400 crore—Rs. 300 crore yesterday and Rs. 100 crore earlier. But I would like to make it clear that Rs. 114 crore which was given from Calamity Relief Fund was given on the basis of the recommendation made by the Finance Commission. But this is not to be calculated for the relief that has been given by the Government. In addition to Rs. 114 crore, what is the State's entitlement to get from the Calamity Relief Fund? The Government of India has released Rs. 300 crore. Yesterday, I met the Finance Minister and he was kind enough to take a decision yesterday itself and communicate to the State Government. I do not want to elaborate particularly on some of these issues. I have got some photographs which

show the ground realities. I want to exhibit them to the House but I cannot do that without our permission.

In Karnataka, entire crops spreading over more than two lakh hectares have been destroyed. Nobody can save those crops. Normal relief measures are not going to help. The people want that the same relief measures should be given as were given at the time of Tsunami and Gujarat earthquake. The people are very much agitated and they cite these two instances. They want that the same treatment should be given. Otherwise, they would totally collapse. I have shown these photographs to the hon. Finance Minister also. I have also shown them to the hon. Minister for Agriculture. He had also visited these places. When he went there, the water was not receding. It was flowing in full swing. I have enquired from several old people if they had seen such a flood before. They said that in the past 100 years, they did not witness such a heavy flood in the Cauvery basin. This is the position. Therefore, the Government of India should give special treatment so far as the relief measures are concerned.

The hon. Prime Minister had made an announcement in Goa about Rs. 100 crore. I think your goodself was also present in Belgaum. Anyway, I do not want to go into those aspects. If there is a loss of life in a family, it has to be given Rs. 1 lakh. In addition to that, the State Government has also provided Rs. 50,000 to each family. But the crops have suffered a lot. They need to work for fresh crops urgently. Now NABARD has been directed to provide a special relief package for that. Here the problem comes up. What are the NABARD guidelines? Kindly consider giving relief on the lines of relief given to the farmers who were affected by Tsunami. For cotton crop, Rs. 4000 per hectare are being provided which comes to Rs. 1600 per acre; for wet land, it is Rs. 2500 which comes to Rs. 800 per acre; and for dry land, it is Rs. 1000 which comes to Rs. 400 per acre. Soyabean and sugarcane are grown in thousands of acres of land.

As you know, seven to eight rivers flow through the areas from Maharashtra to Belgaum, Bijapur, Raichur, etc. They have witnessed unexpected and unprecedented flash floods. I do not want to blame anybody that they had released water. These are unnecessary things. In the last 50 years, such heavy floods were never witnessed. After I have come to politics, I have never witnessed such a huge damage.

The relief, I demand, should not be on the lines, as announced, of rescheduling of loans over a period of seven years with moratorium for the first two years and with payment of seven per cent interest for the next five years. This is what the Government proposes to provide as a matter of relief to the farmers who have been affected. But I must submit that the farmers in the State of Karnataka have been fighting with severe drought for the last four years. Around 850 people have died because of drought and around 450 people have so far committed suicide. In my home district Hassan only, there have been a few deaths.

13.16 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Why has such a situation arisen? The farmers have suffered because of severe drought conditions. They were unable to clear their old debts. The crop loan for this year has been rescheduled for seven years. This step is not at all going to help the cause of the farmers. How could the farmers go in for their second crop? What is the support that the Government is providing to them? It has only asked NABARD to give loans. But still the farmers are unable to go for their second crop because of the damage caused to the soil. There has been erosion and reclamation of the soil. All these problems would unvariably have to be fought by the farmers before they could go in for their second crop. If one visits the area it would be seen that the entire top soil of that area has been completely washed away and the condition is so bad that one would even find it difficult to enter that area. As you would know, it is a black cotton soil. I believe, an inter-Ministerial Group comprising of the hon. Finance Minister, the hon. Home Minister and the hon. Agriculture Minister is working on this. Though I understand that it would entail a heavy burden on the Central Government, yet to save the farmers, I would make an honest and sincere demand that the entire loan amount sanctioned to the farmers for this year—those farmers who have lost their entire crop, crops like sugarcane, *jowar*, soyabean—should be waived for this year. This is my humble request. The Government should not consider just providing normal relief measures. This is a colonial approach that we have adopted from the imperialist powers. But I would like to request the Government to take all steps to see that the entire loan amount for this year, for those farmers who have lost their entire crop, is waived. Even a House Committee,

consisting of Members from all political parties, could be sent to visit the area. It would not be possible for the State Government to provide relief to the affected people because the resources of the State are very limited.

Sir, a decision has been taken by NABARD that for small farmers a loan of Rs. 50,000 would be converted into a medium-term loan to be repaid in seven years with a moratorium for the first two years. Now, I must submit here that there are no big farmers so to say after vigorous pursuance of the policy of land reforms that was first initiated during the times of the late Morarji Desai. So, for all the farmers, the loan amount at least for this current year should be waived—the Government may reschedule the loan of the previous years.

As regards sugarcane, they have already entered into an agreement with the sugarcane factories for Rs. 1200 per tonne. Even if you take 50 tonnes per acre, the crop value at the rate of Rs. 1200 per tonne comes to Rs. 60,000 per acre. What is the use of this rescheduling business or a moratorium for two years? I sincerely request your goodself to please see that the entire loan for this year is totally waived off. Whether it is the loan from commercial banks or district central banks, the loan should be totally abolished.

The other point on which the Government should pay attention is the crop insurance. Crop insurance is there. They will provide for it. But there is no question of any insurance in the case of sugarcane, soyabeans and some of the horticulture crops. It is an optional one. If they want it, they can go in for it. Otherwise, they may not opt for it. I have enquired from many people about it. They have not taken any protection under the so-called crop insurance. When there is no crop insurance, how will the farmers be able to sustain? This is an issue to be tackled. The hon. Agriculture Minister is here. I am grateful to him that he is present in the House and I hope he will give a suitable reply. I would request that for this year—not for all the years—the present loan should be waived off. For the next crop, interest-free loan should be given. This is my sincere demand.

About construction of houses, the amount is Rs. 10,000. That is the guideline given by the NABARD. What is the fun in giving this amount? How can the people reconstruct their houses when their entire house is demolished? The people belonging to Scheduled Castes and the landless labourers have nothing left with them. So, the construction of houses should be taken up by

[Shri H.D. Devegowda]

the Government itself with full responsibility. An amount of Rs. 40,000 is given to the people as it was done in the case of adversely affected by Tsunami. The amount of Rs. 40,000 is given to each family whether they belong to Scheduled Castes or are landless labourers or whichever community they belong to. What is the way out for people living below the poverty line while fixing a guideline? The houses of all such people should be reconstructed and the entire cost should be borne by the Government. The people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have to deposit 10 per cent of the total amount. I think the total amount is Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 25,000 under the Indira Awas Yojana or the Ambedkar Scheme. They may be given only Rs. 10,000 and the remaining amount should be a loan. For others, there is nothing provided. I would sincerely request the hon. Minister for Agriculture on this point. Although I have discussed the matter with the Finance Minister, I would appeal to the Prime Minister on this issue. I would appeal to the hon. Home Minister who has replied the other day on some of these issues. I have seen the ground reality by visiting these areas for three days. The conditions of the farmers are so bad that it is very difficult for them to survive. They cannot survive and they may have to commit suicide. In Southern Karnataka also, particularly in Hemavati, I myself know that 1.5 lakh cusecs of water have been flown. For the first time, such a heavy flood has occurred. We have never seen such a thing before in our life. It is an unexpected rain this time even in the Cauvery Basin. All the southern districts are affected adversely.

As regards ginger cultivation, the cost of cultivation is Rs. 1,35,000. You can ask your officers also about this point.

The cost of cultivation itself is Rs. 1,35,000. Of course, if there is a good crop, they can pay Rs. 6 lakh or Rs. 7 lakh or Rs. 8 lakh. Unfortunately, this year, more than 30,000 acres of ginger crop in Hassan district has been totally spoilt. I have personally visited those areas along with the officers. It is all rotten and smelling. You cannot even see that. When the Central team visited those areas, the floods did not rescind. They were unable to get full facts. You can send the team again. Let them re-assess the whole thing. Let them update the whole thing as to what is the crop loss, what is the actual loan amount from the financial institutions, from the commercial banks or from the cooperative banks. All the loans for this year of the farmers should be waived. In the next

year, for the crop loans only interest should be charged. For building houses, Rs. 40,000 should be given to all the affected people, whether they are Scheduled Castes, landless labourers or people belonging to any other community. The Government of India should treat this as a special situation and circumstance. Please do not take shelter under normal guidelines or the NABARD guidelines or the Reserve Bank of India guidelines. It is an alarming situation. Otherwise, once the farmers lose their patience, things will go from bad to worse. With all sincerity, you had gone there and studied the situation. I compliment you for that. The hon. Prime Minister also went to see the spot. Hon. President of the Indian National Congress, Shrimati Sonlaji had also gone there. You have to save the situation. Shri Sharad Pawar, the Finance Minister and the Home Minister, all the three together should come to the rescue of the poor farmers.

With these words, I would like to conclude.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakapura): I would like to associate myself with what the hon. Member, Shri Devegowda, has said about the plight of the farmers, particularly in the northern Karnataka. The hon. Member has very correctly explained the situation. Shri Sharad Pawar, who is the true son of the soil, knows the plight of the farmers. The State of Karnataka had drought for the past four and a half years. I will be very grateful to the Central Government, particularly to Shri Sharad Pawar and the Finance Minister, if they waive the loans as well as the interest for four and a half years. This is my humble request.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga): I may kindly be allowed to associate myself with what the hon. Member, Shri Devegowda, said just now. I have also toured all these areas, particularly these four districts, Belgaum, Bijapur, Bagalkot and Gulbarga for about three to four days. Of course, you had also visited our districts. All these areas come under Krishna basin. The water has flown down from Maharashtra, may be from Ujjaini, Koyna, etc. You cannot avoid that when there is heavy downpour, when there is cloudburst in the catchment areas of Krishna basin, especially in Maharashtra. Heavy flooding was there. Thousands of houses have collapsed. Nearly 26,000 houses have collapsed in one district. I am highly thankful to the hon. Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar for having visited these areas and for having announced certain relief measures to the affected people, who have lost standing crops in their respective lands or their houses.

The only demand that we are making, as usual, is to release more funds to the State Government.



Otherwise, the State Government cannot deal with the demands of the local people.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bangarappa, you can only associate yourself with the hon. Member.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: That is what I said.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are making a long speech.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: I understand that. That is why I am saying I am associating myself with what he has said.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is more than sufficient.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: In Shimoga, which is my constituency, Wardha river is there. That also comes under Krishna basin. Thousands of acres are completely inundated. Even now, water is there. Of course, enumeration of acre-wise loss and all those things has been done by the State Government. But the point is that unless there is more release of funds from the Government of India, the State Government is not in a position to come to the aid of these people. Therefore, I am making a request to the hon. Prime Minister and also the hon. Agriculture Minister. Instead, I have written letters also to both. Perhaps, you might have received it yesterday, or, today you are going to receive that letter. Please take action immediately. Shri Devegowda has explained all those things in detail, and I appreciate. The point is we are now requesting you to release more funds immediately to the State Government of Karnataka.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (Tumkur): Sir, I associate myself with this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Wait a minute. Though it is not a practice, I would allow you, Mr. Mallikarjuniahji because you also belong to the same State. You can only associate with this.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Definitely, Sir. I associate myself with this.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member, Shri Devegowdaji has raised a very important issue, which the State of Karnataka has faced recently. It is true that this year's

flood and rains, especially in Krishna and Bhima basins, were abnormal. In fact, Shri Devegowdaji, myself and Shri Bangarappaji have been associated with the State Government for a number of years. For a number of years, there was a discussion between us whether Maharashtra should release more water in the Krishna basin or Bhima basin. But this was the first year that both the States were taking a different line. There was a request that if it is possible to stop water, that can be used. *...(Interruptions)* It is true that in the entire belt, there was abnormal rain. Rain and flood have really created havoc in both the States. The damage is abnormal and whatever information has been given by hon. Devegowdaji, which has been supported by hon. Members Smt. Tejaswini and Shri Bangarappaji and from the other side, by Shri Mallikarjuniahji, I entirely agree with that proposition. I have myself visited some of the areas but not all the districts. In Belgaum, Chikori, Raibagh, Athni and certain other areas, I myself have seen what type of damage has been caused by this flood and extra rains. On many occasions, we have seen this type of situation in the country. But the overall size of the damage is such that we have come to the conclusion that Karnataka alone cannot face this type of situation. So, in this situation it is the responsibility of the Government of India to support all these affected people. The crop that has been damaged in the entire belt has really ruined the entire farming community of that area. The damage of the public property is also abnormal. In this situation, we have to take a different approach. It is true that there are some norms which have been introduced in the country, which we are implementing for many years. Shri Devegowdaji has given a proposal and suggestion that we have to give second thought to the entire norms. It is true that when there was a problem due to Tsunami, the Government of India took a different approach to resolve the problem. I would like to assure this House and through this House, to the affected people of all these States—whether they are from Gujarat, Maharashtra or Karnataka or any other State—in this situation, we will definitely look into the matter of these norms. We will take up a pragmatic approach. For instance, Shri Devegowdaji has made a suggestion about the monitoring provision for construction of houses.

It is true that today the provision is for Rs. 10,000. It is also true that at the time of the Tsunami problem, we introduced new norms, that is, up to Rs. 40,000 plus land cost. I have no hesitation in accepting the suggestion which the hon. Member Shri Devegowda has made.

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

The problem of crop loss is there. Especially, sugarcane, tomato, soyabean, banana and groundnut have been practically wiped out. I do not think the farmer is in a position to face the situation. He will be out from farming at least in the next two to three years. That is why, one has to take a different approach.

The hon. Member suggested certain things, for instance, waiver of interest, waiver of loan. These are the issues that we have to discuss with the NABARD and the Reserve Bank. The Government cannot take these decisions because money has been provided by various banks. Unless and until some arrangement has been made from our side, we would not be able to resolve that problem. But I would like to assure the hon. Members and the House that we will definitely look into the matter.

Recently, a team was sent by Government of India. The team has returned from Karnataka yesterday night only. We are expecting that they will give their report in another three or four days' time. Today only, I got a request from the hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka from Gulbarga and from the hon. Deputy Chief Minister Shri Prakash from Bangalore saying that whatever proposal has been submitted by the Government of Karnataka is not sufficient; that is an initial proposal and the Government of Karnataka would like to give their secondary proposal.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: They want to give a comprehensive proposal.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Yes, they would like to give a comprehensive proposal in a week's time. The hon. Chief Minister has communicated to me. He and his colleagues would like to come to Delhi in the next week and they would like to give a power point presentation to the hon. Prime Minister and others about the damages to crops. They are going to visit Delhi on 1st or 2nd. Definitely we will get all the information from the State Government.

We have also got a similar request from Maharashtra. The Maharashtra Chief Minister also, along with his team, would like to visit Delhi; would like to give a detailed presentation and their final report. I would like to assure that whatever report, information, additional information that will be given by them, that also would be re-assessed. We will call the meeting of the High Level Committee as early as possible and give proper support to resolve this problem in all the three States.

It is true that the situation is not normal. That is why, the Government of India has to take a very positive approach. I would like to say that we will take a positive approach. At this juncture, the Government of India will support both the States.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: While thanking the hon. Minister for Agriculture, I would like to give only one suggestion for the consideration of the Union Government. So far as reimbursement of the loan amount is concerned, I have demanded that they should waive it. Unless the Central Government is going to reimburse the nationalised banks, they will not agree to it because we know the guidelines of the Reserve Bank and the NABARD. Unless the Government of India takes the responsibility to reimburse the entire amount for at least this year, it is practically impossible. That is why, I would humbly request the Government to consider it. Not only I make this on the floor of the House, but also I had already met the hon. Finance Minister. I must compliment the Agriculture Minister who knows the subject very well. I will meet the Prime Minister. This is an issue concerning the entire House. If you go there, you can see that it is such a pathetic situation that something is to be done immediately. Mr. Minister, I would welcome you again. I would thank you very much for your kind consideration. Before I went there and before the other leaders went there, you went there and had seen some of the villages in Belgaum district. In almost all the areas, the farmers are suffering. The Krishna Basin is suffering. The Cauvery Basin is equally bad. I would request you to come once again and see for yourself the situation. The Inter-Ministerial Team has seen the pathetic situation that Karnataka is facing. I would request you to bail it out. We will be grateful to you.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, I thank you very much. At the outset, I would like to share the concern of the former Prime Minister of India hon. Shri Devegowda and the former Chief Minister of Karnataka hon. Shri Bangarappa. As the House very well knows, last week I had raised a Calling Attention when the hon. Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawar was here. Shri Shivraj Patilji gave the reply. I requested him that it is a Tsunami-like flood in Karnataka and the whole Karnataka State has been devastated. More than five lakh acres of crop loss is there. Therefore, Advaniji, myself, Ramesh Jigajinagiji and Yediurappaji also visited the flood-affected areas. Sir, 130 people are dead. More than 12,000 cattle have died. We have requested that a

package of Rs. 3,272 crore should be given. We also requested that the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), guidelines should be revised because now for an acre of dry land they are giving Rs. 400, for wet land they are giving Rs. 1,000 and for garden land they are giving Rs. 1600. We have requested that Rs. 10,000 should be given per acre.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already said that. They will look into the matter.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: This time, the entire crop loan should be waived. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I entirely agree that the entire crop loan should be waived. We are not only saying that the entire crop loan should be waived but we are saying that compensation should also be given over and above that.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Let us not dilute the issue. The entire crop loan for this year for all farmers should be waived. In addition to that, the compensation should be given for the crop based on the actual loss. I have made all these requests. He wanted to take this issue before the Cabinet and consider it. This is altogether a different matter.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, our hon. former Prime Minister has raised that the entire crop loan should be waived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have made your point.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: The entire crop loan should be waived and the hon. Agriculture Minister is ready to compensate the entire crop loss. We are more than happy but that is our demand. He should reply. He should kindly respond again.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. He has given the reply. Please sit down.

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*[Translation]*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (Bhagalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today is the 25th day of this month but 80 thousand employees of Bihar State have not yet been paid their salary for the month of July. The coffer of Bihar Govt. is empty. The Parliament passed budget for

five months and that amount was spent within three months. Only 9 percent of the budget allocation has been spent. There is complete administrative chaos in Bihar. The only advisor of Bihar has been deprived of all his rights. The Chief Secretary has just returned from leave. He says that Home Commissioner should be removed. He has returned only on this condition. Differences have cropped up among the Ministers of the Union Government. 33 thousand employees of universities have called off their strike. The situation which has been created, is out of control. Administrative chaos has been created there. The morale of the entire bureaucracy has touched a new low because of the letter written by the Governor to the Minister of Railways. The Governor of Bihar should be removed with immediate effect and he should also be impeached in order to save Bihar from administrative chaos.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Nothing to be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): If the expenditure has remained at 9 percent then how is the exchequer spent? Hence, this is not a fact that the exchequer is empty. Everybody will get salary and everything will go on smoothly. *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not to be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chall): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is discrimination in providing facilities to the Class II and Class III employees in the railways in the country. The running staff are being allowed only 10 day's casual leave instead of 15 day's while they have to work seven days and get only one day rest in a week. On the other hand, the office staff are also

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\*Not recorded.

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

allowed 10 days' casual leave while they work only five days and get two days rest in a week. This is a big discrimination.

The other point is that the pass issued to the railway employees is available to spouse and their sons and daughters only and not to their parents. Through you, Sir, I demand from the Government that 15 day's CL be allowed to running staff and the railway pass be made available to the parents of the employees also.

[English]

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South): Sir, I wish to speak on a very important subject regarding release of crop insurance, especially kharif crop for the year 2002-2003. In this connection, about 10,000 people have applied for release of crop insurance, especially paddy crop in Haveri District in Karnataka. There was a meeting in Karnataka on 30.5.2004 under the Chairmanship of Agriculture Commissioner. In that meeting, it has been decided that crop insurance has to be given to the farmers to the tune of Rs. 2,10,00,000. The Government of Karnataka has already submitted its proposal to the Agriculture Insurance Company of India, New Delhi but the Agriculture Insurance Company has not taken any step in this connection. Therefore, I urge upon the Government, through you, Sir, to release the said amount immediately. The Agriculture Insurance Company is denying paying the amount on technical grounds. I would like to state that everything is all right. The premium is paid by the farmers. As we are all aware, for the last three or four years, there was a drought in Karnataka. This year we are facing the flood. Under these circumstances, I urge upon the Agriculture Ministry to release the amount immediately.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Thank you, Sir, for permitting me to raise a very important matter of my State. It is about according consent to the proposed Industrial Park Ordinance of Gujarat. The Government of Gujarat had sought the consent of the Central Government for the proposed Industrial Park Ordinance with amendments in the Industries Act, 1947. But the consent from the Government of India has not been accorded so far.

I would like to request the Central Government to review the matter and accord early consent.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, people of Kerala celebrate every year a big festival called 'Onam'. This festival comes in the month of September. The Keralite people celebrate this festival throughout the world. They not only reside in India but also in foreign countries. Annually, they visit their homes during this festival season. Now, it has become a practice for the air companies to enhance the air fare during this particular period. This is a human right violation. The workers are exploited without any justification. Whenever this festival Onam falls, they will immediately increase the air fare even to the extent of 100 per cent to 200 per cent. Now, even today, there is a hike in the air fare. It is most unjustifiable. It is a clear case of human violation and a clear case of exploitation.

The private airlines have approached Air India which is a public undertaking. They are taking a negative attitude and they are not prepared to operate additional flights during this festival season. They are in collusion with these companies and this is paving the way for further exploitation of the people of Kerala living in Gulf countries. The Government should be responsible towards the poor people. So, I request the UPA Government to take immediate steps to provide additional flights in the Gulf sector during the Onam festival season. This is a request of the people of Kerala. I hope that the Union Government would take up this matter very seriously. I, once again, request the Air India authorities to operate additional flights during this season.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in spite of several meetings with the officials of the National Highways Authority of India and letters of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, a small section of road on National Highway No. 2, particularly from the Moregram Bypass point to Panagarh base area in West Bengal is yet to be constructed. The road overbridge which was constructed three years ago is already damaged and due to that, long queues of loaded trucks are being formed at Moregram Bypass point and no vehicle can move out for hours. Interestingly due to the dilly-dally tactics of a section of officers, the job is being delayed on one pretext or the other. In any case, owing to this jam on NH-2, which is the lifeline of Eastern India, trade is being hampered. The local people are of the opinion that there is collusion between the contractor and a section of the officials and that is why this delay is taking place. Therefore, I demand an immediate inquiry into the matter and construction of the road stretch at the earliest.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have to make a small submission that roadways buses ply in different States in the country. Earlier there used to be first aid boxes in these roadways buses which could be used by the passengers in case of requirement. Earlier, such first aid boxes were provided in all the buses in the country which have been removed now. I request you to ask the State Governments to provide first aid boxes in the buses.

My other suggestion is that earlier there used to be a suggestion book in the buses. I am not talking about complaint book. The said suggestion book has also been removed. Kindly arrange to provide the same again in all the buses.

My third suggestion is that destination display boards are not put on roadways buses as a result passengers do not know about the destination to which a bus is heading. If we talk about Rajasthan roadways buses, boards are not displayed on them as a result people catch wrong buses. These are small things but should be done for the benefit of the people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my submission is that the Government should consider my suggestions and forward them to the State Governments.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here. I want to bring it to his kind notice that elections in more than 80 percent cantonment areas in the country have not been held which are due for the last two years. These elections are pending there for want of a new Bill. As a result of which all the cantonment areas are being governed by military officials and no civilian is on these boards. I am urging upon the hon. Minister for a long time that public representatives like MPs or MLAs are not nominated Members of the cantonment boards and it will take very long in holding elections there as the elections will be held only after introduction of the bill. Therefore, my request is that the concerned MPs should be nominated as Members of cantonment boards in their areas. In addition to it, provision of nominating the MPs as Member of cantonment boards should be made in the proposed Bill on the lines of their nominations in local bodies. I demand from the Government to nominate the MPs as Members of cantonment boards on priority basis. Thank you.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Sir, the Chief Minister of Uttaranchal had announced a number of drinking water schemes in the year 2004 including Barkinda-Manila, Gangolihat, Danya-Dhauladevi, Chamadkhan and Chhiliyanaula-Gagas, Bhaunkhal-Khat-ki-Nav etc. to quote mainly. Natural sources of drinking water in hundreds of villages have dried up and pumping lift drinking water scheme is the only alternative.

Chief Ministers of Different States have requested in writing for central assistance in this regard and have personally requested Hon. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. As the Minister is present in the House, therefore I want to request him again that this subject should be considered seriously and the funds for the drinking water schemes which I have mentioned may please be provided from the Centre.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request that the people belonging to 'Kamlapur Vaishya' caste have been trying to get it included in the National Backward Class list for a long time. This matter was raised on many occasions in the last Lok Sabha too but unfortunately, it has not been deliberated upon yet. The Union Government is not showing positive attitude to the said matter. Kamlapuri Vaishya Caste has not yet been included in the National Backward Class list whereas the State of Bihar had included this caste in the Annexure 2 of the Backward Class list in 1978. First Chairman of Commission for Backward Classes Justice Ramanand Prasad had recommended for it in 1996 and it is there at serial number 86 of Annexure-2 in the Bihar State Backward Class list. It is unfortunate that the Government are not showing positive attitude towards it yet. Kamlapuri Vaishya caste is an educationally, economically and socially backward caste and if it was included in the Backward Class list, then this caste would definitely have progressed but unfortunately, it has not been included in the said list yet. Through you, I would like to request the Government to include Kamlapuri Vaishya caste in the National Backward Caste list so that the people belonging to economically and educationally backward classes, can get the opportunity to move forward. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat. You have made your point.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: But the Government is not responding to it. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I associate with it.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): I also associate with it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I also associate with it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Members who want to associate, please send it in writing.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiyarpur): Honourable, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India-Pakistan Border has been fenced with barbed wire. Particularly at the border with Punjab, the farmers have lands on both sides of the wire. When the farmers have to go on other side of the wire, only a period of two hours in a day has been fixed for it. Owing to it, the farmers can not complete their farming work because at the border, electricity is not available for 24 hours and the water is released into canals now and then at night. Therefore, the farmers face difficulty—I request the Government to open the gates for movement of farmers from morning to evening.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the second thing I want to say is that there is no lady official for checking of women passing through the gate for farming or labour work. Men frisk them in presence of other men. Therefore, arrangement should be made there for frisking of women by women officials.

I want to tell one more thing that harvesting of crop in Punjab is done with the help of combines. The bigger combines, too, can not be taken outside the border. There is one more thing in border area that neither the teacher goes to schools nor the doctor attends hospitals. Therefore, the people residing in border area have to face great hardships. I request the Government to set up Border Area Development Board so that the problems of the people residing in border area may be viewed separately.

14.00 hrs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards one more serious issue. Mines etc. have been laid in the border area, and the Government has to pay compensation for that but delays have been occurring in the payment of compensation to

the farmers. The farmers on whose lands mines have been laid and whose lands have fallen under the wires, are not getting compensation in time. The meeting of sarpanchs, their representatives and administrative officers was held to sort out this problem, but the problem is getting aggravated due to meeting not being held.

I request the Government to hold the meeting regularly to draw the attention of the Government towards the problems being faced by the people living along the border.

*[English]*

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): Sir, the ban on non-iodized common salt has led to several problems. The entire fisheries sector in Kerala and elsewhere are in standstill because of the non-availability of ordinary salt. As you know, the 'dry fish' industry cannot survive without salt. According to the Government Order, non-iodized salt cannot either be bought or sold or displayed. The fisheries sector has now to use iodized salt. It is not at all possible to run units in the fisheries sector using iodized salt by paying Rs. 500 per sack instead of Rs. 80 for common salt. Many of the units have already been closed and many more are on the verge of closing. Forty per cent of the fish catch in Kerala is small fish and it cannot be stored without salt. Kerala is having thousands of such small units where the small fishes are processed, stored and distributed. Most of the workers in this sector are women and they have lost their livelihood. Salt is also required for the functioning of ice plants in large quantities. The price of ice has gone up steeply and fisheries units are not in a position to buy ice blocks at such an uneconomical price.

The Boat Owners' Association and other Associations have already given a memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister and are planning to go on strike. I urge the Government through you, Sir, to relax the provisions in the Order banning non-iodized salt and save the livelihood of thousands of people in the fisheries sector.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Sir, I want to state through you that I had raised this issue earlier too and the matter is very serious. There was a fire on the platform of ONGC and the manner in which the Hon'ble Minister replied arouses suspicion. I had enquired from him regarding the name identity of the

person injured in N-7. Whether he is alive or dead? His hand was injured and the platforms belonging to N-7 and BHNL are distant from each other. There was a helicopter on the high north platform belonging to BHNL. It was not informed to the House as to whether the injured person was working under ONGC or Contractor. Multi purpose support vessel was brought to N-7 to take that injured person. The boat carrying the injured person from N-7 could have gone to the shore as well. Why did that boat not go to the shore? He told that the boat collided with the BHNL platform. I want to inform the House that it is a big conspiracy. The boat did not sink at the place where the water level was 72 metres, then how did it sink afterwards at the place where the water level was 22 metres? Therefore, I want to inform that I have personally met the person who survived the accident. They have told me that a hydro file boat was crossing the place fifteen minutes earlier. That was submarine hydro file boat able to destroy a torpedo. A torpedo was destroyed on engine, and that is why the engine got filled with water. The other torpedo was destroyed on the riser that is why the fire broke out. The Hon. Minister replied in such a manner that-

*[English]*

"There was a sudden rise and unexpected swell which threw this vessel totally unexpectedly and totally unprecedentedly. It went out of the range and it was the lower part of the MSV which seems to have smashed against the platform."

*[Translation]*

Why the engine could not take position, when it was so powerful. That boat was Hydrofile submarine of US Navy. I want to say that all this took place under a conspiracy. There should be a judicial enquiry in public as to which country is behind it and why the Government is silent.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government wants to hide the facts. Therefore, I demand for the resignation of Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Eleven persons have died there, the whole platform was burnt to ashes and 11 persons are missing. Are there chances of their having survived so far? I am not hopeful. Hence, I humbly request through you to order judicial enquiry in this matter and I also demand that Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas should resign. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, your point has been placed. Now you may sit down, please.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I, too have a notice for the Zero Hour. I also want to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, I had called your name but you were not present. Now, I shall consider to allot you time after 6 O'clock.

14.06 hrs.

### THIRTEENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Private Members' Business. We will take up Item No. 41.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Thirteenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 24th August, 2005."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Thirteenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 24th August, 2005."

*The motion was adopted.*

14.07 hrs.

### PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

(i) **Reservation of atleast one third of seats for Women in all the State Legislatures and both Houses of Parliament—Contd.**

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Item No. 42, the Resolution moved by Shri C.K. Chandrappan.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

The time allotted was four hours, and we have already taken three hours. The time left with us is only 59 minutes.

Now, I request Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat to continue. He is not present.

Shrimati C.S. Sujatha—Not present.

Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh—Not present.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very happy to support the Resolution introduced by Shri C.K. Chandrappan. Basically he is from Kerala. Obviously, unlike many in other parts of the country, he is more in support of providing reservation for women. Though I do not belong to Kerala, I very much appreciate this Bill because it is coming in support of reservation for women from a male Member. It is not to gain any political advantage but by conviction, I am of the opinion that we must provide reservation for women as was suggested by him.

The reason is that in the initial days, the role of men is defined as that they are meant for earning livelihood for the family. This is because in those days there was no science and technology. Only physical strength was the criteria. Physical strength was required in those days to go to forest, hunt animals, get food and all that. Similarly physical strength is required to secure the family by fighting with the enemies and all that. Naturally, over a period of time it has become a man-oriented society. Many others have taken advantage and given shape to woman that she is only meant for procreation and to look after the needs of the house only. Certainly, she should not come out of the house and should not be on par with men. This opinion went on for thousands of years. It has gone into the blood of the people society and all that. A common impression has set in the society that men are meant for all these external works and women are meant for being in the house only. They are only meant to look after the children, rear the children, and for cooking and doing domestic works. As time passed, and with the improvement in communication, science and technology, there is a lot of change. In my grandfather's time, no woman used to come out of the house. Women also never used to feel that it is bad. The society also never used to feel that it is bad. Now, an awakening and awareness has come. Communication has gone up. The thoughts of women have changed. Women in those days were not educated.

Even a few rich and well-placed families did not allow their girl children to go out, and learn. The teachers used to come to their houses and teach them. That means, they were prevented from going out of the houses. Gradually, changes have occurred. Now, the society has felt the need to educate the women also. They have permitted them.

Not, it is an accepted fact that if women were to be educated in the houses, the children would have an advantage for having better education, better understanding in the society, and the family will come up very well in the society. So, to an extent, it has been accepted. Now, almost the situation has come both girls and boys are equal in numbers in the schools, and to our surprise, the performance of girls has found to be much superior than boys in education. In many occasions, it may be because of their concentration in education, and their discipline or determination to prove that they are more capable than men. All these have led to prove their capacity. That means, it has been proved that given an opportunity, a woman can perform much better than a man in any field of life, including fighting. By body constitution, any one of us is prone to think that it is made in a way that the women are weak in their physiques, and the men are more strong and confident. It may be so. With today's improvement in science and technology—hon. Minister is also sitting here—it is not fighting with hands but fighting with weapons. Women have also demonstrated their strength, and have proved that they are much superiors to men. They also learn 'Karate'. Today, you cannot distinguish, and say that women is a weaker sex. She is on par with man.

The other thing is that whether it is technology, strength or any other field, they are proving their superiority. Now, what is lacking is their presence in Legislature and Parliament. We have made reservation for SCs and STs in the Constitution. Our Constitution makers had realized that keeping in view the backwardness—economical, educational and social—reservations are given to SCs and STs, otherwise they could not compete in open competitions. There must be an opportunity given to them at least for some years so that they will also get their strength, confidence and everything to compete with the advanced communities. They are given the opportunity.

Now, it is the turn of the women. You cannot say that without giving an opportunity to a woman to come into the Legislature freely. and make her popular in the



society to win an election, overnight if you bring her into an election she may be able to win election. It is because she has not become popular in the society. Already enough men are there who are very popular. If the contest were between men and women—not in every place—men will take advantage. Naturally, we have to make some reservations by following the same philosophy as we have done for SCs, STs, and for others at least for some years. I do not say that reservation must be for ever, but we must provide her an opportunity to acquire skill, competence, knowledge, courage, conviction, etc. so that she is no less compared to man; even in political life, making legislation, execution, implementation, and judiciary, she must be given opportunities.

On the same analogy as what we have given to the depressed classes, we should give reservation to women as well.

Today, women belong to the oppressed classes in the society. The country got Independence in 1947 but not our women. Women have to get independence. Every party says that it is in favour of 33 per cent reservation for women but when it comes to brass-tacks nothing is coming out. It is becoming a shame. Whom do the women have to believe? Which party do they have to believe? When it comes to passing the legislation, everybody drags out.

I am of the opinion that there could be a consensus. The discussions could be held outside the Legislature as to the manner in which it could be done. All of them could come to a common understanding over the manner in which we could give them reservation. If there is disagreement between the parties over providing 33 per cent reservation, let them start with some smaller percentage. Today, we have got about eight to ten per cent women in the Legislatures. So, let them start with 20 per cent or 25 per cent and later move to 33 per cent and then to 50 per cent. Women comprise about 50 per cent of the population and they cannot be deprived of seats. It is not our exclusive privilege to deprive them and have seats in Legislatures. I want people like Shri Kapil Sibal, who is an eminent lawyer, to think and come out with alternative methods to bring out a legislation or to bring about an understanding among the various parties so that we could make a beginning instead of prolonging giving reservation forever.

Today, if we are talking of providing reservation for women, the credit goes to Shri Rajiv Gandhi. A young

man of 40 years, when he became the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi was always thinking of bringing the youth into the Legislatures in larger numbers. Similarly, he wanted to bring women also to the Legislatures in larger numbers. The encouragement he gave to youth and women is unforgettable. During his tenure, the amendment to the Constitution was taken up whereby women were given 33 per cent reservation in panchayats and municipalities. So, a beginning has been made and it has to be followed now.

Today, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the Leader of the UPA is very particular that legislation must be passed during the tenure of this Lok Sabha for providing reservation for women in our Legislatures. She wants that all the parties, with a broader mind and with some understanding of the changing scenario, must come together and find a way to pass this legislation without thinking that there would be reservation for ever. This is just a beginning. We would give reservation now and later, we could do away with it when they are empowered to come on par with men in the Legislatures.

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, we are debating the bill introduced by hon. Member Shri Chandrapanji. Our party Shivsena is also in favour of providing reservation to women. Women should be empowered and accorded priority in all fields. Our party wants reservation for women, but how it should be given?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell through you that the NDA Government was trying to provide reservation to women in Lok Sabha and State Legislatures but it could not be provided due to lack of consensus among the leaders and political parties. In my view women should be provided 33 per cent reservation in Lok Sabha and State Legislatures. This reservation should not be for parliamentary constituencies. All the recognized political parties should provide 33 per cent tickets to women candidates only, out of the total candidates to be fielded by them. The Election Commission also suggested that 33 per cent reservation should be provided to women in the list of candidates announced by the political parties. We also favour that stand because if a worker's performance is good in a particular constituency and unfortunately that seat gets reserved for women, then that worker will be forced to field his wife or any other relative. In such a situation, certain chances are there to

[Shri Chandrakant Khaire]

field such candidates who know nothing. Many such examples may be seen in the elections of Local Bodies, Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, Municipal Councils and District Panchayats etc. If a woman becomes Chairperson it is her husband who performs all duties on her behalf. The women do not get opportunity to speak. Many women have played commendable role in politics such as Indiraji, Sarojini Naidu and Mrinal Gore in Maharashtra. Even today we have many good women workers. But if their seats are given to men, they stand no chance.

Hon. Bala Saheb Thakre also said this and during NDA rule we stuck to our stand. Baba Amte is a great social reformer, who help lepers at Gadchiroli and his wife Sadhana Tai also works with him. Suppose Sadhana Tai wants to contest election from Gadchiroli but if that constituency is not reserved for women, she would stand no chance. Other workers would demand that they should be given a chance as that constituency is not a reserved one. At that point of time the Party would also take the view that Sadhana Tai serves the lepers and works for adiwasis, she may be elected but that constituency is not reserved for women.

We demanded from the UPA Government yesterday that Shivsena is in favour of providing 33 percent reservation to women but the said reservation should not be for parliamentary constituencies. The reservation should be provided within the parties. Suppose our party is fielding 100 candidates 33% out of them would be women. At present there are 12 Members of Parliament from Shivsena with two of them women who are performing well. By the way, if reservation is provided to women. ...*(Interruptions)* We are ready. Recently elections of Municipal Corporations were held in our State in which 33 percent reservation was given to women and SCs, STs and OBCs were also provided reservation accordingly. There is an alliance of Shiv Sena and BJP. We fielded four women candidates—two each from Shiv Sena and BJP. All got elected.

I want to say that we must respect women power, but there should not be any law to reserve constituency for them. Reservation should be within the Party itself. It should be made mandatory for all the political parties to field at least 33 percent women candidates for the total number of seats to be contested by them. A law should be enacted so that all women get their due. ...*(Interruptions)* Women, who are doing good work, can

work in it. ...*(Interruptions)* Rabri Devi has been the Chief Minister of Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)* It may be in other States too. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chandrakant Khaire, please address the Chair and not to anybody else.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: There are women Chief Ministers in our country. Have they been elected from a reserved seat? There is no reservation there, but they are doing good work. Shrimati Sheila Dixit has been sworn in as the Chief Minister for second term. Similarly, Ms. Mayawati and Rabri Devi were also Chief Ministers. I would like to ask whether they are not working? I want to say straightway that a rule to provide 33 percent reservation within political parties should be enacted and a bill to that effect should be introduced. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I presented the view of my Party and myself.

*[English]*

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am participating in this discussion with pain and disappointment. Even after prolonged, protracted and marathon discussions, the issue again stands at square one. Really speaking, it is a matter of shame. Sir, the women of this country are not asking for any special favour. It is their legitimate and democratic right that they are demanding.

A collective wisdom of our nationhood utterly failed in arriving at a consensus and firm decision by virtue of national legislation in this regard till date. Voluminous explanations are being extended by various parties from their own perspectives day by day. The reality is that it is a genuine and legitimate right and privilege which has to be made available to the women of this country who constitute 50 per cent or more of the population. Hence, I am proud of my Party, CPI(M), which from the initial stage onwards and consistently stood and fought for this fundamental requirement of our body politic along with other Left Parties. Still, our desire is to get the original Bill passed. The enactment providing 33 per cent reservation within the existing number is the ideal thing. In the Legislative Assemblies also, the same can be extended within the existing number.

There are arguments that women cannot handle the responsibilities of administration and legislation. But our experience clearly shows that today's women in the country are quite able to handle any job with efficiency. In the political sphere also they have a proven record. Our experiment of providing 33 per cent reservation for women in the Panchayati Raj institutions turned out to be positive. Women could prove that they are not behind their male counterparts in such matters. A majority of the Panchayati Raj institutions with women at the helm of affairs, are working effectively.

In Kerala the percentage of women in Panchayat Raj institutions is more than 33 per cent. Their role in providing leadership in the developmental projects in the villages are worth mentioning. Women in this field are found to be more effective and acceptable as they are more sensitive to issues related to the local people and the poor.

I myself worked in the capacity of President of District Panchayat of Alappuzha in Kerala for more than eight years. I can proudly claim that no developmental work suffered in the district because of my gender. In fact, my Panchayat was awarded the Best District Panchayat Award in the country considering the overall performance. I cite this here to say that given an opportunity, we women can discharge any responsibility as effectively as our male counterparts.

The debate on the issue of reservation for women is continuing since the emergence of the Bill in the year 1996. It is almost a decade now that we could not reach a consensus on the issue.

This issue has been subjected to endless discussions, without much purpose. Again, it is a matter that this issue is being discussed in the male-dominated committees and maybe, that is the reason for this issue not getting the needed seriousness. We must show the political will. The women were expecting the introduction of the Bill in this very Session. It is quite disappointing that it has not happened. This, again, cannot go on like this. We must fix a timeframe for passing of the Bill at least in the next Winter Session, in this year itself.

I request the Government to bring a legislation in this regard without any further delay.

*[Translation]*

SHRI LALMANI PRASAD (Basti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in support of the resolution on women

reservation and Bahujan Samajwadi Party is in favour of 33 per cent reservation for women but there could be 33 percent reservation for women in the reservation provided for in the constitution for scheduled castes but I as well as my party want that a separate Bill should be brought in to provide reservation for the women belonging to backward classes and minorities. In this regard, I would like to say that a general consensus is not being reached on several points. One more point was raised that there should be reservation for women in Rajya Sabha and in the State Legislative Councils also. In this regard I have a personal suggestion that number of seats in the entire country should be increased. The issue would come before Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Legislative Assemblies and State Legislative Councils also. This is a very important issue before the Government. In this regard, I have a personal suggestion that only Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies should be retained and strength of Lok Sabha members should be increased to about one thousand. Similarly, the entire country should be divided into fifty States with equal population and area. In regard to difficulty being experienced in it, I have a suggestion that Members should be nominated to the House on behalf of a party under the proportional representation system, in proportion to the number of votes polled to it in an election. It is my personal opinion that reservation to women should be given in proportion to the votes secured by a party and the number of its Members in Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha thereby giving 33 percent reservation to women and women belonging to SC, BC and minorities should also be accommodated therein. Then there will be no problem. I am of the view that all the problems relating to Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly can be solved in this way. I suggest that this system should also be made applicable in the Jila Panchayats and Gram Panchayats. The issue of reservation can be solved. I want that the Government should ponder over it seriously.

In the end I support the resolution on reservation for women and conclude.

14.34 hrs.

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Saidpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not support the resolution in regard to reservation for women in its present form rather I oppose it. We are not against reservation for women. But first of all its form should be changed. Dalits, minorities and backward classes should also be included in it and only then this Bill should be brought in the House. In Uttar Pradesh

[Shri Tufani Saroj]

provision of reservation for women in Panchayats has been made but women there are not able to work even today. Their husbands are working on behalf of them. There is a provision of reservation for women in our country and anywhere in the world except South Africa where ten per cent reservation is provided for women.

Sometimes it is said here in the House that reservation should be provided for women and number of seats in the House should be increased. I want to say that it will be difficult to work by doing this. Today in Uttar Pradesh Assembly Chamber only the present number of MLAs can be accommodated and if the strength of the State Legislative Assembly is increased it will be an additional burden on state exchequer and seating arrangement in the Assembly Chamber will have to be increased and addition and alteration will have to be carried out. Similarly if the strength of Lok Sabha is increased, similar difficulties will crop up. Keeping in view all these problems the resolution brought in for 33 per cent reservation for women is impossible. The provision of ten per cent reservation for all parties should be made and all parties should be free to implement that provision besides there should be provision of reservation in it for dalits, backwards and minorities.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bikram Keshari Deo, Mr. Deo please be very brief.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. This Resolution, which has been moved by Shri C.K. Chandrappan, is a welcome measure. It is a debatable issue.

Today, the population in our country really constitutes nearly 50 per cent of women. If we study the economic indicators for the upliftment of women and for the empowerment of women, then it is quite alarming and quite shocking. Let us take the example of literacy. The illiteracy rate is the highest among women in our country. The health hazards that they have to face are great in number. The infant mortality rate is the highest in the country in Orissa in the world India is one of the highest.

As regards violation of women's rights, it is too much in the country. Yesterday, a Bill was also passed with regard to this issue, namely, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the hon. Member. Please keep quite in the House.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: If we take all these human problems, which are usually relevant to women folks, then it is high time that we started thinking about having more women representation in this august House and in the respective Assemblies. This would allow them to express their problems in a better way, and it could solve the problems to a certain extent. Therefore, it is a welcome measure.

I remember that in my State of Orissa, the late Shri Biju Patnaik—during his time—initiated empowerment of women in the *Panchayati Raj* system as per the guidelines in the 73rd Amendment. He, for the first time, gave women reservation in the three-tier *Panchayati Raj* system, and it has given results. Today, our non-Congress Government—which is functioning in Orissa—has started 'Mission *Shakti*'. A lot of women welfare programmes are going on, and others are on the anvil.

But if you closely scrutinise the Standing Committees' Reports, the Estimates Committee's Reports, etc., then you will find that the achievements in the women welfare schemes are abysmal or very low. Therefore, women should come to the august House to fight for their rights. It would allow them to express their feelings, and do some justice to themselves.

As you know, everybody is saying that women are being given all facilities for education. But I am sorry to state that in my district, Kalahandi—I have written three or four letters and I do not know whether the hon. Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment is aware of it—funds from *Balika Samridhi Yojana*, which is a small amount of stipend which is given to encourage girl education, have not reached for the last two years. As the Minister is sitting here, I hope she will take note of it.

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): I would like to inform the hon. Member that it actually comes under the HRD Ministry.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: I know that it comes under HRD Ministry. Since you are her Cabinet Colleague and you are a woman, kindly convey the sentiments of the House, the sentiments of myself and the sentiments of the people of my district.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you see, today ICDS programmes are not all being implemented properly. Posts are lying vacant. Those women who are serving for an honorarium, I must give credit to them that in far-flung areas and in tribal pockets, they are giving honorary service for the betterment of the children of the country. If 1/3 reservation in Parliament and Assemblies could be made for them, it will be good, but it should be done in a phased manner. It is because when we introduced women's reservation in Orissa, during that time, it was seen that in the first year there were some difficulties. Things started improving afterwards. You will be surprised to see that in Kalahandi district, which is under the KBK programme, where the Mission Plan is being implemented, where self-help groups have been created, they are all successful today. I am hundred per cent sure that when a country could be led by Mrs. Gandhi, who was a woman and who led the country to the best of her capability, when there were ladies like Rani Laxmi Bai of Jhansi, who could revolt against the East India Company, and Rani Durgavati, who led the rebellion throughout the country, why can women not lead this country or why can women not lead from the front?

Mr. Chandrappan will understand that some of the countries in the world, which have given reservations, have done it in a phased manner. So, let us start with a modest beginning of 10 per cent reservation. As the Election Commission said, thirty-three per cent reservation should be given by the parties concerned. Charity should begin from home instead of doing it just for meeting political ends. You want to politicise Women's Reservation Bill. Do not try to politicise. Let us elicit public opinion. Please send it to elicit the opinion of the public in the country, the opinion of the voters and the opinion of the masses of this country. let us see what sort of opinion comes from other places. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If anybody speaks without my permission, that should not be recorded. Mr. Sunil Khan's remarks should not be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: I say that charity begins at home. I think, the Election Commission has rightly thought that if we want to give reservations from our heart, and if we want women to come forward, we should include it in our political manifestoes, and while

we are distributing tickets, we should give preference to women to fight the elections.

My view is that it should be done in a phased manner and it should not be done abruptly. We should see that best women get elected to this House.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI (*Bapatia*): Thank you, Sir. I am sorry I was not there when you called me earlier. I apologise once again.

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to voice myself here today on a subject which is very near and dear to us, especially women. I would also like to voice my appreciation to the sensitivity displayed by Shri Chandrappanji in bringing the Resolution into the House today. Since it has been debated for quite some time, I would definitely like to appreciate him.

I would not want to delve into the technicalities, merits and demerits of the Bill because the Bill has not yet been tabled in its actual form. I would just restrict myself to the Resolution, that is, that the Central Government should bring forward a suitable legislation to reserve at least one third of the seats for women in all the State legislatures and both Houses of Parliament. So, I would just like to speak about the necessity why we need to introduce a Bill in the House today. I would also like to make it very clear initially that I intend to take part in this discussion not as a reaction to the male chauvinism that has been displayed or has been predominantly dominating our present social structure. I would like to draw focussed attention to the gender discrimination which our Indian women have been subjected to.

Widespread discrimination against women has been very inherent. It has been structural and it has been reflected in the persistent under-representation of women in our Parliament, Legislative Assemblies and even in high profile workplaces. But, if you go back to our traditions, traditionally and culturally our Indian religion and philosophy has always assigned women a high place of honour and divinity.

It was always the Mother Divine whom we prayed to; Goddess Laxmi whom we prayed to when we needed wealth; Goddess Saraswati whom we turned to when we needed to be blessed with knowledge; and Goddess Kali whom we always tried to appease when we wanted to be blessed with valour. Similarly, nature also, which gave us in plenty and in bountiful, is always called mother

\*Not recorded.

[Shrimati D. Purandeswari]

nature and not father nature. The child also learnt his first communication skills in his mother language and not father language. So, this is the importance that the woman was always given.

Even when we go back and look into our ancient scriptures, it was always a matriarchal form of society that existed in the country. In some parts of our country, they continue with the matriarchal form of society in the present day also. In our ancient scriptures, women have always been assigned high places of pride and honour. For example, Kunti, Maitreyi, Gargi, Savitri, Sita, etc., have all been assigned a very high place of honour and dignity. So, it goes beyond all pale of doubt that women would have always been revered and worshipped all along in our history.

Even if we look at our modern day religious leaders like Ramakrishna Paramahansa or Swami Vivekananda for that matter; our leaders like Mahatma Gandhi; or even men of worth like Bharati, Rabindranath Tagore; or even social reformers like Raja Rammohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar; they have all sung the saga of motherly qualities of divinity and love in women. So, it goes beyond all doubt that women were always honoured, they were always worshipped, and I hope they would be continued to be honoured in the present day also.

However, the present day situation has undergone a great metamorphism and there is a sea change in the position of our women today. During the days of Independence we all know that men and women have fought shoulder to shoulder, as Shri Chandrapan had rightly said the other day in his initial speech. Men and women have fought shoulder to shoulder and this political emancipation was expected to usher in many reforms on the social front also. But, unfortunately, our social reforms have fallen short of expectations. There is a large gap between concept and reality today, and while women have been relegated to positions that are very-very inferior, they have been subjected to subordination also.

The *Economic Survey*, which is the latest and authentic official version of women's position in our modern day society, says:

"As per the 2001 census, women constituted 48 per cent of the total population of the country. Women suffer many disadvantages as compared to men in the areas of education, labour participation, wages and earning."

This is in spite of us having a Constitution which is the supreme law of the land, which prohibits gender discrimination and has also specified measures wherein women should be socially and economically empowered.

Sir, the provisions of Articles 14, 15, 16(2), 21, 23, 39(a), 39(d) and 39(e) all uniformly speak of equal treatment that should be meted out to both men and women. It also makes the message very loud and clear that the States should provide measures wherein both the sexes, men and women, should have equal access to the finer graces of human civilization. Despite these statutory measures being in place, despite umpteen judicial interventions, the ground realities are absolutely and totally different. They are not what we want them to be. They are totally different.

A study conducted by an international organisation has revealed that women contribute 50 per cent of the adult population and contribute about one-third to the total labor force. They work for two-thirds of the total number of working hours. They receive one-tenth of the world income and yet they possess less than one per cent of the world property. Each one of us should clearly understand that the reservation that is going to be given to women today is not a charity but a recognition of their contribution to the economy and the social development. Pessimists believe that within the patriarchal gender relations which confine and constrain a woman, a woman will end up becoming a puppet in the political interest and the power play of a man. They further feel that by giving reservation to women, it would widen fissures which exist in already fragmented society. But, Sir, we need to understand that by ensuring women direct access to political power, she would be given a status in society, which would change her position in the society. By gaining the status in society, by accessing decision making status, the position of women in the house would also be changed for the better.

When the 73rd Constitution amendment has come in, there was a lot of debate and speculation and there were apprehensions but the 73rd and 74th amendments have brought in a definite impact on the participation of women in Panchayati Raj institutions and local bodies in terms of absolute numbers. In some places, where these women had contested the Panchayati Raj institutions and local bodies, they have been exceeded 33 per cent which they were required to get. So women in spite of coming out, they could be able to ably handle both their professional and home fronts very well.

When we look at the rural areas, it is the family and the social norms, lack of education and their dedication to the household chores and their commitment to the household chores that has actually prevented these women from coming out. By giving them an opportunity like this, we are giving them a chance to come out, to prove themselves. Not only that we are also throwing young generation into the political mainstream, which has always been the stronghold of men and a few influential women.

Even in electoral terms, when we look at the total number of women who had contested elections since 1984, 32.43 per cent women who have won come from recognised parties. When we look at men, their track record has only been 26.50 per cent. This means, voters do not discriminate against women. It is the people who have to give them the seats, who are actually discriminating against women. Therefore gender-based discrimination is very regrettable and it also excludes the entire unpacked gene pool from coming into the mainstream. I hope, each one of us understand that.

Women in India have been able to break the gender-based barrier in many professions. Women have opened the doors to top executive jobs, entered civil services. They are into police service, into journalism and so many other areas which were earlier considered bastions of men. Therefore, women must not and should not be kept away from politics today. Today, even after 50 years of our Constitution have recognised that the equality of women, participation in politics on an equal footing with men seems a very distant dream. Therefore, not only critics but we, women, feel that 33 per cent reservation for women must be made mandatory and must be brought into the House for us to come into the House. I once again thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Brahmananda Panda.

*[Translation]*

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundergarh): My resolution is also there, will you extend the time?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your resolution will also be taken up.

*[English]*

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA (Jagatsinghpur): Sir, I may kindly be permitted to speak from this place. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I extend my hearty thanks for giving me an opportunity to participate on the discussion on the Resolution regarding Reservation of one third of seats for women in all the State legislatures and Parliament, moved by my hon. friend, Shri. C.K. Chandrappan.

As we all are aware, all through, women have been given the highest honour in our civilisation. They have become source of inspiration in our social life. Therefore, it is high time that they should come to the political platform now. I rise to support this Resolution but with certain corrections in the Representation of People Act.

14.56 hrs.

*[SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE Patil in the Chair]*

I would like to remind you, Sir, that our great late lamented leader Biju Patnaik had always been giving emphasis on the empowerment of women, as a result of which at panchayat level and also in the urban bodies, women have been given the highest preferences.

Sir, here, let me say that my wife is also heading the Orissa State Women Commission. It is always to be seen how women are efficient to carry the message of the people. That is most important. I would like to remind you, Sir, that Mrs. Nandini Satpathy was our Chief Minister. She is a very dynamic lady. Her contribution to the overall development of the State of Orissa has been very remarkable.

So, in any walk of life, if women actually exhibit their talent, there is no doubt that the people will accept them, appreciate them. Now, it is to be examined that unless the Representation of People Act is corrected or amended, whether this Resolution can come to play its real role. I would like to urge that the political mileage or any such thing should not be the purpose, so far as this Resolution regarding empowerment of women is concerned.

Once again, I would like to support this Bill and I would like to appeal that since the Constitution has provided equal rights to the women, and women have been equal privileges in all walks of life, it is high time that they should be given preference, so far as the political platform is concerned.

With these few words, I conclude my speech. Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on this occasion.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am really glad to say a few words in support of the Private Member's Resolution on the Reservation of one third of seats for women in all the State Legislatures and Parliament moved by our hon. Member, Shri C.K. Chandrappan.

Sir, we are discussing the issue of women's reservation while we are almost going to complete the sixth decade of our Independence. We are ruled by the Constitution in which the principle of gender equality is enshrined in its preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles within the framework of a democratic polity laws. Development policies, plans and programmes have been aimed at women's advancement in different spheres.

Sir, every hon. Member, who has spoken here, admits that there exists a wide gap between the enunciated goals in the Constitution and the ground reality of the status of women in India.

15.00 hrs.

Women's equality in power sharing and active participation in decision-making, including political decision-making at all levels and in all processes, should be ensured. For the achievement of this goal, empowerment of women is essential.

Now, Sir, when we are in the 59th year of Independence and in the 14th Lok Sabha, the percentage of women representatives is only 8.34. What is the situation in various States? Between 2002-04, there have been elections to 20 State Assemblies with a total number of 2432 seats. There were only 1525 women candidates. Out of those 1535 women candidates, only 137 won in those elections. This is just 5.7 per cent.

Sir, the situation at the panchayat level is now becoming much better only because of the Constitutional requirement of one-third reservation for women in panchayats. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional amendments in 1993 have brought about a definite impact on the participation of women in terms of absolute numbers in grass-root democratic institutions—I mean the local bodies. Out of 475 Zila Parishads in the country, 158 are being chaired by women. By ensuring women's direct access to formal political power and resources for development, women's social position will automatically get transformed. By gaining status and decision-making power in the

community, their position within their houses will also change for the better. Moreover, our experience at the panchayati-raj level brings out the fact that the women are less corrupt and more responsible in executing their duties than men as they have not yet been very much contaminated by the prevailing feudal and political culture.

Sir, the Bill introduced in the Parliament was referred to a Joint-Parliamentary Committee of the two Houses. The Committee headed by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee presented its Report on 9th December, 1996. The Report presented by the Committee further strengthened the Bill. The Bills introduced in the 12th and 13th Lok Sabhas failed miserably as there was no consensus of opinion even among the ruling parties. Now also we are facing the same situation in the 14th Lok Sabha. Even now, the Election Commission, in an attempt to overcome the deadlock, suggested in April 2000 that all the political parties should put up a minimum of one-third seats for women. Now also, all the political parties are against the suggestion given by the Election Commission. What will happen if these political parties follow the suggestion of the Election Commission? Every political party will be giving them only those seats on which there is no chance for that political party to win. Naturally the number of women representatives in the State Assemblies and the Parliament will continue to be the same given the situation that is existing now. Several political parties have rejected the suggestion given by the Election Commission by saying that other backward communities and the Scheduled Castes also should be given reservation. Then the Government tried to have a consensus among all the political parties by proposing double-member constituencies, that is, reducing the reservation to 20 per cent and allowing a sub-quota for women from backward classes and minority communities. There was no unanimity on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly sit for a minute and then, you can continue. The time allotted for this Resolution is over. We have eight more Members to participate in this discussion. If the House agrees, the time for discussing this Resolution may be extended by an hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. The time is extended by an hour.

Shrimati Satheedevi, you may continue and conclude soon.



SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Yes. I am concluding my speech.

In the National Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government, it was reiterated that the Government would take the lead to introduce the legislation for one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and the State Legislatures. But the recent discussions that are going on in the last few days show that there is no likelihood of having any consensus among the political parties, who are in support of the UPA Government. This nation was born out of struggle in which women had played a prominent role and women shouldered equally with men. But the Parliament has not reflected this historical background. Women have been able to break the gender bias or barrier in many professions. Yet, their participation here still remains a dream. So, providing constitutional guarantee, this Bill has to be introduced and passed in the Winter Session of Parliament. It should be passed unanimously with all the political parties that are supporting the UPA Government, extending their support to this Bill, for which the Government has already given a promise to the general public.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakpura): Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly cooperate with the Chair by taking 3-5 minutes each. One should not take more than five minutes. If one takes three minutes and concludes, then, this could be completed today itself. Every business is important.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: It is very unfortunate, but still we would like to respect the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everything is important.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: I am having my apprehension. With due respect, I would like to tell you that whenever it comes to women's matters, we do not even get time to speak. I would like to convey my feelings here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister wants to say something.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): The time has been extended twice for this. That is why, we want to complete this subject by today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. You continue now.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: Thank you. I would like to appreciate our Comrade Chandrappan who is always supporting women's causes. Of course, many Comrades in the Left Party do it. It is a great opportunity to convince them and express our feelings. We need their support and rising above party lines, we need the support of everybody, to pass this Bill in this House.

Look at the contribution made by women to this mankind and for nation building. You cannot value the contribution of the mother. Mother is everything in the family; mother is the governor. Mother does governance; mother handles finances. She knows how to deal with the subject; in the field of HRD, we can see her contribution. I do not want to blame the men-folk for that, but it is the system.

We have done some mistakes; we have not educated our women and so, we are begging for our rights today, even though we are representing 50 per cent of our population, even though we contribute to 50 per cent of the labour force and even though we are not owning any property. It is our fault and that is why, I do not want to beg in this House for our rights. We will take up this cause by educating our women, by organising social movement further.

Humbly, I would like to tell this House that we are only 44 women Members who got elected to this House. In spite of criminalisation of politics, in spite of the very huge expenses that are made by them, can any honest woman fight the election? I am asking this question to everyone of my brothers present here. Can any honest woman fight the election? There are talented women; there are good teachers; there are good nurses and there are good doctors who want to enter politics, but it is not possible for them to do so in the present political scenario. So, do not underestimate them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are one of the elected Members here! People have elected you!

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: There is a prejudice that women will not make it. We made it in our houses; we organise the house properly. But we reached this level; do not forget it. We have that tradition. If anybody asks what are we doing, we say that we do not do anything.

[Shrimati Tejswini Seeramesh]

Women work 24 hours a day. If a baby awakes in the midnight, mother feeds her. Does the father in anyway show concern? If the baby is not well, the mother shows concern? Are you paying her for this? Do not underestimate the personality, the dignity of the women. She is aware of her right but she is not able to fight for it. Unless she is economically, socially and educationally empowered, the Indian Woman will not make it to the top.

People are always humiliating women. I was hearing, a number of speeches being made in this House in support of the Bill. Nobody dares to oppose it because everybody is aware that fifty per cent of the women will not back them in the election. You still do not want to pass this Bill because you are afraid that once women reach to the Parliament they will not leave the political power which men folk today are enjoying. I would like to recall the contributions made by women in our nation building.

The political world scenario is, the IPU stressed the need for reservation of women in the Parliament. The parliamentary nations have been raised from 26 to 176. Since last 50 years, the representation of women in Parliament is not more than 11.6 per cent. It indicates that in the world parliamentary nations, the least women representation is in India. In the Scandinavian countries like Norway, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil and Korea, the women representation constitutes nearly 30 per cent whereas in India it is only 11.6 per cent.

Our great Leader Shrimati Indira Gandhi had ruled India for 18 years as the Prime Minister. How much did she contribute? She took India to the world scenario by initiating NAM. The world today appreciates India. Do not forget the contributions made by the iron lady, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. I would like to recall them in the House because it is a great honour for all of us to remember her services. Today we are boosting ourselves as a nuclear power. It is all due to her contribution to the scientific world. It was Shrimati Indira Gandhi who fought all these wars. She took a bold decision. RSS had appreciated Madam Gandhi's boldness and determination. I appreciate them because they had shown respect to the contributions made by her.

I would say that we could safeguard our national integrity under the leadership of a woman. Do not underestimate women. If given an opportunity, they can make it. You may look at the women Chief Ministers. They

may have political differences with the administration but compared to men they are more sincere because they have humbleness. They know the real problems. They know what is poverty, hunger and illiteracy. I would request all of you to give women a chance. If 33 per cent reservation is denied to women, one day—I may be here or not—history will tell you who was right and who was wrong. The future will show that they will make it to 50 per cent reservation in the House. Humbly I would like to request everybody to cooperate with us and respect the sentiments of the Indian women. It will be an honour to you only. She has been serving you all these years as a mother, wife and daughter. Contrary to this, look at how women are being discriminated.

When Shrimati Sonia Gandhi was contesting from Bellary, Karnataka, immediately the BJP had put up Sushma ji as its contestant from there. Anybody could have contested from that seat. Sushma ji is really a great Leader. She could have won from any other seat but BJP wanted to create a *jhagra* between two women. It wanted to defeat a woman by woman. I feel that even the women folk in the BJP, our sisters, would have retaliated. Even in the Congress, we do not want any woman to be defeated. We want to see more women in this House. We want to have more women in the ruling Party also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We do respect ladies.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Sir, I stand to support this Resolution proposed by my hon. colleague, Shri C.K. Chandrappan on the empowerment of women. Generally, it looks that most of the political parties and the Members of Parliament are in favour of providing reservation up to 33 per cent in this highest decision and policy making body, the Parliament of India and also in the Legislatures. But there are a few political parties which are not reconciled to this proposal. Unfortunately, they are creating the problem by saying that it should be less than 10 per cent or it should be left to the political parties to decide about a certain percentage of the reservation in allocating the seats in different constituencies. I think it is not correct. Why do we need this reservation now? There are generally four types of discriminations that are going on in the world, namely, race, religion, gender and in India, it is caste also. The gender discrimination is continuing for centuries together and *Manudharma Shashtra* legalised this discrimination against women in India. For centuries, this

patriarchal society undermined the role of the women in the society. They tried to suppress the women.

Even after six decades of Independence, unfortunately, we are seeing today that not even 10 per cent of the women are able to come into Legislative Assemblies and Parliament. The percentage of the women is something like 49.8 per cent. Naturally, the reservation should be 50 per cent but we are accepting 33 per cent reservation because Beijing Declaration on the International Women Conference had come to the understanding that at least one-third reservation for women should be there in decision making and policy making bodies in various countries. This is generally accepted throughout the world.

Now some people are raising an issue that the Panchayats, Zila Parishads, etc. are not decision making bodies and that they are only decision implementing bodies. But with the experience of leadership which the women had provided in Panchayats is really heartening. They are very successful in leading the Panchayats. After this experience, there is no reason why there should be any protest or any doubt as to whether the women can represent and lead.

I do not want to quote the role of the women in various fields but I would like to quote a few successful political leaders of the world. They played a very important role whether it was Indira Gandhi as the Prime Minister of India or Ms. Golda Meir as the head of the Israel or Mrs. Margaret Thatcher as the head of the United Kingdom or Ms. Sirimavo Bandaranaike earlier and now Ms. Chandrika Kumartunge of Sri Lanka or Ms. Eva Peron of Peru, etc. In their respective countries they took over the responsibility of the political leadership in a situation when their countries were in turmoil and the political situation was challenging. They led their respective countries very successfully. There are several examples even in Latin America. Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia led her country very successfully in the most turmoil situation.

We have before us the example of Ms. Aung San Ku Kyi of Myanmar who took over the leadership in her country to fight against the military dictatorship there for restoration of democracy. When women all over the world have proved their worth as leaders, be it at the lowest rung of the Panchayats, or at the highest level of leading a country, why could there not be proper representation for them in the Parliament and in the legislative bodies?

There has been a lot of debate going on about this and almost everybody, when we debate this issue in Parliament, agrees to providing for reservation of women in Parliament and in the legislative bodies. Several discussions are taking place behind the curtains. The hon. Prime Minister is discussing this issue with the political parties of the UPA on the one hand, and also with the partners of the NDA to arrive at a consensus on passing the Bill for providing 33 per cent reservation to women in Parliament and the legislative bodies. It is a good thing. It has been one of the main promises made in the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA. But I would like to ask one thing to the leaders of the UPA as to why they are insisting on having a consensus of all political parties on this issue. The Parliament passes several Resolutions, and takes several decisions in spite of opposition from political parties. No doubt, this is an important issue. It is good if we can arrive at a consensus on this. But if we do not get the consensus of all parties, then we should at least have the courage to translate this Bill into Act as early as possible.

Sir, I believe, it is already too late. This House should take up this historic Bill. This House has already passed historic Bills like the Right to Information Bill, National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill during this Fourteenth Lok Sabha. This Lok Sabha should have the honour to take this decision about passing this Bill that seeks to provide for 33 per cent reservation to women in the Parliament and in the legislative bodies.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi): Sir, I extend my sincere thanks to you for giving me the opportunity to express my views on women empowerment and their role in legislature. Today several male and female colleagues have put forth their views on the issue of women reservation. I am glad that you have given me the opportunity to put forth my views on this vital issue. Sir, India is a country with 100 crore population wherein 50 per cent are women. They, therefore, should get equal participation in all the fields. But whenever, the women raise their voice to press for their demand, their voice, it appears, is stifled. We should, therefore, get an opportunity to raise our voice, through you, through government or through Parliament. We express our gratefulness for it.

If we cast a lark at our ancient history then we would find that we had a rich and golden history. In all

[Shrimati Pratibha Singh]

ages and eras, women have been worshiped and have been placed on a higher pedestals in the society. Indian history is abound with great women like Sita, Radha, Ruckmani, Ahilya, Sati Anusuiya, Rani Laxmi Bai etc. but after independence women have legged behind in the field of education, health and other social echelons.

Today, I would like to say a few things about the Indian women. We all know that women have been bestowed equal status in all fields as enshrined in the Preamble and the Directive Principles of State Policy of the Indian Constitution.

Sir, despite various measures taken by the Government for the upliftment of women, they have gradually legged behind in the Indian Society as India is a country of villages and 70 per cent of Indian population lives in villages. Owing to the lack of educational, healthcare and other facilities in the villages, their condition has not improved satisfactorily as a result of which the government feels increasingly concerned. In this context, the Members of Parliament, the State Government, N.G.Os., women organizations, social activists, researchers and experts after indepth discussions and deliberations formulated a draft of the national policy on women empowerment in the year 1996.

Sir, the aims and objectives of the national policy on women empowerment have clearly delineated that women will have equal rights at all levels in all decision making bodies of private and public sector, legislature, judiciary, local bodies, statutory bodies including advisory commissions, committees, boards, trusts etc.

Sir, men and women have to work shoulder to shoulder for the progress of the country and this equality should not only be at lower level but also at all levels in all fields. Keeping in view this point, women should be given 30 per cent reserved seats in the State Legislatures and Parliament after they have been given reservation in Panchayats, local bodies and municipalities. Though some people do believe that quota and permit system can not work in the longer run as it may have adverse impact yet I strongly believe that women should be given an opportunity to move ahead. If women get 30 per cent reservation of Parliament and State Legislatures then it will help them in moving ahead.

This is the all the more required to remove the disbalance prevailing between the number of men and women and to give more participation to women. A

national policy was announced in the year 2001 on empowerment of women. It has been stated in this policy that women should be given equal status and powers in the administrative and political fields and in the over all decision making process. In pursuance of this policy, necessary steps have been taken in the Tenth Plan to prescribe quota for women in both private and public sector, legislative, executive, judiciary and local bodies, corporate, statutory bodies, advisory commissions, committees, boards etc. and also to encourage participation of women in the decision making process in a time bound manner.

Sir, it has also been felt that efforts should be made to increase the representation of women in the State Legislatures and Parliament along with their representation in Panchayati Raj institutions.

Sir, I, through you, would like to tell that there were as many as 141 women MLAs in the State Legislatures in the year 1984-85 which has come down to only 62 in the year 1993-94. Likewise, the number of women ministers has been negligible in the Union ministry. During the period from 1985-2001, there have been only two Cabinet rank and six minister of State rank women ministers. Out of these, only two women were given independent charge. In these circumstances it is necessary to remove the stumbling blocks in the way of their onward march and number of women should be increased in proportionate to the number of men but it is possible only when they are given certain percentage of reservation in Parliament and State Legislatures.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude or if you have more points to mention, then you may kindly lay them on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Sir, through you I would like to put up this thing before the House that women should get 33 per cent reservation. With these words I conclude.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in discussion on this important subject. This is a private member resolution introduced by Shri C.K. Chandrappan. In it 33 percent reservation in State Legislatures and

Parliament for women has been envisaged. Rashtriya Janata Dal is basically of the view that not only 33 per cent reservation should certainly be provided for women but that it has no objection if even 50 per cent reservation is provided to women. Yet we oppose this resolution in its present form.

One of my female colleagues expressed her anguish here in the House. Women have contributed a lot in the development and progress of the country. A woman is a mother. I consider a woman a deity, a mother, a sister and what not, acquitting herself with credit in every role/sphere assigned to her. I want to tell that our party is being led by a woman for the last 7-8 years. The State from which I hail has had Shrimati Rabri Devi as its Chief Minister who herself has a rural background. Our party is of the view that equal opportunities should be given to women to move forward but I would also like to draw the attention towards the rural womenfolk who work in the fields our party's national President Shri Lalu Prasad ji set a target and Bhagwati devi daughter of a poor woman who used to work in the fields and break stones, got her elected to the Parliament. She was a dalit woman and perhaps she might never have dreamt of ever being elected to this apex Panchayat of the country. She belonged to the Musher Community. I want to draw attention towards those people who constitute 98 per cent of our population. Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes O.B.C's backward classes and minorities etc. all have said in one voice that we are not against reservation for women. I want to know as to why all this is happening.

There is no provision of reservation in the Article 15(4) of the Constitution. There is an explicit mention of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes then why the people are not ready to accept it. Socially and Educationally Backward Classes should get an opportunity to progress. What is the reason that many people are merely politicking over this issue these days? These people talk about scheduled castes, minorities and backward classes but when the question of giving them their due share comes they try to prevent it from happening. Why this mind set? It is said that the Rashtriya Janta Dal is against providing reservation for women. We are not against it at all. In this regard I want to say that not only 33 per cent but 50 per cent reservation should be provided for but what about the women making in the fields, toiling round the clock to serve us. What is the percentage of poor people that you are working to get elected to Lok Sabha? If they are neglected and their

due share is not given to them, can we assume that equal participation to all will be ensured? Therefore, I would like to urge upon that if you want to provide for reservation in the constitution, you will have to take care of backward classes, O.B.C.s and minorities those who have been oppressed for ages, those who are back benchers of the society, those who don't have clothes on their body and deprived of two square meals a day, who will be raising voice on their behalf and who will be representing them? Can they be represented through N.R.I's and educated people?

Today I would like to thank those champions of social justice who fought for upliftment of poor, backwards and working classes. The dream of our pioneers of social justice is coming true in the Lok Sabha. In the earlier stages wards of stalwarts and millionaires and billionaires used to come to Lok Sabha. There are several people like me who belongs to backward classes and who had never dreamt of that they will ever be elected to Lok Sabha but as a result of the efforts made by the Janata Dal and Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav ji that today son of milkman has been elected to Lok Sabha which is the highest Panchayat of the country and has been raising their voice here in the House.

There was the time when bigwigs use to win the elections to this House, I am not talking about Bihar only but a wave of change has swept across the country, today a person belonging to poor family and backward class is elected to Lok Sabha and he can raise his voice here. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I am making my point.  
...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Please permit me, Sir.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have spoken for six minutes. There is time constraint.

...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have to regulate the House. Kindly cooperate.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I am cooperating. Social Justice is a principle. Rashtriya Janata Dal has never yet let go of this principle and will never do so. We have made a commitment to stick to it. We have strength of 24-25 members in the Lok Sabha. We have been able to get the people's mandate on the basis of our principles. We have stated that we are in favour of reservation for women but we will not support this Bill till provision for separate reservation for women from OBC, SC, ST and minority communities is inserted in the Bill. We would not speak in favour of this Bill till such time that the persons engaged in earth work and toiling in the fields belonging to the backward, Dalit community who live in shanties are covered under the Bill. We do not oppose the Reservation for Women Bill. Let this Bill be presented with the required amendments and the Rashtriya Janata Dal would be the first one to support this Bill. I would like to make this request today. The draft Bill that is going to be presented today and regarding which this discussion is taking place has been pending for nine years. Why has it been pending for nine years? Bharatiya Janata Party. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): We are the party which presented this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I know why you have presented this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)* I am aware of your intentions behind introducing this Bill. This party has introduced it half-heartedly. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly address to the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: This party is not committed towards the poor and the backward people.

...*(Interruptions)* This party only sheds crocodile tears. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Hence, I would like to request the BJP to approach the issue with an open mind. ...*(Interruptions)* Bharatiya Janata Party and NDA have never been committed towards the poor and the backward people. These are people who represented NRIs. These people have such values. ...*(Interruptions)* These people are committed towards the NRIs and the English speaking population. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothings will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except Shri Ram Kripal Yadav's speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: BJP wants to give two percent reservation to women. What can they say? ...*(Interruptions)*

Who do they not talk about issues of the Backward, the Dalits and the downtrodden people? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Are they not part of the population of this country? 98 percent of the population of the country comprises of these people. ...(Interruptions) the country will never be able to move forward. ...(Interruptions) In such a situation social justice can not be ensured for them. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly cooperate.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Hence, I would like to appeal to all the parties in the House that the country has moved forward whenever women have been allowed to come to the forefront. ...(Interruptions) The destiny of the country would never change if the Dalits, the backward communities, the downtrodden people and the minorities are neglected and ignored. If the Bill is passed in its present form then such communities would not get a representation till a share is kept for all of them. It would be just eyewash and hypocrisy. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken 12 minutes. You are a very learned, responsible and good Member. Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am just concluding and I would like to say that if you wish to change the country's destiny and to give a voice to all the communities in the country then we should join hands to bring the poor, the backward, the downtrodden and the dalits into the mainstream by bringing amendments to this Bill. Rashtriya Janata Dal has always been a leader in this respect and would always remain so. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri P. Karunakaran to speak now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Karunakaran.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, I thank for the opportunity given to me to speak on this Resolution.

I support the Resolution moved by our hon. Member Shri C.K. Chandrappan. It is very sad to note that it is after 58 years of Independence that we discuss whether we have to give reservation to women or not. We are quarrelling amongst ourselves as to who is to be given and who is not to be given. Why are we not able to give it? I cannot understand it. The point is that women constitute half of the electorate in the world and half of the population in the world. It is true in the case of India. It is true in the case of Kerala also as well as any other State. When we look into the Council of Ministers, we are really in a very bad position. We are not attaining the 33 per cent mark in the case of Ministers. We are not able to attain it in the case of Members of Parliament. We are not able to attain it in the case of Members of Rajya Sabha. It is true in the case of Assemblies also.

Nowadays, in all the fields we see that women are able to work with men. Either in the administration as IAS officers or in the political field or in the health service or in the educational field or in any other field, we see that women can do the work that the men are doing. Then, why are we not able to think that we can have a consensus to give 33 per cent reservation to women?

In the light of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, it is evident that women can do a lot of things in the administration. The main thing is that women have to be given a chance in the political decision-making bodies. In the case of local panchayats, block panchayats and also district panchayats, when we have given the one-third reservation to women, as far as Kerala is concerned, I am sure that we have made tremendous changes. They work as Panchayat Presidents. Block Panchayat Presidents and District Panchayat Presidents. No doubt, when we compare them with other panchayats, they have done a very good job. I am proud of saying that because I have got the chance of participating in Delhi itself in the Total Sanitation Programme and also in the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission. In the Gram

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\*Not recorded.

[Shri P. Karunakaran]

Panchayats and District Panchayats, who are the Presidents and who are the Chairpersons? They are women members. They have done it well as far as Kerala is concerned. We have seen that in the grass-root level organisations, they are participating in the panchayat meetings, ward meetings and they are interacting with the IAS officers and also with many other officers. We see that we have such a leadership amongst us. Then, why can we not give 33 per cent reservation to them? When we see the statistics, in any country, the total population of women is 50 per cent. So, it is really not a question of showing some mercy. I think this discussion itself is a sympathetic one. There is no need of extending any sympathy. That is their right. We have to do justice to them. We have to give due share to women.

I can say that a discussion is going on in the Parliament as well as outside with regard to the Women's Reservation Bill that may come in the Parliament. As stated by other respected Members, why should we worry? Why can we not introduce the Bill in the House? Let us start the discussion. It is not the question of hiding anyone. It is because if we are not able to give due importance to womenfolk, no doubt this House and also this century would really be committing some crime. Even in some countries, in South Africa they are giving more representation to women as compared to our country.

We have a long history; we have a long tradition. Some comrades and some hon. Members have cited some of the great leaders as women Prime Ministers, and also on many other positions. You see that this is the question of social justice that we have to give to women. The political decision is the main issue. The women have to participate in those fields. That is possible now in the local bodies but that is not possible in the State Assemblies or in the Parliament. So, this House has to take a decision. Of course, it is true that there should be some consensus. How far is it possible to do that? Even if there is no consensus, the UPA Government should come with this original Bill. We are fully supporting that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: I am just concluding, Sir. You see that there is a discussion that the membership has to be increased to 800. Suppose that is done. Then, how will we identify ourselves if 800 Members are there in the House and what about the security? What is the

mentality that is ruling? It is the mentality of the feudal view that we are not able to give any share to the women. Women can take it. You create more seats and then only we can give that. So, I would like to conclude with these words. Women cannot, women must not and women will not be kept away from the political decision bodies. All parties will have to understand this. Otherwise, they will have to pay in the future for this great crime.

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Mr. Chairman Sir, I have not stood up to support the resolution nor to oppose it. I would like to place my views before the House. I can never oppose this Bill since I am affiliated to the party which is headed by a woman, a dalit woman who has held the post of Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh three times. The question is who are the people who want to give reservations on a platter. It is that handful of people who have by hook or by crook made the whole society their slaves for thousands of years. The whole world witnessed revolutions there were Islamic invasions on India, the invaders carved out victories here but before returning they failed to bring about any change in the social set up here because a handful of people have always control over the society. Can the supporters of sati practice be well wishers of women? Can those be the sympathizers of women who are number 1 in adopting female foeticide and have written a lot against women? No, they cannot be.

The fact is that these people despite being fewer in number are dominating the legislature by hook or crook. Awareness and education are bringing their dominance and monopoly on legislature to an end. That is why they want to snatch this right in the name of women. I challenge them, if they are really well wishers of women then let them come forward and introduce a Bill to provide for reservation not 35 percent but 50 percent. But this reservation should be divided among dalits, backwards, minorities and upper castes according to their population then we are ready to support the proposal of 50 per cent reservation. We are not going to concede with them if they talk only about women. They are trying to save the system which is favourable to them for thousands of years as they fear that it is now at stake. Will the men take the place of women if the reservation for women is divided among the women of backward, SC and minorities communities? No, sir, it is not so. If they are well wishers of women then let them bring such a Bill. If they are really so then let them bring such a Bill in the House



and we are ready to support it. Gradually, our 'Lok Tantra' has reduced to 'Tantra Lok'. 'Tantra' which means 'a system' has grabbed the power in real terms. 'Lok' has got significance only in this House, not outside. We the representatives of 13 to 15 Lakh people are helpless before a petty government official and have to request him to get the work of those people done. Because they have money and power,"..... The day they get full control over the legislature, will be the black day in the history of democracy in the country. They are also part of this conspiracy because all the money has gone to them. Therefore, we should think well over all these aspects.

Sir, I never ignore the Chair so I conclude with these words.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): It is not fair to comment on a woman about her being good or bad. You provide reservation to women or not but don't make such comments on them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't make nasty comments about women. Whatever such comments have been made will be expunged from the record. You need not worry about it.

[*English*]

We will delete it from the record.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Are the women of backward class and SC not women?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You don't go into it. We will delete the wrong expressions from the record.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampur, West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say few words in support of the resolution moved by Chandrapan Saheb in this House.

[*English*]

Sir, it is said that women are the poetry of the world. They are stars or the poetry of the heaven giving clear light and harmony. They are the terrestrial planet that determine the destinies of mankind.

[*Translation*]

Mothers have all the significance in our lives since beginning but when it is proposed to introduce a Bill to give them their rights, it is sad that we are opposing it. It is also sad that we have to indulge in such a debate on the issue of giving women their right. First of all, I want to say that the Government should introduce the bill at the earliest and get it passed without discussion. From the comments from some honourable members about this resolution, I smell some male chauvinism. They want to kill the spirit, essence of this important resolution on some excuse or the other.

Since long, we have had all regards to the women kind in this country. Since ancient period till date the same spirit reflects from the Hindu Mythology. After Indian independence the issue of women protection was first discussed in the Constituent Assembly, but at that time women members opposed it and said that India is a democracy and the inherent ingredients thereof should be of good quality. It was said that when the country is independent and we talk about equality then reservation are not needed but today, we are in such a circumstances that we do not realize it. Therefore we need to introduce this bill in order to provide them opportunities. The UPA Government is trying to introduce the bill with consensus. The Honourable Prime Minister of the UPA and National Advisory Council Chairperson Smt. Soniaji want to introduce bill with consensus, after consulting all the parties. The previous government introduced the bill on many occasions and there were many incarnations of it in the form of 81st, 84th and 85th amendments but they had no reflections. We want this bill to be introduced at the earliest in order to give women their legitimate right to the women who are 50% in the country.

With these words I conclude.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Tathagata Satpathy, please be very brief and precise because there are two more speakers and then the Minister will reply.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am extremely grateful to you for giving me this opportunity. I will just take two minutes.

The main question is this. Who needs reservation? Is it the weak? Is it the helpless? Who needs reservation?

[Shri Tathagata Satpathy]

Are we accepting the fact that our mothers, our sisters, the Lakshmis, the Kalis, the Drugas of India need reservation? I do not think so. The women of India have stood up through time immemorial against all sorts of oppression, deprivation and they have the courage and innate strength to guide this nation. They have done it, they have proved it time and again.

Sir, it is amazing that when the Members of the Congress Party, which is a part of the ruling coalition, talk about their leadership, they talk about late Shrimati Indira Gandhi or Shrimati Sonia Gandhi now. In one breath they take the names of these two ladies. It just shows that both these ladies did not need any reservation. Even the Minister who has struggled and come up in politics did not need any reservation in her constituency to enter this House. In Orissa also, when my mother was the Chief Minister, she did not need any reservation. It just goes to show that women have the strength and they do not need the kindness of men. What is this 33 per cent or what is this 50 per cent? Probably a time can come when women can have 100 per cent representation in this House. We should welcome that. It is the men who have to get out of this mindset of being *dayaku*. Are we being kind to women by saying that we would excuse the weaknesses of the fair sex, the weak sex and so we would allow them some quarter to survive? This is a ridiculous thought. We speak about *sati* and on the same breath we accept the ideology of *purdah*. We have to get out of this *deobandi* mindset. We cannot accept that kind of a mindset in a modern country.

Sir, I strongly oppose reservation and I think all women should be supported to grow on their own strength. They have grown and they will lead. They are our mothers, they are the Drugas, they are the Kalis. Long Live Indian womanhood!

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are a number of Members who want to participate. But due to constraint of time, I will allow only one or two Members to speak now provided they cooperate with the Chair by speaking briefly.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All Resolutions are important, all speakers are important, all points are important, but time is also important. Now Shri Sunil Khan will speak. Please be very brief.

16.00 hrs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the resolution moved by Shri C.K. Chandrappan. Since 1996 which I came in this House, I have been seeing that discussion had been held several times on this issue in the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th Lok Sabha through a Government Bill. Although widespread support is expressed for the cause of women whenever somebody stands from this side to speak up in support of the Bill, nonetheless, the feudal mindset comes into play to eclipse the issue and the support thereto. First we should see how women are working in this direction? We have been witnessing the power of women since the days of the independence movement. Preetipata Waddeddar had fought the struggle for Independence. We had also seen Mantangini Hazara and Lila Mitra at that time. Lakhi Sehgal came to be a captain of the Netaji's INA. When the power of mother develops, that leaves a bearing on his child too. The name of the mother of Vidya Sagar was Bhagwati Devi. He used to seek refuge of this mother and once during the course of such refuge he was nearly swept over by the raging Damodar river, so augmented was the state of his fervour while taking refuge of his mother. But he survived due to blessings to his mother. The son of Nandani Satpathy has come here as an MP and when he stands to speak over here, he is always full of enthusiasm.

[English]

She was a good leader also.

[Translation]

There should be thirty three per cent reservation for women in the Parliament and Assemblies. If this bill is passed in the House, it's ok., otherwise every woman would think that whosoever speaks on this is also nothing but discriminating against women. They know it very well who is in favour of and against this bill. More and more

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\*Not recorded.

women have been made Pradhans in the Panchayats in West Bengal by providing them seats beyond the 73rd amendment.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are doing it in Maharashtra also.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Women have been given 40 per cent seats in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation. If this bill is passed unanimously, then it is good. Our party has been supporting this bill since 1996 and still we are supporting it. We want to show to the whole country that we have made six Sabhapatis in West Bengal. There it is not man-headed, the women themselves function as Sabhapatis unlike elsewhere. I urged upon the leaders of all the parties to unanimously pass this bill providing 33 per cent reservation to women.

[*English*]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I congratulate my learned colleague Comrade C.K. Chandrappan who brought this Resolution of current importance before this House. ...(*Interruptions*) At the same time, it shows lack of political will on the part of the Government regarding this legislation. It is because this is a part of the Common Minimum Programme. An important aspect of the Common Minimum Programme—I seek the indulgence of the House—is that the UPA Government is committed to bring forth the Women Reservation Bill.

Now, Sir, suddenly the talk of consensus has emerged. I do not know when this talk of consensus has emerged. In bringing forth an important social legislation, the history of this country shows that there has never been consensus. What about the Hindi Code Bill? Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, facing all sorts of reactionary opposition in the country, single-handedly brought the Bill in this House and passed it. So, it is the will of the Government, the will of the Ruling Party that is needed. That is why, people have elected this Government. This Government is here in power on the basis of programme which was put before the people and later a Common Minimum Programme of all the supporting parties was formulated. So, this Government should show the political will to introduce the Women Reservation Bill giving 33 per cent

reservation to women in the Parliament and also in the State Legislatures and pass it. When the reactionary Muslim Women Bill was introduced and passed in the House, I happened to be a Member. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know. I was also there.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: In spite of all sorts of opposition from all the progressive forces in the country, that Bill was passed. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Suresh Kurup, please wait for a minute.

Now, the extended time allotted for this Bill is over. The Minister has to reply. We may extend the time for this Bill by 15 to 20 minutes. After that, we will have to take up the next Resolution also.

Is it the sense of the House to extend the time for this Bill by 20 minutes?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, the time for this Bill is extended by another 20 minutes.

Shri Suresh Kurup, you may continue your speech now.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, it was the NDA Government which initially brought this consensus business regarding the Women Reservation Bill. They could pass the Prevention of Terrorism Bill, which was defeated in the Rajya Sabha, by convening a Joint Session of both the Houses of Parliament and they had the temerity to pass it in spite of all opposition. ...(*Interruptions*) It is easy to say about *Kali* and all those things but the actual fact is that in every sphere of life, women are under-represented.

Sir, what was the ILO study? You allow me two more minutes, Sir. Anyway you have extended the time. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair. If you start addressing other Members, then time will be lost, and you will be responsible for it.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, the International Labour Organisation study shows, "while women represent 50 per cent of the world adult population and a third of the

[Shri Suresh Kurup]

official labour force, they perform nearly two-thirds of all working hours, receive a tenth of world income and own less than one per cent of world property". This is the situation of women all over the world. It is nobody's charity. It is the right of women of this country that they should get representation in all spheres of life, especially in the Legislatures. Their voice should be heard in the Parliament and in the State Legislatures. The Eighty-third Constitution (Amendment) Bill, which gave one-third representation to women in all the Panchayat Samitis, is proved beyond doubt and it is working successfully. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are right.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Heavens had not fallen down when you gave proper representation to women in the Panchayat Samitis. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech. The Minister has to reply.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: I will conclude my speech in two minutes.

The higher representation in all these bodies shows that the level of corruption will be less. The studies have revealed that women representation in all the bodies has made corruption less.

Sir, what I want to say is that this UPA Government should show the political will to bring forth this Bill, and in spite of all opposition and whoever opposes it, this Government should bring forward this Bill in this House and pass it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, please allow me one more minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly co-operate. You are a very good speaker. Please conclude now.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: As a tailpiece, I would like to say one thing. In the South African Parliament it was only one lady Member, the legendary Helen Holsman, who said that apartheid should be abolished. She was heckled and thrown out of the House. None of the male Members supported her.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Minister. Kindly co-operate. Be brief and precise.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): Sir, I am very happy to note that this House could discuss on the important commitments of the Government by way of the Resolution moved by Shri C.K. Chandrappan, our beloved friend.

The motion is:

"In view of the demand for ensuring adequate representation to women in the State Legislatures and Parliament gaining ground, this House resolves that the Central Government should bring forward a suitable legislation to reserve at least one third of the seats for women in all the State legislatures and both Houses of Parliament."

In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the fact that the United Progressive Alliance in its National Common Minimum Programme has stated that the Government will take the lead to introduce legislation for one-third reservation for women in the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies of the States. The same commitment was also reflected in the inaugural address of the President to the Joint Session of Parliament on 7.6.2004. Since reservation of seats for women is an important feature of the Common Minimum Programme, the hon. Prime Minister also directed that the issue of piloting the Bill initially be discussed in the Coordination Committee of the United Progressive Alliance. After holding discussion with certain political parties, a new Bill has been prepared by this Government. The Bill has the following features:—

- (1) The Bill provides one-third reservation for women, including the number of seats reserved for women of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People and Legislative Assemblies of the States. One-third reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes shall be within the reserved seats for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, as the case may be. There is also a provision to make one-third reservation by rotation, where the total number of seats is one or two, by adopting the block-wise formula.
- (2) The Bill provides for reservation for women in respect of nominations of Members of Anglo-

Indian community in the House of the People and Legislative Assemblies of the States.

- (3) The Bill provides for reservation for women in the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- (4) The provision of reservation for women should cease to have effect on the expiration of a period of 15 years from the day of enactment of the Bill.
- (5) The Bill does not provide for reservation for women belonging to Other Backward Classes as also for extending similar reservation to women in the Rajya Sabha.

With a view to arriving at a consensus, a meeting of UPA was held on 23rd August. We also convened a meeting of leaders of all the political parties on 24th August for ascertaining the views of the parties. In view of the divergence of opinion, no consensus could be arrived at. I hope an agreeable formula could be arrived at in the near future. This also includes the formula of the Election Commission put forth by the BJP.

Therefore, there are three views. One view is that in the existing seats, one-third seats should be reserved for women. Another view is to increase 33 per cent seats so that 543 seats will become 724 so that women could be provided the required seats. And the third proposal is the one put forth by the BJP that the political parties should reserve one-third of the seats. *...(Interruptions)* Yes, this is the view of the Election Commission also. Therefore, the political parties should be insisted to reserve 33 per cent of seats for women.

So, any one of these theories should be adopted. Therefore, in view of the aforesaid, it may be noted that the Government has been making sincere efforts for evolving a consensus on the provisions of a legislation providing for reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. The matter is to be considered in its entirety and a consensus amongst political parties is yet to be arrived at. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly complete.

SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY: Hence, unless a consensus is arrived at, it may not be possible to finalize the proposal. This will take some more time.

Therefore, in the circumstances, I would request the hon. Member to withdraw the Resolution. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): You said that in view of something, I should withdraw the Resolution. But on what basis, should I withdraw it? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chandrappan, please be brief.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I should hear from the Minister. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Government is trying their best to come to a consensus, and then they will come with a legislation.

SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY: I have stated that in the circumstances, I would request the hon. Member to withdraw the Resolution. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Do you want me to withdraw? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, he wants you to withdraw the Resolution.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY: I have got very good appreciation for this, and our hon. Members have expressed their views and opinions. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will you bring the Bill in a stipulated time?

SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY: The consensus will definitely be arrived at. I sincerely hope. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chandrappan, you kindly be brief.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let at least the mover speak.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Only the Mover may kindly withdraw the Resolution.

*...(Interruptions)\**

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\*Not recorded.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I have to reply. It is my right. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am requesting you to withdraw.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I am really disappointed by the reply of the Minister. Thirty-five Members of this august House have participated and spoken on this Resolution. I think, an overwhelming majority, except a very few, was in full support of a legislation providing one-third representation to women. We are asking you for this because it is a part of the National Common Minimum Programme. If you are telling that you will do it only after the consensus is arrived at, then I will say that the consensus will never arrive. We have seen how they have tried consensus for five years, and it did not come. I do not want this Government to do that exercise. They should have more serious commitment to the promise that has been made to the country, and they should also take a firm position because you are a Party claiming to have Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's heritage and Shrimati Indira Gandhi's heritage. There was no consensus arrived at whenever important Constitutional amendments were brought forward. In the of Constitutional Amendment to overcome the *Golak Nath* Case verdict, you did not go for consensus. It was voted and decided. What is lacking is a political will. If political will is not there, this is never going to happen. This is all trying an attempt to dupe the people of this country and saying that we are for this or that.

I have a word for BJP about the kind of acrobatic exercise that they have done. It is a perfect acrobatic feat. You were the people who promised the blank cheque. ...*(Interruptions)*

16.19 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (Bhagalpur): We have given the blank cheque. We have not withdrawn it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chandrappan, you please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Still you have a blank cheque! ...*(Interruptions)* No, it was withdrawn yesterday. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: No, we have not withdrawn. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: This is another blank cheque. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chandrappan, you may address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: What I am saying is that they have switched over to another suggestion. ...*(Interruptions)*

There are two blank cheques now; earlier, there was one blank cheque from them.

The point now is that we want this Bill to come. It is not a charity. It is a matter of doing social justice. It is in the spirit of the Constitution which promises in the preamble that it would not discriminate on the basis of sex. Now, women are being discriminated against. So, we want this legislation to come up. I am sorry that the Government is not coming forth with a statement that it would bring in legislation. ...*(Interruptions)*

They want me to withdraw my resolution. Is it out of friendship that I should withdraw it?

SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY: The UPA is committed to introduce a Bill. There is no doubt about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt. The hon. Minister is replying now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Sir, I want to clarify something. ...*(Interruptions)* We mooted a suggestion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*\*

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\*Not recorded.

SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the UPA is committed to introduce a Bill. There is no doubt about it. There is also no doubt about the fact that we want to empower women politically, socially, economically and in all spheres but we are discussing matters with the political parties and we want to arrive at a consensus.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: If consensus is not available, what would you do?

SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY: The very fact that all the hon. Members are participating in this discussion with avowed interest and zeal would disclose the fact that we are all interested in the matter. So, we have to take the House into confidence. Definitely, the Bill would be introduced after we arrive at a consensus. That is all I would say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chandrappan, are you accepting the request of the hon. Minister?

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Yes. In view of the fact that the Chair is also saying that they have made a commitment to bring forward a Bill and taking into account the fact that the people of this country would not spare anybody who would betray women, I withdraw the Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Resolution moved by Shri C.K. Chandrappan be withdrawn?

*The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.*

16.23 hrs.

- (ii) **Special economic package for the speedy completion of construction of National Highways and Railway Lines in Keonjhar and Sundargarh districts of Orissa**

[*Translation*]

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundargarh): I move:

"This House recommends to the Government to grant special economic package for the speedy completion of construction of,—

- (i) national highway No. 215 between Panikoili and Rajamunda;
- (ii) national highway No. 23 between Barahpal and Ranchi; and
- (iii) railway lines from Talcher to Bimlagarh and Daitari to Banspani in order to facilitate movement of minerals from hinterland in Keonjhar and Sundargarh districts in the State of Orissa to Paradeep Port and for the overall development of the region."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Resolution Moved:

"This House recommends to the Government to grant special economic package for the speedy completion of construction of,—

- (i) national highway No. 215 between Panikoili and Rajamunda;
- (ii) national highway No. 23 between Barahpal and Ranchi; and
- (iii) railway lines from Talcher to Bimlagarh and Daitari to Banspani in order to facilitate movement of minerals from hinterland in Keonjhar and Sundargarh districts in the State of Orissa to Paradeep Port and for the overall development of the region."

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards two national highways and two railway lines and want a solution thereto. First, I want to tell about the peculiar situation of the two national highways and two railway lines. What will be the condition of the highway on which about 15 thousand trucks, commercial vehicles pass in a single day?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if any accident takes place there, it gets blocked for four-five days. The police force has to be called to keep the traffic smooth on this highway, smooth or keep it off the highway or to restart it. The Superintendents of Police of both the districts send messages early in the morning about the traffic plying smoothly or otherwise on the highway. Nobody knows about the number of people who have lost their lives in the accidents on the highway. The volume of traffic has

[Shri Jual Oram]

increased on both these routes due to increase in the rates and demand of iron ore, manganese and coal. Mines are found in abundance in both the districts of Orissa, Sungargarh and Keonjhar Manganese and coal mines are in plenty there.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to give an estimate of those National Highways. 17 thousand trucks pass through there daily. As per the figures furnished by the Government. I want to tell about the details of the National Highway No. 215. National Highway No. 215 total length 269 k.m. out of the length of single lane 43 km. intermediate lane 111.7 km and double lane 14.3 km. Other National Highway No. 23 barring Ranchi and Jharkhand Area, total running area in Orissa 209.2, single lane 27.3 km. intermediate lane 19.7 km. double lane 139.108 km and missing link i.e. non motorable 23 km. Presumably no other national highway in the country is such as it not motorable and on which traffic cannot ply.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as of now both these national highways have almost collapsed. One by-pass of national highway or the state highway on which the traffic is plying. The hon. Minister is sitting here. Once I had met him and that time I requested him that I did not know whether he would do my work or not but urged him to kindly accept my one request that he should travel on this highway from Bhubneshwar, via national highway No. 23 and 42 and then on national highway 215, where it joins and take a round of Bhubneshwar from there then he would come to know how much in bad shape this highway is.

Even today, I am requesting you the same thing. I have its video recording also. It is not fit even to walk. I am ready to show it to the hon. Minister if he is in position to spare some time. Commercial vehicles are not allowed to ply on that during day time, only buses and jeeps are allowed. Commercial vehicles are allowed to ply during night.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is very difficult to take any goods to Paradeep Port. Though, there are two railway links as well. In 1969. *...(Interruptions)* yes, when I was Minister, we had declared it national highway and provided funds. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Jual Oram ji, you please address the Chair.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Sir, it is not good that such talks take place here. The Congress Government could not declare it a national highway for 30 years. When our Government came, we declared it national highway as well as provided some funds and some work was also done there. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Jual Oram ji, you address the Chair. You need not reply others.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it hardly matters which party comes to power but it is fact that during our regime we declared both the roads national highway, provided funds and some work of double laning was also done.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister to provide special package to make both the highways of four lanes. In addition to it, the traffic on National Highway no. 215 is shunting on the state Highway from Koira to Kalaipur via-Tainsa Varsava, the length of which is 45 km. This should be declared National Highway no. 215-A.

*[English]*

You must declare the road connecting to National Highway 215 as National Highway 215-A. Now all the commercial vehicles, trucks, etc. are moving through the road. Your national Highway 215 is closed. National Highway 215 is closed. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jual Oram, you can continue your speech the next time. We will now take up Item No. 47—Introduction of Bills.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I have a request to make. At least the next time, somebody from the Ministry of Railways should be present here. The matter concerns both National Highways and Railways. *...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next time you can continue on the fixed day.



16.32 hrs.

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS—Introduced**  
**INTER-STATE RIVER WATER REGULATORY**  
**AUTHORITY BILL, 2005\***

*[English]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of an Inter-State River Water Regulatory Authority for the distribution of inter-State river water and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of an Inter-State River Water Regulatory Authority for the distribution of inter-State river water and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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16.32 1/4 hrs.

**PROMOTION OF SMALL FAMILY BILL, 2005\***

*[English]*

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide measures to promote small family norm and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide measures to promote small family norm and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted*

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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16.32 1/2 hrs.

**CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005\***  
**(Amendment of the Seventh Schedule)**

*[English]*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

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\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 25.8.05.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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16.33 hrs.

**CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED CASTES)**  
**ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005\***  
**(Amendment of paragraph 3, etc.)**

*[English]*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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16.33 1/2 hrs.

**NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY BILL, 2005\***

*[English]*

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for social security to the senior citizens, women, children and other disadvantaged sections of the society and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

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\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 25.8.05.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for social security to the senior citizens, women, children and other disadvantaged sections of the society and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.34 hrs.

### AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE SCHEME BILL, 2005\*

*[English]*

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory insurance of crops and livestock of the farmers and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory insurance of crops and livestock of the farmers and for matters connected therewith."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.34½ hrs.

### POPULATION CONTROL BILL, 2005\*

*[English]*

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI (Bapatla): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for measures and methods to control population and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 25.8.05.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for measures and methods to control population and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.35 hrs.

### CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005\* (Substitution of new article for article 48A)

*[English]*

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI (Bapatla): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.35½ hrs.

### HEALTH INSURANCE (FOR PERSONS LIVING BELOW POVERTY LINE) BILL, 2005\*

*[English]*

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for health insurance for the benefit of persons living below poverty line and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 25.8.05.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for health insurance for the benefit of persons living below poverty line and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.36 hrs.

### CITIZENS (IDENTITY CARD) BILL, 2005\*

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for issue of identity cards to all the citizens of the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for issue of identity cards to all the citizens of the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.36½ hrs.

### INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005\* (Amendment of section 375)

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA (Trichur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.37 hrs.

### CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005\* (Amendment of the Eighth Schedule)

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA (Trichur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: I introduce the Bill.

16.37½ hrs.

### FOREST (CONSERVATION) AMENDMENT BILL, 2005\* (Amendment of Section 2)

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980."

*The motion was adopted.*

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 25.8.05.

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 25.8.05.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.38 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS  
CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004  
(Insertion of new article 47A)-*contd.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we are going to item no. 60—Constitution (Amendment) Bill, Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy was on his legs.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I introduced the Constitution (Amendment) Bill for insertion of new article 47A with the idea that every village in India should be provided with a primary health centre equipped with all medical facilities, drugs and other facilities.

Now, as a welfare society, we all agree that it is the responsibility of the Government to provide minimum basic structure for roads, for education as well as for health facilities for the population of our country. Sixty seven per cent of the population in India is living in rural areas. There are several estimates about the people living below the poverty line. The Government claims that it is less than 28 per cent of the population whereas several economists differ on this. It is about 40 per cent of the population, we believe, which is living below the poverty line. When such a big population of our country is living below the poverty line, naturally, it is the responsibility of the Government to provide minimum health facilities for the people of this country.

Sir, I can tell you that in the last few years, after we have achieved lots of technological innovations and are boasting of satellite launching, missile launching and manufacturing of nuclear bombs, we could not move forward in providing accessibility to the health and medical facilities to the people living in rural remote areas.

Sir, I would like to quote an article from one of the newspapers dated 25 August, 2005. It states that:

"The non-hospitalised treatment, both in urban and rural areas, has declined in the last 20 years. In

1986, 33 per cent of the population was taking advantage of the Government sources and 67 per cent of the population was taking advantage of the non-Government sources in urban areas."

These figures are about the poorest 20 per cent of the population. Naturally, the people who can afford to pay, namely, the middle-class, the rich, etc., go to the private hospitals. It has been reduced to 10 per cent in Government sources in 2004 from 33 per cent in 1986 among the poorest 20 per cent of the population in the country. On the other hand, in non-Government sources it has increased from 67 per cent in 1986 to 90 per cent in 2004. It is most unfortunate.

Even in the rural areas, the poorest 20 per cent of the population used 27 per cent in Government sources in 1986, whereas it has been reduced to 17 per cent in 2004. As for the figures from non-Government sources, that is, from the private hospitals, etc., it has been increased to 83 per cent in 2004 from 73 per cent in 1986. It means that in the last 20 years the possibility got reduced instead of showing improvement in providing more and more medical facilities.

It may be argued from the other point of view, that is, more and more private hospitals are available, therefore, this is the reason for the people not utilising it. But it is not a fact. It is true that several private clinics are coming up in the rural areas also, but the income of the people has not grown to such an extent that they can afford to go to the private places. Even today, a very large percentage of the population depends on superstition, quacks, self-appointed doctors, and it creates a lot of problems. A large number of people are getting wrong drugs prescribed by them, and some of them even die because of this unfortunate situation.

There was a movement in the recent past stating that these doctors should be allowed to practise. There is support from the people for them because they want somebody who can give drugs to them even if these people close down their clinics. They ask: "Where will we go for the medicines if they close down?" Naturally, in such a situation, the responsibility of the Government has to increase.

I had mentioned the fact last time also that our country is unfortunately only 6th from the bottom in spending for medical facilities. It means that only five countries in the world are comparatively lower than India.

We are 10th among the industrially developed countries. We are supposed to be one of the most advanced countries compared to Europe and many other Latin American countries, but less than one percent of the amount is being spent for it.

Now, the Common Minimum Programme (CMP) says that at least 2.5 per cent of the GDP should be spent on health. A very ambitious and good scheme is being proposed by the Health Ministry to provide a big network for the rural areas and urban areas.

But I believe, the budget allocations are not going to be as much as the Common Minimum Programme is proposing. It may take a long time, but this is one of the most important things that the Government should take into consideration.

Sir, this year again the monsoon brought several epidemics like malaria, diarrhoea, cholera, dengue fever, etc. As per the statistics available, two million cases of malaria are reported; 4,17,000 people died due to TB, apart from 25 lakhs being treated every year; and 5.1 million people are identified with HIV/AIDS cases till 203. I do not have the latest picture. As far as we know, India is one country next to South Africa where the HIV/AIDS cases are on a very big increase: half-a-million more people every year adding to the list of AIDS patients. This is a very alarming situation. It is very unfortunate that we are unable to contain AIDS. Without the micro medical facility at the rural level, it will be impossible to stop the expansion of AIDS which is becoming the biggest menace as a very dangerous disease in our country.

Sir, I come from Andhra Pradesh. For the last several years, there are cases of malaria in tribal areas. This year, our friends from *Telugu Desam Party* raised the issue in Lok Sabha that more than 1,000 people died due to malaria alone in forest areas, particularly these are the people from the tribal areas. This year because of the politics, our friends brought these cases to the notice of Lok Sabha. But it is true that a very large number of people are dying every year due to malaria in tribal areas. There is no minimum facility even to test whether it is malaria or not. Thousands and thousands of people are suffering with this malaria which should have been eliminated immediately after Independence. This is not a very serious disease. At one time, the Malaria Eradication Programme was boasted to be very successful in this country. But unfortunately, within the

next two or three years after the announcement that malaria has stopped, more or less, it has come up in a very big way. Every time, when cholera etc. comes, we are saying that this is a very rare case because more or less, cholera has been eliminated in most parts of the country. However, still, we could not eliminate it once for all. Every monsoon is frightening to the rural people. This needs, naturally, a comprehensive policy to be drawn, as the situation is very gloomy. Now, the Government is proposing that it should be expanded slowly.

Sir, globalisation and liberalisation brought corporate culture in many fields. Now, in the medical field also, like corporate hotels, like corporate education, corporate hospitals have come up. It has become very costly for the people; even middle-class people are unable to bear the expenditure in these corporate hospitals. It is true that some of these corporate hospitals have got very good medical facilities. They have brought very huge machinery which costs several crores of rupees.

But they are trying to collect the entire amount from the poor patients at the earliest. This is becoming very difficult, naturally, for the poor people.

Compared to 20 years back, we can very quickly diagnose now very difficult diseases also. But, compared to 20 years back, the cost of medicines, the cost of medication, and the cost of hospitalisation is becoming so costly that even middle class is unable to bear it. The situation of sanitation is bad in the villages. Drinking water facilities, unfortunately, are not properly maintained. Fluoride content in drinking water is becoming a very serious problem causing lots of new diseases to the people.

There is a possibility at the micro level for the people to explain and to help people have better medical understanding so that many diseases can be stopped. For example, this year there was a very serious situation in Andhra Pradesh when it was found that several lakhs of young children were suffering from heart diseases. The Government of Andhra Pradesh decided to organise operations in the Government hospitals as well as in the corporate hospitals. However, I believe that in spite of good efforts they could not conduct these operations even for 10 per cent of the children who needed these heart operations.

There is a survey in which it is said that if a vaccination can be provided to the children at a young

[Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy]

age, it is possible to prevent some type of heart diseases. For heart operations of those children in Andhra Pradesh alone, it is estimated that more than five crore rupees is needed while a vaccination every year may help with an expenditure of only five lakh rupees to prevent the heart disease to young people. So, this shows that preventive medicine will be very useful. If preventive medicine is to be utilised at the lowest level, at the micro level, for the rural people to provide them, there is a need for Primary Health Centres.

There are several Primary Health Centres in rural areas. Unfortunately, there is talk that many of them are not functioning properly. Unfortunately what is happening is that 90 per cent, sometimes 95 per cent, of the budget that is allocated for the Primary Medical Centres is going for the salaries of the staff whereas only five to ten per cent of amount is left for the drugs and other medical aid. This will not be useful. A Primary Health Centre does not mean a building to be constructed. A Nurse or a Compounder or a Doctor has to be provided. People should be given proper medicines that are needed for safeguarding their health.

I would request that the Government of India should take this up very seriously. There are already 1,45,000 sub-centres, I was told, but they are catering only to 20 per cent of the population of the country. The Ministry of Health has indicated that they are ready to spend Rs. 2125 crore for reproduction and child health as a part of a big scheme for utilisation of technology-updating such as tele-medicine through satellite network. This is a very good announcement. It is a flamboyant announcement made by the UPA Government. But it should aim at building the infrastructure in order to deliver upon the announcement, the basic infrastructure of the public health centre in every village fitted with all basic amenities such as medicines, medical professionals, as a right to all citizens of this country. I strongly feel that unless article 47 of the Constitution is amended and the State sets up a health centre in every village with all the basic facilities, it will not be possible for the Government to complete the task as early as possible.

Now, the Government sector is able to meet only 18 per cent of the out-patient facilities, whereas 40 per cent in-patient care is being taken out. Now, there is a talk of private enterprises taking up the responsibility of public health also.

As far as I understand, there are two types of private sector. There are some charitable and voluntary organisations which are ready to extend some help. There is another type of people who are entering into education and health fields with a motive of getting profits. Naturally, they are not ready to provide basic health facilities. They are trying to concentrate on certain type of medical facilities where they can get quick returns as early as possible. Big amount is being invested. They carry on with their activities only for profit.

Take, for example, the vaccination in villages. No private organisation can provide this. There can be no substitute for the Government for this type of activities. MMR vaccination is made compulsory for all the pregnant women. Which would prevent congenital heart diseases, and it is expected to cost Rs. 600 crore. Which private organisation can do this vaccination? A World Bank funded benefit incident analysis examined the appropriate use of the preventive and cultural health services—20 per cent of the poorest captured 10 per cent of the public net subsidy given by the Government of India, whereas, surprisingly, richest people are getting 36 per cent of it.

Hospitalisation is another major contribution to the subsidiary benefit. Increasing utilisation at the rural public hospitals would enable the Government subsidies to be more pro-poor. 61 per cent of the poorest are found to favour public hospitalisation for availing any patient care facility. But unfortunately they are not in a position to utilise this as in-patient facilities are very little in the rural areas. Public hospitals even today, with all the criticism, are more accessible even to the urban population. Hence, I feel that India where a large number of poor people live, and in a country where 67 per cent of the population lives in rural areas, needs the Primary Health Centres. They are very much necessary and it should be the responsibility of the Government of India to provide this at the earliest. We should not only compete in industrialisation, not only compete in scientific development, we should be in a position to compete in providing the basic and minimum facilities that are needed for the improvement and safeguard of the health of the population of this country.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, I appreciate my hon. colleague, Shri Sudhakar Reddy for bringing this Bill, particularly, to take care of the people living in the rural areas, more particularly, those who live below the poverty line. In this context, I wish to bring to the notice of the

hon. Minister that it is appreciable that our country had made advancement in healthcare in the last two decades. It has done excellently. But all these facilities are made available mainly for rich people. Rich people can go to the corporate hospitals, get treatment for any disease, and then get cured.

17.00 hrs.

Similarly, the organised sectors have also got the facility of reimbursement. They can also go to the corporate hospitals and get the reimbursement. So, all these privileged sectors could get the health care as is needed by them.

But as Mr. Sudhakar Reddy was telling, the situation in the rural areas still remains worse. Leave alone the BPL people—the people living below poverty line are suffering very badly and almost living like orphans—even the middle-class people in the rural areas are not in a position to afford the cost of health care. Leave alone the corporate hospitals, even in the nursing homes, the cost has gone so high that the people have to sell their property in order to go to these hospitals for any major treatment either of surgery or of some accidents etc. So, this is the pathetic condition of the people living in the rural areas, who are to be taken care of first. Therefore, the concentration of the Government must be entirely or mostly, in the rural areas.

Sir, here, I have got certain things to mention. The Government must think in terms of providing Health Care Insurance to all the people below poverty line. It does not cost much.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): We already have a scheme for that.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Excellent. Mr. Minister, if you would go into the details, you would find that it does not cost very much. Though we have already started the scheme of Universal Health Insurance in our Budget, still the position is pathetic. This scheme was earlier started in a different name by the NDA Government and during their tenure, the total number of people insured was 9,000 and odd. I do not admire even this Government in this context because even now, the number of people insured remains very little. It might be a little more than what was there earlier during the time of NDA Government. So, I do not want to be partial to the NDA or the UPA.

But the number of people insured remains more or less the same. This number might have increased a little to 14,000 or even less. That means, while we dump, we give extensive publicity and say that the Government is doing excellently well for the poor people living in the rural areas by giving subsidy in health care and asking them: "you pay Re. 1 per day and we will give rebate of Rs. 200 in a family; Rs. 300 for five members; Rs. 400 for seven members, and all that." But the net effect is zero.

I would, therefore, suggest Mr. Minister that instead of asking these people to pay Re. 1/-, you ensure them. All the expenditure would not at all cost much. In my opinion, it would not cost much for the entire country for the people below poverty line. I presume that 40 per cent of our population is below poverty line and so, it should not cost more than Rs. 4,000 crore to insure these people.

Yesterday, we passed the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill, for which the concerned hon. Minister had said that he had provided Rs. 24,000 crore this year and it is going to be increased to Rs. 40,000 crore next year. Now, this amount of Rs. 24,000 crore or Rs. 40,000 crore that is provided for the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, most of it would go into the hands of the corrupt people. It would not reach really the poor people totally, though of course, it is a good scheme. Similarly, here, supposing Rs. 4,000 crore is allotted for this insurance, they would be taking care of the entire health care of the poor people. They would have the opportunity to go to the hospitals for health care up to an expenditure of Rs. 25,000 every year. For accident, it would be Rs. 50,000.

Sir, I appreciate the hon. Chief Minister of Assam who, I understand, has insured all the 30 million people of Assam, and the ICICI Insurance Company has come forward only with Rs. 25 crore premium for all the three crore people of Assam. That means, on *pro rata*, it does not cost more than Rs. 400 crore. Of course, they would not be able to continue it for long with that premium and so, they may have to increase it next year, which may, come to Rs. 3,000 crore or Rs. 4,000 crore, which the Government would have to bear in the interest of the poor facilities that are available in the rural areas.

Sir, in this context, I also wish to bring to the knowledge of the hon. Minister of Health that for the small diseases like fever etc., they do not require the

[Shri K.S. Rao]

postgraduates; and they do to require extensive cost. So, in this context, the hon. Minister may please think whether he can encourage Ayurveda, Homeopathy and Unani. Would he think in terms of diploma courses in Medicine? It is not necessary that everybody must be MBBS. These days, for some people, getting MBBS degrees costs around Rs. 1.5 crore. Even for others, for giving all the facilities to a student, it is between Rs. 30 lakh and Rs. 40 lakh. I hope the Minister agree with me on this. So many students are taking education at the cost of public money. They do not want to go to the village at all. Everybody wants to be in urban areas. Nothing prevents them from going there. They are ready to work in urban areas for Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 10,000 even if they can get Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000 in rural areas. I would request this august House to find a solution to this. I would request the hon. young Minister to think whether we can put a condition of awarding the MBBS degrees only after they have worked for five years in the rural areas. If somebody does not want to work in rural areas, he will have to pay back the money, maybe not immediately but after earning in a span of ten years or fifteen years in his life time, invested by the Government. Otherwise why should we provide this education to rich people by paying about Rs. 30 lakh from the exchequer when they are not prepared to serve their own people in rural areas? I would request the hon. Minister to think over it.

I would like to know whether the hon. Minister, knowing full well the sentiments expressed and the prevailing conditions, would think in terms of providing incentives to those doctors who are ready to start nursing homes in rural areas. They can be at mandal headquarters or in big villages. There should be some kind of incentive. If there were to be some kind of incentive to the doctors, they will go and establish nursing homes there. You can think in terms of waiving off all the excise and customs duties or anything of that kind on the equipment for starting nursing homes in rural areas. This can be given. Even there is nothing wrong in spending these thousands of crores of rupees on reimbursement, provided the same reaches the people.

My hon. colleague had said that hundreds of people in the tribal areas have died over the last several years because of malaria and other diseases. Instead of spending thousands of crores of rupees on it, we can prevent those things by providing incentives to the hospitals and nursing homes set up in the rural areas. I would request the hon. Minister to think on these lines.

We can also avoid the people from the hands of self-styled doctors, who do not know anything. They only try to utilise the weakness of the superstitious people in rural areas.

Sir, I do not know whether it requires a Constitutional amendment or not. If it is required, I would say it is essential and it can be gone through. If it is not required, an alternative solution must be found immediately. It should not be taken easily as it is merely a Private Member's Bill. It is not that only a Government Bill is important and not a Private Member's Bill. Extremely good suggestions are coming forward through them. I have gone through most of the Bills that have been introduced today and earlier also. Some very good suggestions have come. I would request the Government and the hon. Minister to realise the value and importance of Private Members' Bills that are introduced. Without thinking egoistically, if there are some very good Bills, the Government can improve on them and then introduce them as Government Bills.

With these words, I congratulate Shri Sudhakar Reddyji and request the hon. Minister to take it seriously and try to solve the problems of the rural poor and rural masses by providing health-care facilities in the rural areas.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate hon'ble member for introducing this bill because it suits both the time and the requirements. The Bill has been introduced under the provision made in article 47 of Directive Principles of State policy and I would like to quote that: "Duty of the State of raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health—The State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the Standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties and in particular, the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption, except for medical purposes, of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health." Mr. Speaker, Sir, article 47 (a) should be added in this article. In the context of Constitution amendment bill which has been introduced, hon'ble Members demanded that a Primary Health Centre be set up in each village so as to protect the health of Indian Citizens. I associate myself with their sentiments. In fact, the population of the country is more than 102 crore and it is common knowledge that



majority of the population lives in rural areas and out of that 26% population lives below poverty line i.e. they do not have much resources to think of any other things except two square meals a day. How then their economic condition can improve? There is lack of nutritious food. Arrangement for only roti is being made for them. It has to be seen as to how the Government carries out its responsibilities entrusted to it in article 47 by the constitution makers.

I would like to dwell upon the issue primary health centre to be set up in each village. I think it is not possible at present in the first stage. Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres have been set up at block level. Apart from that Ayurvedic dispensaries have been set up within the State. The basic health care facilities be strengthened in Rural Health Centres, Community Health Centres and District Hospitals. A sub-primary health centre should be set up from Gram Panchayat level up to the Central level in the coming years containing all the facilities like ultrasound, blood analyser, x-ray machine and requisite technicians. Similarly, for the distribution of medicines Pharmacies should be set up where medicines be made available free of cost. It will certainly solve the existing problem in the health sector in rural areas to some extent. The people of rural areas have to visit to an Ojha or quacks in helplessness. Despite efforts no control could be exercised on them. People have perforce to go to such persons for treatment who prescribe medicines wandering from village to village. This issue itself is very serious. Taking this issue seriously and keeping in view the requirements in the health sector, NDA Government decided to set up 6 hospitals on the lines of AIIMS in the country. Uttaranchal was one such fortunate State, from which I hail too. Certain difficulties had cropped up in the way of setting up of such hospital in Rishikesh but I would like to thank hon'ble Minister that the Government is pursuing it on the basis of the initial proposal. The Government should expedite the work in this regard. Common ailments like fever and other smaller diseases may be treated in the Health Centres of rural areas. Medicines are made available for them but people suffering from serious diseases have to come to Delhi. The people of villages can not go to big hospitals like Apollo and Batra. If they go there, they have to sell their properties for it. That is why there is a need to open AIIMS-like hospitals there. The decision to open six AIIMS hospitals and upgrade six medical colleges to the level of AIIMS is commendable. I would like quick progress be made in this direction.

A new concept has emerged in the rural areas. The honorarium paid to Anganwadi workers was increased from Rs. 500 to rupees one thousand. At present Anganwadi workers would get rupees two and half thousand per month. Our government has also extended to them an insurance coverage of rupees fifty thousand. They have to perform various functions. Like Anganwadi workers, the Government of India implemented the village health workers scheme in the decade of 1990 and like the workers of Anganwadi they were also paid honorarium by the Government. All these programmes were discontinued over a period of time but presently we are providing money to NGOs so that they can create awareness for AIDS and leprosy through publicity. This concept is prevailing in rural areas I suggest that the places where buildings for Anganwadi Centres are being constructed may be converted into multi-purpose buildings. Ministry of Health may co-ordinate in this regard so that they may be utilized for multi-purpose work because they have their network in each village and each rural area may avail it.

The most serious problem is that of purpose. Grants are provided from the Centre to the States. Practically, it has been seen that wherever machines and equipments are to be purchased, though purchasing is made and all the machines are installed in hospitals, but the posts for this purpose are not created properly. I know that there is only one x-ray technician in a district hospital in my constituency in Uttaranchal. Each primary health centre has been equipped with machines because money has been sanctioned for this purpose. Purchasing is easy. The machines were purchased and installed but they are rusted away for years together. The condition is the same from wherever we get information. The condition of other equipments too is the same. Attention should be paid to this so that optimum utilization can be ensured. Machines are installed in rural areas, but the people visiting the health centres are told to get ultrasound done from the market at a cost of Rs. 200-300. Such health facilities should be provided to them there itself.

I want to share one of my experiences and request Hon'ble Minister to consider it. The Hon'ble present President was Chairman of TIFAC (Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council) institution in the Department of Science and Technology. A proposal was mooted in the discussion that besides setting up primary health district hospitals the concept of mobile hospital be implemented on experiment basis in place of meeting expenses on construction of huge

[Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda']

buildings for this purpose. The amount was sanctioned and a mobile hospital worth Rs. 60 lakh was started. It was placed on a big chassis of Tata and it was designed in Mumbai. A 10 KVA generator, x-ray machines, ultrasound machine, blood analyser were installed on it and arrangement for distribution of medicine was also made. A small vehicle with doctor and team of staff was also provided along with it. Time-table for its movement was scheduled and that hospital is functioning for 42,000 patients in three districts. It was inaugurated by the Hon'ble President in 2002. It has examined about 42,000 patients. Its charge is nominal. The registration fee is Rs. 10. One can get x-ray report instantly. Medicines are distributed through it. I have a proposal that such mobile hospital should decide the dates for attending the patient of a particular area instead of investing money on construction of hospitals. It is mentioned in article 47 as to what extent this scheme can be extended to being an improvement in health of the people of rural areas.

Besides this, there is Article 21. As the Hon'ble Member has mentioned article 21, therefore I want to dwell on it. It is a serious issue, it cannot be said that this subject has been raised by a private member. The Government should not hesitate in accepting a good proposal given by a private member. Article 21 provides for protection of life and personal liberty.

[English]

"Protection of life and personal liberty—No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law."

[Translation]

It was mentioned when we were discussing Patent Law. The Supreme Court has held that to provide medicine at a cheaper and reasonable rate, to provide medical facility on reasonable cost comes within the jurisdictions of right to live. Thus, health had been included provision made under right to live. It has also held in a verdict of the Supreme Court. As far as article 21 is concerned, it is in the form of right and not as directive principles. Article 21 read with article 47 and article 13 guarantees fundamental rights. It is mentioned in directive principles that State shall have to make effort for that. Today we talk of providing reservation to women and about rural areas. The manner in which the NDA considered and drafted the bill is being considered by

your Government. We extend our support to the Government on each such issue. I think the Hon'ble Minister will win the support of the whole House and every section of the House. Let this bill be passed. Later on it will be amended in accordance with the circumstances that may arise in future.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make a few points with regard to drugs as well. Firstly, the allopathic medicines are out of reach of the common man due to their prohibitive costs. Life-saving drugs are even more expensive. Secondly, extensive research is being carried out in respect of Ayurvedic medicines. There is a large market for traditional and herbal medicines in foreign countries and these medicines do not cost much either. Hence, we may promote plantation of medical herbs in rural areas to give a boost to herbal medicines. We should consider ways and means to increase the production of herbs which can in turn be processed and marketed thereby enabling the common man to avail of effective and quality medicines at affordable rates. In this way, we would be able to fulfil our constitutional responsibility of taking care of the medical needs of the rural citizens.

Minister of Rural Development, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh comes from rural background and he has carried out good work. If the Ministry of health functions in the same manner it would get full support from our side. I reiterate my full support for this Bill and conclude my statement herewith.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Constitution Amendment Bill, 2004 presented before the House by Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy purports to establish primary health care centres equipped with basic medical facilities in each of the villages. I support this Bill. This is a topical issue. Not only is it important to hold a discussion in this regard, it also needs to be ensured that this discussion leads to requisite improvements in the health care system and that the rural divisions may feel that this government is vigilant about fulfilling the medical needs of the people living below poverty line in rural areas. This message should reach these people through the government. According to Article 47 of Directive Principles of State Policy it is an obligation on part of the government to bring about improvements in public health facilities. The clear implication is that it should be seen that no person loses his life due to non-availability of medical facilities. It is the duty of the State to ensure this but health care facilities are in a deplorable state at present. Our country

is being besieged by numerous new diseases. As a consequence, the medical and healthcare facilities needed by the people now a day are so expensive that the government sector is not able to provide coverage to them. As a result, people are forced to use the services of private hospitals. However, private health care facilities are too expensive to be within reach of the common man. Their economic constraints do not allow them to avail of treatment from such places. Many poverty stricken people and people living in rural areas have to die untimely deaths because of non-availability of medical facilities.

Mr. Chairman, indisputably India is amongst those countries which have deplorable health services. The renowned physician B.N. Tandan, who was awarded the Padma Bhushan by the government had rued in a speech that five years earlier India was at the 124th position with regard to the standard of health services available in the country and now it has fallen to 129th position. Eighty percent of the population of our country resides in the villages but less than ten percent of health services are available for it. Our country has an average ratio of one doctor for every 2500 people. The state of primary health centres in rural regions is such that there are neither any arrangement for examination of patients nor are any x-ray machines or specialists available in such centres. Doctors also rarely visit such centres. The situation is execrable. The Minister of Health is also present in the House. A few days ago his statement was published that only 20 percent people in the country have access to health services in the country. If we make a comparative assessment we will see that the value of annual production in America is 11667 billion dollars whereas it is only 691 billion dollars in India. It means that the per capita income in America is 41400 dollars whereas the per capita income in India is 620 dollars. What I mean to say is that the average per capita income in our country is very low due to the magnitude of population. I would like to assert that the increasing population in the country and the problems regarding the health services in the country are correlated. Hence, this issue also needs to be addressed.

Mr. Chairman, India spends very little on health services when seen in comparison to the rest of the world. We wish to compete with America and Europe but the per capita expenditure on health services in America is 4877 dollars whereas it is only 24 dollars in India. America spends 14 percent of its GDP on health services

whereas the corresponding figure in India is 5 percent. Our neighbour Nepal spends 5.2 percent of its GDP on health services and the per capita expenditure on health services in Sri Lanka is 30 dollars. What I mean to say is that unless the Government accords priority to health services and makes a large allocation for health services under the budgetary provisions, I don't think we would be able to give a fair deal to the large population of the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, let us take a look at the situation prevailing in the States. The Minister of Rural Development, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is present here. There are some astonishing facts. The rate of expenditure on health services at the national level is merely Rs. 187. Goa is a small State with low populations. Hence, the expenditure on health services in this State is Rs. 1081 and the State to which Minister of Rural Development, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh belongs, expenditure in this regard amounts to Rs. 50 only. In Uttar Pradesh it comes to Rs. 83. It is difficult to understand how the government proposes to be able to save everyone's life or bring about an improvement in the state of health services or enable the people from poor communities to get treatment keeping in mind the figures quoted above.

The Union budget allocates 1.3 percent amount for health services. Hon'ble Health Minister is sitting here; as per National Health Policy for the year 2002, we were committed to increase budget expenditure on health services. But that has not been increased. I want to say that the more we demand to increase expenditure on health services, the less it becomes. The expenditure on health services of State as well as the Centre for the year 1992-93 was 3.12 percent of the Government expenditure, it decreased to 2.99 per cent in the year 2003-04. We should have spent money on health services on priority basis. Health services should have been given top priority by the Government. But the amount was decreased instead of being increased in budget. I think, it is definitely a matter of concern.

Efforts were made in this regard in different manners from time to time. When Shri Rajnarayanji was Minister of Health in the year 1977, he launched 'Jan Swasthya Rakshak' programme and 323197 Jan Swasthya Rakshaks were appointed in 6 lakh districts and they were paid honorarium of Rs. 50. Hon'ble Minister of Health must mention it during his reply. They have been agitating and they did not get the salary of Rs. 50 for years and now

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

the Government have discontinued the scheme. The honorarium could not have solved the problem related to health. Despite this the scheme was discontinued.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at present we have one health sub-centre in the country for rural population of five thousands. Total number of such sub-centres is 1,45,980. One health centre is set up on every six sub-centres, the number of which at present is 22842. One community health centre is set up on every four primary health centres, the total number of which is 3034. And community health centre means a small hospital having the capacity of 30 beds.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the population of the country is more than 100 crore and the number of community health centres or the hospitals having 30 bed capacity is 5479. Having added the number of bed in other hospitals the sum total is 3,80,000 beds. Ramdasji, the country having population of 110 crore and 80 percent of its citizen residing in rural area. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. AMBUMANI RAMADOSS): The State Governments should look into that.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I am not discussing with you that thing. Finally you are responsible.

*[Translation]*

The people should be helped. Every matter cannot be evaded on the plea that health and education are State subjects. If epidemic or any other disease spreads in a State and medicines are unavailable and thousands of people die, will the Central Government do nothing? The question can not be evaded on the plea that it is a State subject. It is correct that health and education are State subjects. But finally it is the Union Government who has to save the life of the people. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I do not want to disturb the hon. Member. Basically health is a State subject. The Central Government complements and supplements the efforts of the State Governments. Even though for all the health parameters and health conditions, the Central Government is also responsible, I would just

like to point out to the hon. Member that we supplement the efforts of the State Governments. The State Governments have to take up more responsibility. I am going to respond by stating the figures and statistics to show the extent of participation of the Central Government and the State Governments.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I know what are State subjects and Centre subject in this federal structure of Government. State Governments have their own economic limitations. They have limited means. Ramadasji, the issue of my speech is that better health facilities would not be provided to the people until the Central Government extends requisite help to the State Government. There are lots of State Governments that do not even have funds to pay the salaries to their employees. I mean to say that we will not be able to solve such big problems until you take such issue seriously and take initiatives to strengthen health services. This issue can not be abandoned on the plea that it is a State subject. Law and order is also a State subject, Would the Union Government do nothing on the plea that it is a State subject at the time when Naxalism is thriving and people are being killed. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman Sir, in my opinion, Government of India need to pay more attention.

It is true that Government of India has launched Gramin Swasthya Mission Scheme and has announced to spend Rs. 8 thousand crore on it. The most important thing is that the facility that should be made available by spending the amount on health services has not been made available. The arrangement that should have been made, has not been made. The amount spent is not being properly utilized. As I have said earlier, health centres are opened but there are no doctor in them, no nurse and staff go there. The medicine provided to them are sold in the market. The medicines made available to patients are spurious. Besides this, required equipments are not there. There is no expert there. As a whole, we can say that the health service being provided in rural area are not provided to common people. People have no trust in health services provided by the Government. Private services are so expensive that common people can not afford them. When someone is admitted in Apollo or Escorts hospital, he has to spend Rs. 4-5 lakhs after admission in a way as if he were spending Rs. 100-200. The people residing in villages are compelled to sell their land, take loan to save their life. The treatment

has become so expensive that one has to take loan even from his acquaintance, what to talk of his family members. New diseases have come up and treatment for them have become expensive. I mean to say that the people living in rural areas are medically insecure. They need to be helped more.

Reddy Saheb has introduced a good bill, I thank him. I expect the Government to take effective initiatives after discussing with the State Governments. As I have told earlier that State Governments have limited economic means, the Government of India should extend its assistance in it. Health services need to be strengthened more.

*[English]*

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you, Sir, for allowing me to speak on a very important topic which our hon. colleague, Mr. Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy has brought as a Bill, though a Private Member's Bill, attempting to have a Constitution Amendment, especially to include a specific provision in the Directive Principles of State Policy as 'article 47A', stating that:

"The State shall set up one primary health centre in every village with all basic medical facilities."

In the Constitution, as has been stated in the Directive Principles of State Policy, this is a Direction which all State Governments including the Centre should strive for and try to achieve. It is not a wishful thinking of the Founding Fathers of the Constitution, rather these are certain things which a popular Government should always try to achieve to provide these provisions. This provision should be made for the betterment of the people at large. In that respect, a number of provisions which have been mentioned there in case of providing dignity to women, providing education to the people, providing health care to the people, to have better labour relations in the society, various aspects which, of course, in certain aspects also are a part of law but here, the Direction is that these principles should be achieved. This should be our goal. These are certain specifics which the nation should strive to achieve. In that respect, in article 47, specifically a Direction is there, which says:

"Duty of the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health."

These are the three major aspects in article 47 where it has been very categorically stated in the Constitution:

"The State shall regard the raising the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties..."

It will be the primary duty. Here, raising the standard of nutrition not necessarily confines itself to the Ministry of Health. It also comes under the Department of Women and Child Development also, which comes under another Ministry. But in this, of course, there is a major aspect because the addition of article 47A confines itself to the opening up of primary health centres in different Village Panchayats. The focus is to provide better health care in rural areas. There also, it further says:

"...and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health."

With this, hon. Member, Shri Reddy, wants to add, which I had read out earlier:

"The State shall set up one primary health centre in every village with all basic medical facilities."

What do we understand by "all basic medical facilities?" These facilities should be available in a Primary Health Centre. As far as I remember, the planning of having the Primary Health Centre started in the Second Five Year Plan. At that time, the Block Development Office was at an initial stage. It was, of course, a contribution of the First Plan. It was in the mid-50s or in the later part of the 50s that the Primary Health Centre idea was evolved saying that medical facilities should not be confined to the urban areas, sub-divisional areas or district level areas. It was felt that it should also go in with the development process. It was so because we have a large number of developmental activities in the villages. It was felt that at least there should be one Primary Health Centre in a Panchayat Samiti or a Block Development Agency. It was called as the Community Development Project. Certain areas and certain number villages were demarcated saying that these were the Community Development Areas and in each Community Development Area, there should be one Primary Health Centre. It was also felt that at least one medical officer, an MBBS Graduate, should be posted there; a pharmacist should be posted there; staff nurse and other support staff, para-medical staff should also be there. There, blood testing, X-ray machine and other instruments should also be

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provided. Further each medical officer was also provided with a vehicle so that he could go around the area. At the time of necessity, he could transport the patient to a sub-divisional level medical institution or to the district institution, if not to the major medical college which is situated mostly in a bigger city. So, the idea was to provide medical facilities. Of course, the hon. Minister has intervened in-between and said that is a State subject. I will come to that a little later. Yes, it is a State subject. But when we are discussing this, we cannot shrug off our responsibility either.

Sir, we all know what has been done within the last 15 months under the able leadership of the hon. Health Minister. A lot of changes have taken place and will be taking place in future also. I have that much of faith in him. But a lot more attention is also required. He has visited a number of States including our State, Orissa. Specific direction is being given. A focus on rural health care is also being made. But, at the same time, I would like to say that the State is failing. It is failing not only in the health sector but also in other sectors. It is not that the State Government alone is failing. The State, as an apparatus, is failing. It is failing in the education sector. It is failing in providing urban amenities. It is failing in the health sector. The State, as an apparatus, is failing after 57 years of Independence! This is the impression of all right-thinking citizens of this country. Whenever we go to any public utility service centre, we see that a citizen does not get that much of care and attention which he is supposed to get. The founding-fathers of the Constitution, while enshrining it in the Constitution, had given a pledge; the freedom fighters during the struggle for freedom had given a pledge to this country. But, as I said earlier, the State, as an apparatus, is failing. What should we do, not only as representatives of the Parliament or of our constituencies but as conscious citizens of this country? This is an awareness which is slowly dawning upon most of the citizens of this country. What should we do? A remarkable attempt was made during the last Government when *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* was taken up. Of course, it is a State subject. Primary education, for instance, is purely a State subject. We have made a commitment to the Millennium Development Goal of United Nations. When we see that a large part of our society do not go upto the school verandah, they do not get education at all, that has a cascading effect on the society as such. Wisdom dawned on us and a specific cess was imposed by the UPA Government to finance that project. We have discussed it earlier on

different occasions that some Rs. 5,000 and odd crore have been collected which is now being utilised for *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*. Can I suggest the UPA Government and also the hon. Minister for Health? Can we not have another type of a cess specially? Can we not have a *Sarva Swasthya Abhiyan* encompassing the whole country?

17.52 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the chair*]

As we have *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*, can we not have a *Sarva Swasthya Abhiyan* which can be financed? Cess is one aspect. As two per cent cess has been imposed with the Income Tax, similarly some innovative idea can also come up. Some funding system other than the usual budgetary allocation can be evolved. Some money can be specifically put separately and utilised as *Sarva Swasthya Abhiyan*. I would earnestly request the Government that please look into this aspect also. At the same time, I am also reminded that you have a National Rural Health Mission and it is now being implemented in 18 States of which eight are EAG States—Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa also is one of that including Bihar, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal. Similarly, eight North-Eastern States are also there. These 18 States, including Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, should get your specific attention. I am not doubting that you are not putting specific attention but I would request that more than specific attention should be given to these States. These States lack many things, specially, in the health sector. Actually, during my school days in the village, the amount of medicine that was available, and the number of personnel who were there in the hospital, in the primary health centres are not available today. Population has grown; problem has grown; number of diseases have grown; market has also grown; and the number of medicines have also grown but at the same time there is lack of personnel. Medical colleges have grown, number of doctors have grown.

But, at the same time, there is a mismatch. We do not have adequate number of doctors. When we think of having more number of hospitals, there initial idea is to have a doctor. How can we have a primary health centre without a doctor? For the last six decades, the expansion of health sector is being contemplated upon this concept. During the tenure of Shri Rabi Ray, when he was the Health Minister in the late 70s, he said that we should have a barefooted doctor as in, China. We will have a

*swasthyakarmi* who can at least come to the help of the needy patient or to the needy people in the rural areas. Subsequently, in the late 80s, that project was totally abandoned. It is being revived, and I should congratulate the Minister that, with this Accredited Social Health Activist which he has named it 'ASHA', he has given a great hope to the people. 'Asha' is the other name of hope. He or she will travel in to the villages, to the remote areas, to the tribal areas and to the inaccessible areas. This is the impression; this is the attitude in which he will attend to a certain marginalized sections of the population. Actually, a lot of things depend on that very person, and the success of this project will depend on the recruitment of the trainee or on his or her dedication towards the people for whom he is appointed to serve. Basically, health sector is such a sector where it can only succeed if there is a sense of dedication, then only health sector can provide support for the development of the society. I would say, with these words, that the concentration of the National Rural Health Mission is to develop the infrastructure. Buildings have been created; x-ray rooms have been erected; and wardrooms have been constructed. In Orissa also, to a great extent, we have achieved that. But the basic problem which comes up is of lack of personnel. In Orissa, the other day, I came across a Report that the Government is short of 1884 medical doctors in Orissa today. At the same time, the Medical Council of India (MCI) is hell-bent; it will not allow more seats. I do not understand. The SCB Medical College of Cuttack is more than 70 years old. It is one of the oldest Government Medical College in the Eastern India and a number of doctors who have studied there are now serving not only in this country and AIIMS but also abroad. Today, Orissa is endemic in child mortality rate. It is one of the highest child mortality rates in the country. Through it has come down within the last three years, yet still it is the highest. We need more number of pediatricians. I said the other day that a person who goes in for Post-graduation in Pediatrics, the State Government of Orissa has made it mandatory that if he wants to go in for Post-graduation after MBBS, has to go and serve for at least three years in the remote KVK districts. After serving there for three years, then only he can be qualified to sit in an examination for Post-graduation. After serving there for three years, he gets qualified for Post-graduation and opts for pediatrics. After completion of 10 months study, MCI is repeatedly sending letters to throw these students out.

18.00 hrs.

Sir, I had drawn the attention of the hon. Minister to this matter during the last Budget Session. Though an inquiry team had gone there in November last year and pointed out certain deficiencies, again after the Minister's intervention, a committee went there in the month of May and they have seen that all the deficiencies have been rectified. But to our surprise, in the month of July, again they got a letter asking them to first throw out these students. What is the intention of the Medical Council of India?

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): The intention is to get money.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: So, I would, once again, request the hon. Minister to intervene in this matter. Nobody will misunderstand him and he will be doing a great service to the people of Orissa. They will be very grateful to you because this does not pertain only to some students of that particular year, but it is a concern about the attitude as to how you look at the problems. This is the situation as it is happening in our State of Orissa and it is happening in other States also.

I am not pleading for private medical colleges. But the point is, today we have a number of medical colleges both in the Government sector as well as the private sector. The private sector should also be encouraged, but they should be issued specific guidelines. At the same time, can we do something to stop the MBBS graduates who are migrating, going outside this country? They are getting the help and support of the society and of the nation, qualifying themselves to serve the people and then go out to help their families and serve another country. It does not help our country in the longer run. It was called brain drain in the 1960s and 1970s. Can we do something to stop this, discourage this?

While travelling in those three undeveloped areas, namely KBK districts, of undeveloped Orissa, we see that basic amenities are lacking for a doctor. A doctor needs a habitable accommodation, with 24-hour water supply, 24-hour electricity and when he wants to do certain tests, at least, those facilities should also be provided to him. Of course, all this needs money and the State Government does not have that much of fund to provide all these facilities. I think, when the consciousness is rising in the society at large, more attention should be given to enhance the budgetary support to the health

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sector both in the Centre and also in different States. At the same time, we should also encourage the private sector to provide health services and the Government should issue them certain guidelines that private nursing homes should not only serve the people who pay, but they should also provide certain beds, certain wards free of cost to the needy people.

Finally, I would like to say that the idea that has been put forth in this Bill is a very wise idea, but it needs a lot of financial support. With these words, I conclude my speech.

\*SHRI M. APPADURAI (Tenkasi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, an amendment to the Constitution has been mooted by my esteemed colleague Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy to make the responsibility of the Government to ensure health care facilities in rural areas as a duty of the Government. I welcome this Constitution (Amendment) Bill being discussed in this House in the form of a Private Member's Bill. The amendment aims at setting up Primary Health Centre in every village with all medical facilities.

A free-verse poet in Tamil said, "we won freedom at midnight; and it is yet to dawn". Even after 58 years of Independence the life of the poor rural masses is yet to brighten up and shine. Health care is still beyond the reach of rural poor, urban slum dwellers, remote tribal region poor and people living in small hamlets. I am not here to throw blame on anyone. Consecutive governments have all failed to concentrate on this area. It is a hard reality.

Sir, 60 per cent of diseases are due to water and air pollution. We are yet to provide safe protected drinking water to all our villages. So is the state of affairs in housing, sanitation and conducive atmosphere for disease-free healthy life.

Proper education, health care, infrastructure for economic development are still not available fully to the people from the rural areas. Whether Governments are putting their head and heart into it is still not clear. Sanitation and medical facilities must not elude rural poor. There is one more thing. It is more important to take preventive measures than to treat diseases after its spread. The menace must be curtailed. They must be nipped in the bud. That is why, great Tamil Sanit Poet Thiruvalluvar said:

*"Nai naadi noi mudhal naadi adhan  
Val naadi vaippan seyal."*

It means, it is prevention that is more important than diagnosing and treating a disease. Thousands of crores of rupees are spent on defence. But how many per cent is spent on defending people from diseases is still a question. I urge upon the House to ponder over this.

We won freedom in 1947. We gave ourselves a Constitution in 1950. What does Article 47 states in the Directive Principle of State Policy? Constitution makes health care the responsibility of the Government to regard improvement of public health as its duty. But what is happening today? I do not want to apportion blame on any Government.

Now the time has arrived to come together and to unanimously adopt this Constitution (Amendment) Bill to insert Clause A in Article 47. I wish we pass this Bill cutting across party lines.

What do we witness in Government General Hospitals? If doctors are there, medicines are not there. If medicines are there, nurses and other staff are not there. If both are there, proper treatment is not there. This is what people say in Tamil Nadu. I think this is the sorry state of affairs everywhere in the country.

In our country, 96 per cent of the doctors live in towns and cities. Meanwhile, 63 per cent of our Indian population live in villages. But we do not find doctors prepared to go to rural areas. We do not get adequate number of doctors to work in Rural Health Centres. Medical facilities and even medicines are not available there. Even in CGHS Dispensaries in the Capital, the same situation is noticed. Recently I have taken it up with the Health Minister personally.

It is imperative that we ensure medical facilities to the rural masses. We have Medical Centres at every Block level. But it is necessary to have Primary Health Centres in every village.

People living in remote village do not have basic health care facilities. Ordinary citizens, common people living in deprived conditions do not get health care at affordable costs. Now-a-days, we get some financial assistance for treatment heart ailments from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Only few people manage to get this help and assistance. But many a men in rural areas, in the absence of public health facilities are forced to go to private clinics and hospitals that fleece these helpless people. Most often, it is beyond the reach of common people to get treatment in private hospitals.

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\*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.



It is only because the Government has failed in its duty to provide public health facilities, private clinics and hospitals have a mushrooming growth. Multi-storeyed hospitals demanding exorbitant rates for medical treatment are on the rise in the private sector. Government General Hospitals are facing closure for lack of facilities.

Private hospitals find it a lucrative business than running a star hotel. Exorbitant rates beyond the reach of deprived sections make them prohibitive. Ordinary people are left to fend for themselves. It is only the callous and irresponsible approach of the State Governments that has led to this situation. Same kind of treatment attracts different charges. The costs vary from hospital to hospital. So, naturally the deprived classes and rural masses go to the quacks.

*Thanthai Periyar*, the great rationalist leaders, through his dedicated campaign, took efforts to wipe out superstition and blind faith in the minds of the people of Tamil Nadu. But the people there seek to go back to the medieval ages. Temples, rituals, pseudo-sanyasis and quacks are approached for medical treatment. It is only because of non-availability of proper and affordable public health system, the time clock has been put behind there. I would like to draw the attention of this august House to come with a remedy to put an end to this sorry state of affairs.

Some time back, I was amazed to see a procession taken by medical students on the streets of Chennai raising slogans that new medical colleges must be closed down. On enquiry I found out that Government jobs are not forthcoming and so they resorted to that agitation. On the one hand, in the rural areas doctors are not available. On the other hand, recruitment is not there. What a contrast it is? We find dearth of doctors in rural areas. On the contrary, there is a demand not to open new medical colleges.

If we go round the world, we cannot see any country without Indian doctors. Even in the so-called super power, America and in many European countries we find many Indian doctors. Government spends from its exchequer at least Rs. Five lakh per medical student. Considering the current price trend, it could be more than Rs. 10 lakh to produce a doctor out of a medical college.

Are they educated to be put on brain-drain? Whose fault it is to force these doctors to go abroad when we have not met our requirements for doctors? We find

advertisements in dailies almost everyday that are luring our doctors and nurses to seek jobs abroad. Do we plan enough to strengthen our health care system? The Central Government cannot ignore its responsibility citing the reason that health is a State Subject. We must strive to take public health care to rural areas.

Every village needs to have a Primary Health Centre with all medical facilities. We have made new strides in scientific advancement, especially in the field of medical sciences. We have modern equipment to determine sex even before birth, even in embryonic stage. We have even advanced facilities to correct and remove unwanted growth in the foetus. But have we ensured that these scientific advancements reach the rural people?

Such advanced medical facilities are far beyond the reach of our poor villagers and those who are in the lower strata of the society. Have we provided total medical facilities to the working class people? This Constitution (Amendment) Bill proposes to ensure medical facilities to the deprived sections of the society. This Bill makes it a responsibility and a duty imposed on the Government concerned to provide medical facilities to all the people in the rural areas.

Today, both the Centre and the State Governments are busy in promoting privatisation in education, health care and medicine, transport, communication and providing infrastructure for economic development. We want to ensure a Government that works. The ideals and principles behind our freedom struggle to win independence from the colonial rulers must not be given a go by. I feel being pro-privatisation is against the principles of freedom struggle.

Our hon. Union Health Minister Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss is doing a good job. He is putting in lots of efforts to take advanced health facilities to various States and to rural areas. I wish his efforts succeed. Passage of this Bill would help strengthening public health facilities in villages.

By way of inserting Article 47A in our Constitution, making it a part of the Directive Principles of State Policy, this would be made a duty of the Governments both at the Centre and the States. With this, the State Government can be impressed upon to focus creating health care facilities in rural areas. I hope every village can have proper health care. Expressing my support to this Bill, I conclude.

18.15 hrs.

## BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Seventeenth Report

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, I beg to present the Seventeenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

18.16 hrs.

## CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004

(Insertion of new Article 47 A)-*contd.*

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Constitution Amendment brought by Hon. Reddy Sahab is very good. Provisions regarding health services already exist under Article 47 of the Constitution but there are many shortcomings in the health services being provided in rural areas. Hence, I thank him for bringing this amendment and for initiating comprehensive discussion in this regard in the House. I would like to place a few suggestions for consideration of the hon. Minister. For the last decade the Central Government and the State Governments have adhered to the slogan of "Sasti Shiksha, Sasti Chikitsa". It is my suggestion that medical treatment should be provided for free. Free treatment should be provided for the least of illness as well as for the most serious of diseases. It is regrettable that even after 58 years of independence the rural poor and the farmers lose their lives because they do not have access to treatment and medicines.

It is my submission to the hon. Minister that although primary health centre and community health centres are established but no doctors are available to provide treatment in the said centres. There are machines but no operators. A Primary Health Centre may have an ultrasound machine but the doctors tell the patients to get the ultrasound and X-ray done from some other place. This is not an affordable option for the poor. Villages should have good doctors who take proper care of their patients.

I belong to Haryana. I am surprised to find that doctors who are posted in villages open private clinics in cities after a while. It is my submission that Government should make it mandatory for doctors who have got their MBBS or MD degrees from Government hospitals to serve a fixed tenure in the villages failing which they would not be permitted to open their own hospitals. They leave the villages and open their own hospitals and the policy of the Government is held to be of no account. Multi-purpose health workers should be appointed for the villages. There should be one ANM in each of the areas having a population of less than two thousand.

The death of mother and child during delivery due to lack of medicines or because of contacting septic is a common occurrence in villages. Hence, there should be one ANM working as midwife in every village to stop the deaths of women at the time of delivery. If you peruse the records you will find that in most cases death of poor women in villages occur during delivery. These deaths occur because these women do not get the required medical facilities during delivery. Hence, one ANM should be present in each of the villages. Where the villages are very small one ANM can cater to two villages. It should be made mandatory for the ANMs to stay at the villages. If they do not live in the villages their appointment would have no meaning. You initiate many programmes. Malaria is a big problem in the country. During the monsoon season, a lot of sludge forms in the villages where mosquitoes breed in large numbers. These mosquitoes are the carriers of malaria. Jhuggi-jhopris are not kept hygienically clean. The Union Government should provide DDT powder in each of the villages as it used to provide earlier. I know that it is not available in villages any more which is why it is not sprinkled around the jhuggi-jhopris. Ten years earlier DDT used to be sprinkled every seven days all over the villages. This practice is no longer followed.

The whole country is concerned about the state of health services. The use of pituitary injections is prevalent. If a buffalo does not give milk it is given this injection and it immediately starts producing milk. It is very harmful for humans. If it is injected into a vegetable such as lauki (bottle-gourd) it grows by half a foot in one night but it is harmful for health. You should investigate this matter. It is my suggestion that a ban should be put on use of this injection. This injection should be provided only to people who need it for their cattle. It should not be used to grow vegetables. It is misused for many other purposes these days.

Let us come to NGOs. It is a good thing that NGOs run schemes. There are many NGOs, which receive funds from your schemes. They only implement government programmes. The common man derives no benefit from them. Multipurpose health schemes should be given encouragement. Optimum use should be made of multipurpose health workers. Many NGOs, are functioning in Haryana. They have only set up offices. They are more concerned about AIDS and other big diseases. They have made a register for the common people. They stake out at bus-stands. Would they be able to figure out the profits and losses? The poor persons, especially the small farmers and the labourers are not getting any benefit. The Bill that has been introduced through the private members business is an extremely important Bill. In a democracy, the Union Government and the State Governments have different responsibilities. The Union Government should issue guidelines to the State Governments in this respect from time to time even though the matter falls under the jurisdiction of the State Government. The medicines provided by the Union Government take a long time in reaching the States. Many times the medicines are received after their expiry. Medicines should be sold before their expiry dates. Medicines for Malaria, TB and AIDS etc. are distributed for free in many places. There should be a monitoring mechanism regarding the sale of such medicines. The Union Government should keep an eye on the agencies through which these medicines are sold in the villages. Anybody found guilty of wrongful conduct should not only face disciplinary action but should also be punished.

Adulteration has become a big business in the country. Cheap medicines are available as a result thereof. The Union Government and the State Governments sell medicines. Many factories manufacturing spurious drugs are unearthed. Stringent measures should be adopted to stop the manufacture of spurious drugs. Take the example of adulterated petroleum products. If kerosene is mixed with diesel, it ruins the engine. If a human being is given spurious medicines it would cause economic loss, harm the physical well-being of the person and be detrimental to the interest of the country as a whole. It is my request to the hon. Minister that strict action should be taken against companies that manufacture spurious drugs. Stringent laws should be made in this regard. Laws against adulteration should be as stringent as the laws regarding dowry and rape and these laws should be enforced strictly. Persons who manufacture spurious drugs should be sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment. I would

not say that such persons should be hanged but they should be imprisoned for 20 years because their actions are harmful for the country. Spurious medicines cause untimely deaths as negative reactions take place in the body. There should be provision to keep such people imprisoned for life. People have made medicine a business. You may conduct a survey in this regard. You will find that people who manufacture spurious medicines, are prospering. Their factories are running in profit. Their mission is to sell spurious medicines. They sell these medicines at cheap rates and the poor get taken in by them. It is mainly the simple villagers who are harmed by such medicines. They do not know what is written on the prescription. They take whatever is given to them unquestioningly. If the poor, the villagers are to be kept away from harm then a strict control has to be kept on such factories. The laws should be enforced strictly and there should be provision for punishment of the guilty persons.

Lastly, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister towards the fact that the ANMs or doctors appointed in community centres or primary health centres do not account for much. Beds should be provided in such centres. Primary health centres have one or two beds at the most and sometimes not even that. If you visit a community centre in a village you will find that it hardly fulfils its purpose. It is locked up by four in the evening. If a patient goes there at night the doctor tells him that neither medicines nor x-ray machines, or ultrasound medicines are available in the place and the patient is advised to go to a private hospital. Private hospitals are too expensive for the poor. A poor person is forced to take expensive treatment. The Union Government keeps on saying that it will provide affordable treatment. My suggestion is that some action should be taken against the Government doctors who run private practices. You may give them as much bonus as you wish but they should not be permitted to run private practices. The Centre should enact a legislation in this regard. If a doctor is found to be running a private practice he should be dismissed from service. As the hon. MP Shri Mehtabji said, a lot of expenditure is incurred on the training of a doctor in a government medical college. As soon as they get their degrees they undergo five or seven years of internship in a medical college hospital or some other hospital and thereafter join a civil hospital. As soon as they build a reputation for themselves they start thinking of quitting and starting a private hospital. I would like to request the Minister to order a survey to find out

[Shri Jai Prakash]

the number of private hospitals in the cities and to check out the State of community centres in villages which are being used to house animals. There are neither doctors, compounders, ANMs nor are there any dispensaries or medicines. There is merely a non-functional building in most of the villages. I would like to suggest that maternity huts should be set up with each one of them catering to one or two villages. If a village has high population, say more than five thousand, it should have a separate maternity-hut for itself. There would be no need for a constitutional amendment to make this arrangement. First an effort should be made to address the existing problems so that the poor of the country do not lose their lives. Constitutional amendment is not needed to save the lives of the poor. The need of the hour is to enforce the existing laws and to work hard towards this end. I think you for giving me time to put across my views.

[English]

SHRI N.Y. HANUMANTHAPPA (Chitradurga): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir.

At the outset, let me congratulate my comrade friend Mr. Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy for the reason that he has introduced a Bill, which, according to me, is very important to uplift the health of the poorer sections of the society.

Indirectly, what he has asked the House is to see that the Bill is approved so that the so-called medical justice about which he did not say is ensured. But the idea is that the so-called medical justice be taken to the doorstep of every villager, the poor and the downtrodden. The hon. Member, who spoke earlier, has stressed on all the points. I do not like to dwell upon them again, as it will unnecessarily consume the time of the House. I would like to emphasise on only two or three points.

Sir, we all know what Late Mahatma Gandhi had said, "India lives in villages". The basic feature of our Constitution, which all the citizens of the country have to worship, is social justice, which according to me is important. Whether it is food, health or education, every citizen of the country, that is, 110 crore population, has a right to urge about a decent living and a decent health also. But, unfortunately, the so-called equal distribution of health has not gone to the poorer sections of the society who live mostly in the villages and it has concentrated only in the towns and cities.

Probably, the framers of the Policy are under the impression that people live only in cities like Delhi, Chennai, Bangalore, Kolkata and Mumbai, forgetting that there are other people also who live in the villages and who aspire for food and health. But, unfortunately, unlike our brethren in the cities, they have no voice to say that they want good health and good medicines. They have no strength to stand and say that they want health. There is also no awareness among them that they have a right to urge for health. It is all because they are socially, economically and educationally very poor and uncared for.

The Constitution says, through it is not fundamental, but it is said in the Directive Principles of the State Policy that it is the obligation on the part of the State to see that health is given to every citizen of the country. As my hon. colleagues, particularly, Shri K.S. Rao and others pointed out, the money, which we are spending, is hardly Rs. 167 per head which is really negligible. It shows that our State has not given much strength and flexibility to our hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare, by giving him a sizeable amount so that he can spend a little more on the village health care.

Sir, it is a common practice and those who have come from the rural side are quite aware about the pathetic condition of people, particularly the women-folk. At the time of delivery, for non-availability of medical facilities, either the child as soon as born dies or both the mother and the child die because of improper care. There are no medical centres at all in the villages. Of course, earlier also it was thought that every Panchayat Centre should have healthcare facilities and all that. In fact, the earlier Member thought that there shall be a primary health centre, which means that it is very much at the initial stage, and that the health should be given. It is all right. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for this Bill is over. If the House agrees, the time for discussion of this Bill may be extended by one hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

SHRI N.Y. HANUMANTHAPPA: Sir, I will take one or two minutes more. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time extended on this Bill is not for today. The time allotted to this Bill is extended by one hour. If the House agrees, then we will have that extension.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.Y. HANUMANTHAPPA: Now, I come to the non-providing of this primary, that is, initial medical care to the villagers. We have seen many mothers who die because of this reason. They die due to improper medical care etc.

Sir, now, what the villagers need is decentralisation and distribution of the so-called health care.

Let it not be concentrated in the cities and towns only. Let super speciality hospitals be also taken to the district centres and other places so that the health centres can, in turn, cater to the needs of the villagers. Wherever there are some serious diseases, they can go to the towns or nearby cities. You cannot expect every villager to go to capital cities or metropolitan cities. This is the need of the hour. Medical justice should be distributed to each and every citizen of the country. Otherwise there will be no meaning of the so-called article 14 which says that everyone will have equal opportunity, article 47 which is adumbrated in the Directive Principles of State Policy, and our urge that social justice be given to all citizens. All these things will become purely a farce. I am sorry to use some harsh words here.

As hon. Member Shri K.S. Rao has rightly pointed out, nowadays we are seeing that most of the students who complete their MBBS education do not like to go to the villages for one reason or the other. If you want to see that all the villagers get the healthcare, to which they are entitled, you must encourage people to study for diploma course in medicine like LMP or RMP which we used to have earlier. Even now we can start that. It costs less. Every district centre can have those people. These people will not hesitate to go to the villages and work there.

In addition to that, as other hon. Members were pointing out, there is the scheme of health visitors which was started earlier. They are not going to the villages now. Let there be a compulsion that the health educators or the health inspectors shall visit each village everyday. That compulsion should be there.

In addition to that, we are saying that in some villages the Primary Health Centre units are there. As my friend Shri Jai Prakash and others pointed out, there will be no doctor in these centres and if there is a doctor there will be no nurse. If both of them are there, there will be no pharmacist. If all the three are there, there will be no medicines and equipment. Unfortunately, this is the state of affairs of our village hospitals.

We have to take care of the health of the villagers. If we do not take care of the health of the villagers, whatever plans that we would be launching will have no meaning at all. Tomorrow, a criticism may come that they are meant only for the elite of the society and not for the poorer sections of the society. The need of the hour is that medical justice should reach the doorsteps of every citizen of the country, particularly the poorer sections of the villages.

My humble submission is that there shall be some sort of rural health *vikas yojana*. There are so many *vikas* programmes. Of course, there is a national plan. But, in addition to that, there should be stress on some sort of national rural health *vikas*, like *Gram Arogya Vikas* or such type of a scheme should be launched.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): We have the National Rural Health Mission.

SHRI N.Y. HANUMANTHAPPA: I know, Sir, the vision is there. I thank you for correction.

Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House. I would like to adopt the arguments already advanced by the previous speakers. With these few words, I conclude.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for giving me an opportunity. I want to appreciate hon. Member Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy for bringing this Private Member's Bill to establish Primary Health Centres in every village. We all know the proverb that 'health is wealth'. Without health there will be nothing. The population of our country has crossed 100 crore. We all know that. But most of our population is very poor who do not have any access to quality healthcare. As everybody is aware, the cost of healthcare has gone up many a time and it is skyrocketing everyday. When this is the situation in urban areas, I do not want to emphasise here about the villages.

The people living in villages have to travel a long distance to reach hospitals and many times when they are critically ill, they find it difficult to travel to the cities for their healthcare. Sometimes they die before reaching the hospital. This is the situation.

The United Progressive Alliance is talking about the Bharat Nirman and the National Rural Health Mission, but I want to know what has been done by the

[Shri G. Karunakara Reddy]

Government to provide healthcare facilities in rural areas. I also want to know, Sir, through you, how much amount has been released for healthcare in the rural areas in the country.

In India, about 600 districts and more than three lakh villages are there. There are thousands of villages where people do not even have a dispensary, what to talk of hospital. Even pregnant ladies have to travel quite a long distance for child-birth and many villages do not have even the basic medical facilities.

Sir, the National Rural Health Mission was launched recently with much fanfare stating that the Scheme is aimed at providing healthcare to every person in each and every village of our country, but nobody is aware of how much money is granted for this Mission and there is no such information available as to what facilities will be made available through this Mission. I demand, through you, Sir, that the National Rural Health Mission should be implemented without any delay and all this information should be made available to the public.

I understand that in the National Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government, healthcare is one of the seven thrust areas. In the Programme, it has been proposed to increase the expenditure in health sector from the current 0.9 per cent of GDP to two to three per cent of GDP over the next five years with main focus on primary healthcare. If they have a proposal to increase the allocation for health sector from one per cent to two per cent of GDP, that too in the next five years, I am sure that the Government is not going to do anything much in the health sector.

Coming back to the National Rural Health Mission, it has been stated that flexible funds of Rs. 10,000 per annum will be provided to health centres to procure essential medicines. When we calculate this amount, it comes to Rs. 30 per day, which has to cater to thousands of people in a health centre. This is a meagre amount and this should be increased at least to rupees one lakh per annum per health centre.

Moreover, it has also been stated that in the next two months, 2,50,000 Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) would be identified in 18 States and if necessary, relaxation will be given in the qualification. I am afraid that there is a possibility that unqualified persons with no training or experience are going to be appointed and due to this, lives of millions of our rural brothers and sisters will be at risk.

18.43 hrs.

[SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL *in the Chair*]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): You please look at the brochure of National Rural Health Mission.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Sir, I am not optimistic whether the Government will be able to get such a large number of health workers in such a short time and on such a meagre salary.

Sir, the Government also depends on private sector participation in the health sector. While it is a welcome thing, the important question is whether it would cater to the poor and the rural people. The answer is 'no'. No private sector will be willing to invest their money in the rural areas. If this is the situation, I do not know how the Government is going to provide healthcare centres in villages. The only solution, which is a practical one, I believe, is that the Government should set up a healthcare centre in every village and if it is not possible to provide a healthcare centre in every village, then at least in every Gram Panchayat a Primary Health Centre should be set up. It should have the facilities for handling pregnancy, laboratory and other first aid facilities.

The Government should set up one good hospital with all modern facilities at Taluka level which should have facilities to handle all major operations, emergency cases, surgeries, etc. At the district level, the Government should set up one Referral Hospital and Research Centre, which would cater to the needs of the whole district. Unless this is done, I think, the situation is not going to improve any further. Even after years together, we are going to be at the bottom of the index in healthcare services.

Sir, I would like to cite an example of my own constituency. There is Vijayanagar Institute of Medical Sciences (VIMS) in Bellary, Karnataka. It is a very big hospital, and a large number of patients also come there from the surrounding villages and neighbouring States. But the poor patients there are not even provided with the ordinary medicines. All the poor people and Below Poverty Line (BPL) people have to go to the medical shops to purchase medicines with their own money. This causes great inconvenience to the poor patients. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister, through you, to help them and instruct the Institute, at least, to provide medicines to the poor and BPL people.

The Central Government always puts the blame on the State Government. The hon. Minister has already mentioned the point that health is a State subject, therefore, the State Governments should make provisions for the healthcare facilities. Is it not the duty of the Central Government, if not to set up hospitals, to assist the State Governments financially in setting up the Primary Health Centres or hospitals? I would like to state that as we all know, many State Governments are not in a position to spend the actual amount of money required for providing such healthcare facilities as it would require substantial amount of investment. Therefore, I strongly appeal to the hon. Minister, through you, that the Central Government should either bear the whole expenditure by converting all the schemes under the National Rural Health Mission or by floating a separate healthcare scheme to find a solution to this problem.

I would now like to quote the answer given by the hon. Minister to Unstarred Question No. 409 dated 7 July, 2004. In the answer, the hon. Minister has stated that:

"...The targets are fixed to fill up the gap between the number of Primary Health Centres (PHCs), in position and the number required to cover the 1991 population, as per the existing norms for population coverage..."

I fail to understand this point. Why has the Government not taken into account the 2001 census to revise the norms when the 2001 census was already available and its survey work was completed? I am sure that the requirement of the PHCs as per the 2001 census would definitely be more than that based on the 1991 census. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take necessary action in this regard immediately.

Furthermore, in reply to part (b) of the said Question, the hon. Minister has stated that:

"...405 Primary Health centres are proposed to be established during 2004-2005."

I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. How many Primary Health Centres have been established during 2004-2005? What is the target set for the year 2005? How many PHCs have been established so far during the current year?

Lastly, I would also like to quote the reply given by the hon. Minister to Unstarred Question No. 599 dated

27 July 2005. In his reply, the hon. Minister has stated that:

"...six AIIMS-like institutions are proposed to be set up in the under-served areas of the country, and another seven institutions in the States are proposed for upgradation to that level by grant of a one-time assistance under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)."

I would like to mention here that the then hon. Minister for Health and Family Welfare had given an assurance in 2003 that the Vijayanagar Institute of Medical Sciences (VIMS) at Bellary will be upgraded to the level of AIIMS. But the Union Government has done nothing in this regard till date. Therefore, I would urge upon the Union Government to sanction and speed up the work on this proposal at the earliest.

We all are aware that many poor people come to the Members of Parliament for recommendation letters to get financial assistance—for their heart operation, cancer treatment, etc.—from the Prime Minister Relief Fund. We recommend these cases, but only some cases get assisted under the Prime Minister Relief Fund, and that too only for 50 per cent of the expenditure incurred by them or 40 per cent of the expenditure incurred by them or 30 per cent of the expenditure incurred by them. As a result of this, the poor people have to bear the remaining expenditure from their own pockets, even though it is the only assistance for the BPL people. Therefore, the Health Ministry should assist the BPL people and poor people who are to undergo specific treatments for major diseases like heart operations, cancer treatment, etc., with full amount.

Sir, I urge upon the Union Government to particularly assist the poor patients by making full payment.

Sir, prevention is better than cure. Through you, Sir, I would request the hon. Health Minister to set up good laboratories at the Primary Health Centres so as to avoid the diseases. That is a better way to take care of their health.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to the hon'ble Member for bringing in this important private members Bill.

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

The basic intention of the hon'ble Member is that medical centre should open in each village and I think the entire House and your goodself would also be in favour of the resolution on this proposal. There cannot be two opinions that we have achieved a lot and progressed a lot in these 58 years after independence. It is provided in our constitution that medical facility, education, drinking water and shelter should be available to each citizen of the country as these are basic needs of life and it is the responsibility of the Government also. But with great regret I have to say that if we could not provide health services to 90 percent of our population even after 58 years of independence we are lacking somewhere or other, Whosoever may be entrusted with this responsibility, it appears that we have not discharged our responsibility well. Whichever government may be in power this thing has not been kept in mind and because of this rural people are facing difficulties even today. Thousands and lakhs of people be they children, women, or youths are dying today for want of proper medical treatment.

Sir, with your permission, I would like to present a small figure before you. According to reports prepared about 74.8 percent people in cities go to private hospitals for treatment whereas only 23.5 percent people go to the government hospitals for treatment and about 1.7 per cent people get treatment in hospitals run by NGOs and trusts. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards villages. In rural areas 66.2 percent people go to private hospitals for treatment whereas 30.6 percent people go to the government hospitals for treatment and 3.2 percent people get treatment through hospitals run by trusts and other organizations.

Such is the situation in the country that due to lack of health services more than 50 percent women in the age group of 15 to 49 years in seven States are suffering from anaemia and as per my mind out of five pregnant women one woman dies due to this. About 400 women die daily during delivery due to lack of proper facilities. In every twenty minute an infant also died and about 30 thousand children below five years of age die and about 30 thousand children below five years of age die. I am grateful to the Government, Hon'ble Prime Minister and the hon'ble Minister for their commitment according to which National Rural Health Mission has been started in rural areas in which backward States have also been included. Bihar is also included in the said Mission. In

Bihar people are facing lots of difficulties. I think not only in Bihar but in the entire country situation is the same. Generally the health services available for the rural poor be they from the Union Government or from the State Governments are not being provided in a proper way. The health centres set up in villages are also not working in an effective manner. The Doctors therein on deputation live at the block headquarters who are supposed to go to villages as it is their duty to go to villages for one or two days in a week to treat the people there. But I am pained to say that not to talk of Doctors even lower level health workers do not go to villages. I would like to cite an example of Patna city in this regard. There are several health sub-centres and block level hospitals in rural areas of Patna city which are in a pitiable condition. Though so many doctors are appointed therein but they do not go to rural areas. Doctors do not go even to Dera area adjacent to Patna. Doctors do not go to rural areas where fifty percent population lives below poverty line and the poor people do not have money to get treatment from private hospitals or from anywhere else. They suffer a lot for want of treatment. A number of youths who work in fields and do not have money for medicines, they do go to doctors for treatment but they cannot buy prescribed medicines as they do not have the money. I think a number of people die due to this reason. It is our basic responsibility and constitutional right of the people too to get health care services. I do not know as to when that day will come when health care services will be available to every household. Certainly you have framed a policy and your intention is that health care services should be provided to every village but there is a need to tone up the system. There is a need to have monitoring over it. If Doctors are penalised for dereliction of duty, I think good health care services can be provided but it is not being done. There is tremendous unity amongst the Doctors and if someone takes action against them they raise a hue and cry.

19.00 hrs.

The doctors working in Government hospitals are allowed for private practice hence are dedicated to it in dereliction to their duties in Government hospitals. Why does the Government after taking the State Governments in confidence, not make stringent law to ban private practice as has been done in AIIMS and other Government hospitals? The doctors will not attend to their duties in the hospitals unless they are dealt with strictly. Condition of rural posting for a certain period should be



attached to the service conditions of the doctors to qualify for urban posting or promotion. Such strict steps will have to be worked out. Fortunately, the Minister himself is a doctor. He has a big responsibility. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: This is very important Bill and there is a practice of not asking to stop speaking in between.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is fine, you take five minutes more next time because now it is time to conclude.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I will not conclude right now but allow me one or two minutes more. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you are going to conclude right now, then continue, otherwise speak next time.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: O.K. I will speak next time.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up Special Mentions.

I would request the hon. Members not take more than two minutes each.

Shri Lonappan Nambadan.

SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (Mukundapuram): Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of the House the problems of lakhs of plantation workers, such as, more than 26,000 workers in Kerala are adversely affected and suffering due to the closure and abandonment of about 23 tea estates. Keeping in view the various problems being faced by the plantation workers of rubber, tea, coffee and spices including cardamom, I would request the Government to kindly take the following steps to help the poor workers: (i) create a fund as announced in the Union Budget for 2003-04 for development, modernization and rehabilitation of plantation sector; (ii) allocate social sector funds for providing better basic amenities like primary health, water, sanitation, etc. to the poor plantation workers; (iii) provide health and welfare facilities as prescribed in the Plantation Labour Act to the workers and their families; (iv) provide ESI medical facilities to the workers and their families;

(v) ensure that the provident fund dues to the workers are credited to the workers' accounts regularly and released at the time of their retirement; and (vi) to find solution to settle the issue of provident fund dues to the workers in the entire plantation sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri P. Karunakaran—not present.

Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi—not present.

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR (Dhar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is pole between my seat at division no. 437 and the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may come forward to speak.

SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am taken aback by reading an article by an eminent ophthalmologist appearing at page 50 of the 'Outlook' weekly of 15.8.2005. Dr. Rajvardhan Azad, an eminent retina surgeon in R.P. Centre in AIIMS, who has also received a Silver Jubilee Research Award conferred by H.E. President of India, has made a sensational revelation in the 'Outlook' weekly.

In his article, Dr. Rajvardhan Azad has informed that the laser technology which is very useful for eye treatment, is providing a cause of blindness as the doctors who are not expert in using this technology are using it. The doctor has written this article under the caption "Adhkachare sarjanon ke karan ho rahe log andhe". This way, the laser technology is proving dangerous for eyes. This is a matter of grave concern. The cases of blindness due to wrong use of laser technology have come to light in the Capital city of Delhi also.

A number of such incidents have occurred in my parliamentary constituency in Madhya Pradesh too. In eye camps, doctor perform operations with laser or anything else. In a number of cases, the patients have become blind. I belong to Lunhera village in Dhar district. In that village also, four of five adiwasis and harijans have become blind after being operated upon for cataract.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have greater experience of ophthalmic treatment in comparison with the western countries as number of eye patients is very high in our country and we are at the same pedestal in relation to state-of-the-art machinery also. Despite this hundreds of

[Shri Chhattar Singh Darbar]

people are becoming blind due to treatment by untrained and less knowledgeable eye surgeons. Mr. Chairman, Sir, television, computer games and internet chatting etc. are some of the factors responsible for ophthalmic problems in younger children. There is a need to bring about awareness among them through various media.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR: I will conclude in a minute. I have got the opportunity to speak after a long time. In the end, I want to urge upon the Government through you, Sir, that measures to prevent blindness in the country should be improved and use of modern technological equipments by untrained and less knowledgeable surgeons be banned immediately and action be taken against such persons.

This is very serious that one loses his eye due to operation by a surgeon as eye is one of the most important organs of the body. If a person becomes blind, there is nothing left in his life, however big person, even an M.P., he may be. Hon'ble Minister of Health is present here. I request him to take it seriously. When such incidents happen in hospitals like AIIMS than what may be happening in small hospitals? How many people might have become blind there!

Through you, I request the Government and the hon'ble Minister to take this issue seriously and take action against all the doctors with little knowledge. An eminent ophthalmologist of AIIMS has accepted it before 'Outlook' that numerous people have become blind due to treatment by such doctors with little knowledge. I request the Government to pay special attention to this issue and stop this practice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia—not present.

Shri Bhuvaneshwar Prasad Mahta—not present.

Shri Hannan Mollah—not present.

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA (Mirzapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I want to congratulate our popular Prime Minister. He has exhorted people to follow the middle path suggested by the Lord Gautam Buddha. His statement is still being published in newspapers. The message of Lord of Tathagat Gautam Buddha reached

the entire world from the pious land of India for the welfare of human being. Foreign tourists visit in large numbers even today to so many Buddhist places like Sarnath, Kaushambi, Kushinagar, Shravasti, Kapilvastu, Lumbini, Nalanda, Rajgir, Bodh Gaya, Lawuria, Kesharia etc. They get overwhelmed by the Thisharan, Panchsheel and Arya Ashtangic principles of Buddha and thereby making their lives happy and well cultured and feel peace within their innerself but when they see encroachments by the encroachers on the Buddhist places, it hurts them deeply and they seem aggrieved by the Government of India and Indian people, which both the Government of India and Indian People cannot prove otherwise. Encroachment has been made in the name of Hanuman Mandir just in front of the main gate of the Samath temple on the Government land where the people come for taking the message of peace but get disturbed. Likewise all the Buddhist places are encroached upon. And all the Governments since Jawahar Lal Nehru have not paid any attention to this problem. The emperor Ashoka sent his son and daughter to spread the message of Gautam Buddha in the world thereby creating a wave of love and sympathy across the world and this enhanced the image of India world over. History and Geography stand testimony to this fact. But the NDA Government hatched a conspiracy to remove the Ashoka pillar embossed on the Indian currency. Everybody knows that India was called the Golden bird during the reign of Emperor Ashoka and cultivation was considered as the best work. Since then the following proverb has been popular among farmers. "Uttam Kheti Madhyam Ban, Nikirsht Chakri, Bheekh Nidan". Indifferent attitude to such a great emperor Ashoka could be fatal. Recently, Mahamaya word has been deleted from the name of Mahamaya Nagar district in Uttar Pradesh which shows denigration to Lord Buddha and is tantamount to a national crime.

If India wants to get rid of its most complex problems it will have to dedicate itself to the Buddhist places and the Buddhist culture.

The Ayodhya dispute could also be solved on the basis of the Buddhist ramanants found during the excavation. We want that Indian Government should construct "Bhaichara Prema Kendra" at Ayodhya in place of temple mosque to spread brotherhood in the world in order to keep intact country's wisdom.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, I also associate myself with him.  
...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have raised this thing so the Minister of Health should say something on it. He should make some remarks on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is over. This is not allowed.

*[English]*

I thought you want to bring something else to the notice of the House. So, I permitted you.

Ms. Mehbooba Mufti—not present.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): The Prenatal Diagnostic Test Act came into force in the year 1994 banning sex-selective ultrasound test. But the sex ratio in the age group 0-6 years' has declined sharply from 945 females per 1000 males in 1991 to 927 females in 2001 except in the States like Kerala, Tripura, Mizoram, Sikkim and Lakshadweep.

The decline is quite alarming in some prosperous States like Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Gujarat. Punjab where the *per capita* income is higher than any other State, sex ratio is 793 females per 1000 males. According to WHO, the acceptable ratio is 950 females per 1000 males.

At places like Patel Nagar, Vasant Vihar, Punjabi Bagh and Preet Vihar the sex ratio is 937, 856, 840 and 780 females per 1000 males-respectively. Falling sex ratio is a matter of grave concern. In Kakhrod village in Jind, about 500 men who had crossed the marriageable age are unable to find their brides because there are a few girls. A section of doctors, nursing homes, ultrasound scanning centres are indulging in these heinous crimes.

I urge upon the Government to take stringent action against these unscrupulous doctors, nursing homes, ultrasound scanning centres which are violating PNDT Act.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first I would like to say something about the State of Madhya Pradesh. Bilaspur district was in Madhya Pradesh before the creation of Chhattisgarh and an eighteen seater aircraft service used to ply to and from Bilaspur district. Chhakrabhata was the aerodrome.

And since the creation of Chhattisgarh, this service has been discontinued. There is a need to introduce air service there in view of the population of SCs/STs in Chhattisgarh and for their development also.

HPCL has its office in Bilaspur. There are also high court and Railway Zonal office in Bilaspur. There is NTPC in Sipat and power plants are located in Korba. People make to and from journeys in connection with the place being industrial centre and people cannot travel by plane as a result of which crores of rupees get spent on to and fro journeys. In keeping all these situations in mind, I would like to ask the Union Government either 18 seater aircraft service should be restored or give sanction to introduce a new air service after widening of the Chhakrabhata airstrip.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Haribhau Rathod—not present.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Rural Development and the Minister of Agriculture towards the 'food for work' scheme being implemented for providing employment to people of rural areas in the country under which they are provided foodgrains for work. This scheme is being implemented for the interests of the rural people. There is no doubt that the scheme is being run properly and it is a good thing. But the foodgrains meant for the poor labourers under this scheme is black marketed on large scale. Under several district Panchayats, the foodgrains are being sold in open market in the name of bogus labourers at various places. Complaints from various places have been received that traders purchase coupons to be provided to the labourers and get foodgrains at cheaper rates and sell it in the open market. As a result the pilferage and black marketing of foodgrains is taking place on the one hand and the prices of foodgrains i.e. wheat, rice etc.—produced by the farmers is going down in the open market on the other. That is why income of farmers has been declining. Through you, I would like to request the Government to make the law stringent in order to implement the above scheme properly and check the black marketing and pilferage of foodgrains under the above scheme. The bungling which is taking place by writing the bogus names of labourers, should be stopped by making strict laws.

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI (Rajnandgaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the newly created State Chhattisgarh. The State Government of Chhattisgarh

[Shri Pradeep Gandhi]

extended various concessions to encourage investment and industrialization in this new State. As a result maximum investment in the country is being made in Chhattisgarh. In Chhattisgarh, minerals like iron ore, coal, bauxite are found in abundance. Large number of memorandum of understanding have been signed by the people for setting up mineral based industries. Some people have set up their units there and they have started functioning. Several proposals for mining iron ore have been sent by the State Government to the centre for its approval. About more than 50 proposals are under consideration of the Government. If decisions on the pending proposals are not taken in time it will disappoint the perspective investors and cause various difficulties. Hence through you, I would like to request the Department of Mines of the Government to clear all the proposals sent by the State Government to Central Government for approval within a fixed time limit and return the same so that the people, who have already set up their units, can extract raw material and pay more revenue to the State Government after making value addition. Apart from it they will be able to generate more and more employment opportunities. So it is necessary to clear all the above proposals within a fixed time limit. Hence the Government must clear these proposals actively so as to provide impetus to the industries there.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will now call Members from whom notices were received after 9.30 in the morning, with the request that they may be very brief in their submissions.

**(II) Re: Breaking out of diseases in the country**

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): I shall be grateful to you for your magnanimity. I was desperate enough to raise an issue in regard to the advent of Dengue as well as Kala-azar and Malaria in Bhatpara in Kolkata.

The situation has assumed an alarming proportion. The entire Kolkata City has been gripped with fear and panic. The State Government had first detected the Dengue fever in Kolkata on 13th August but they paid lip service to this issue. Very recently they woke up from their stupor. It is astonishing to note that the Health Minister of West Bengal has advised the people not to consume aspirin tablets. No work, including spray or making available the medicine, has yet been taken up there. So far as Kala-azar is concerned, the districts of

Murshidabad, Bankura and Purulia have been invaded. As per a Report, out of 120 blood samples tested so far, 86 samples confirmed Dengue virus. The rate of positive test is so high and untenable that even Mac Eliza test confirms 70 per cent of the blood samples tested so far are Dengue virus positive.

The State Government is ill-equipped to cope up with the situation. Already NISED has been deployed there. I am fortunate enough that the Health Minister himself is present here. So, I take this opportunity to draw his attention so that special measures are taken to combat the situation because the scenario has been deteriorating day by day. People have started steering away from the area. Furthermore, the people living in slums are the most vulnerably affected victims. They are not getting any cooperation or any medical facility from the State Government of West Bengal. The medical infrastructure of West Bengal is unfit to combat this scenario. So, I would urge upon the hon. Minister, through you, to make an observation, if possible, and take an appropriate measure so that the people of West Bengal, especially Kolkata, Bhatpara, Murshidabad, Bankura, Purulia and those areas which have been affected by Dengue, Kala-azar and Malaria get some sort of relief.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): I will look into this. We are, of course, concerned. Some case of Dengue have been reported there. I have already instructed my officers to have a surveillance and look into the issue. We will be monitoring the situation closely and will be assisting the State of West Bengal to take all preventive measures and also to take care of the curative part.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the problems faced by the workers of the toddy industry in my State.

Sir, toddy is an alcoholic beverage which is tapped from coconut and palm trees. Even though it is considered as an alcoholic drink, its alcohol content is only six per cent and it is very nutrient also.

In my State, nearly two lakh workers are involved in the toddy industry but due to the pitfalls in the *Abkari* Policy formulated by the State Government from time to time, this sector is neglected and more importance is given to the other liquors. Apart from this, due to the disease of the coconut tree, toddy production is also reduced. With the result, the workers in this industry are losing their jobs and the industry is on the decline.

Here, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Food Processing. By neutralising the alcohol content in it and by using advanced technology, we can preserve it. It can be used as soft drink or a soft beverage. For this purpose, the State Government needs the assistance of the Centre. Some proposals and projects are already there in this regard. Therefore, I would like to submit that some assistance must be given to this industry so that it can be sustained and the jobs of two lakh workers who are working in this industry can be saved.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Chairman Sir, a crises is looming large over Mumbai city due to heavy rainfall. The conditions are bad there and some people have also died of various diseases after rains. You must

have read in newspapers that 11 people died and 50 got injured, out of them 8 are seriously injured when Sataf building collapsed at Temkar road in Nagpara area. When we are contemplating to develop Mumbai on the lines of Sanghal, the Government of India should send a team to Mumbai and get 19,000 buildings, which are hundred years old, repaired. This is my demand.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 29th August, 2005 at 11.00 a.m.

19.27 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, August 29, 2005/Bhadrapada 7, 1927 (Saka).*

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