

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## (English Version)

Fourth Session  
(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)

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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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## LOK SABHA

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*Thursday, February 25, 2010/Phalgun 6, 1931 (Saka)*

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

*[MADAM SPEAKER in the Chair]*

### FELICITATION BY THE SPEAKER

**Congratulations to Sachin Tendulkar for being  
the first cricketer in the history of One-day  
Cricket to score Double century**

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am sure, all of you will join me in conveying our heartiest felicitations and congratulations to Sachin Tendulkar for being the first cricketer in the history of one day cricket to score a double century. He achieved this commendable feat during the Second One Day Match against South Africa at Gwalior yesterday. This is a unique achievement which is a matter of national pride and is a source of inspiration for budding cricketers of this country.

We convey our best wishes to Sachin Tendulkar for his future endeavours. Let us also congratulate Indian Cricket Team for their tremendous performance.

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**11.01 hrs.**

### OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

#### **Dispensing with Question Hour**

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: As the hon. Members would recall, I had allowed a Short Duration Discussion under Rule 193 on price rise yesterday. However, the discussion could not be taken up yesterday. The discussion has now been included in today's List of Business. Keeping in view the sentiments expressed by hon. Leaders of

different political parties on this extremely important, serious and burning issue of price rise, I have decided that the discussion may be taken up immediately by dispensing with the Question Hour.

Hon. Members, Shri Ramesh Bais, who secured first priority in the ballot for raising the discussion, has requested me to allow Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, hon. Leader of Opposition to raise the discussion in his place. I have acceded to his request.

Before I request Shrimati Sushma Swaraj to raise the discussion we take up Papers to be Laid on the Table and statements by Ministers. First we take up Item No. 6 – Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

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### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[English]*

#### **Failure of Radar System at IGIA**

**\*41. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:  
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an incident of failure of the Instrument Landing System and the Radar System at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) took place recently;

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

(c) whether the failure has been investigated;

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

(e) the remedial steps taken to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) ATC Automation System displays failed on 14.01.10 from 1744 IST to 1930 IST. On 26.01.10 from 0030-0200 hrs., two monitoring position in tower and standby position in Area Control Centre (ACC) display units failed. Safety of

flights, however, were ensured. During failure of ATC Automation System, another system which was available in shadow mode, was put into service immediately. Failed system was also restored subsequently.

(c) Yes, Madam. The reasons for Radar Failure have been investigated.

(d) While performing downloading of adaptation data to rectify an unserviceable Situation Data Display (SDD), in coordination with Raytheon expert in USA the entire Auto Track-II system failed at 1744 IST and the automation maintenance team was able to restore the system in consultation with Raytheon Engineer only at 1930 IST. The situation was controlled with the help of auto track-III system, which was on shadow mode of operations and Auto-track-III display were available for operations.

(e) The steps being taken by Government in this regard are given in the attached Statement.

#### **Statement**

##### *The steps being taken by Government to avoid recurrence of automation system failure*

- AAI to review the existing Software, and Adaptation maintenance download procedure and re-run several times to ensure the effectively and reliability.
- A standard and well defined documented training program including refresher courses should be introduced for the personnel working in Data Management System (DMS) and Automation Maintenance team. A rating/certification programme may be introduced for such Air Traffic Management (ATM) and Communication Navigation Surveillance (CNS) personnel.
- AAI to keep at least an expert from Raytheon in Delhi and Mumbai for assistance and guidance, to handle the Automation system.
- AAI to have a similar independent parallel automation back-up system with different source of power-supply. This measure will avoid such type of catastrophic failure in future. Adequate maintenance and routine check-ups for these systems should be in place.

- A standard coordination procedure should be established among Raytheon Company, Data Management System (DMS) Team and automations maintenance team. The communication system between them should be recorded.
- Expert level of password should be available with designated officers in the Data Management System (DMS) and Automation Maintenance Team who have sufficient level of expertise. There should be a procedure in place to cross-check the actions made by such officers to avoid error in executing actual command while downloading any new software to avoid such failures.
- To prevent the human operator error in future, software should be modified to display automated warnings/alters/reconfirm windows before system executes download command. Button/commands which may be critical for the system, as far as possible should be disabled.
- AAI in coordination with Raytheon should update their Auto Track system software/adaptation download too to prevent maintenance operator to select all subsystems for download. A warning should be generated with an abort option upon doing a download indicating that the action may affect the operational systems.
- Any sub system failure should be trouble-shoot in the Simulator test string prior to putting into operation.
- Duties and responsibilities of CNS Group and DMS group should be clearly defined. There should be periodic co-ordination meeting between DMS Group and CNS Maintenance group to share the health of the system. Outcome of the meeting should be recorded. Both the groups should be work in close coordination to resolve the day to day problems and suggest remedial measures.
- Before commissioning Auto track-III system, which is being used in shadow mode of operations AAI should ensure availability of sufficiently trained manpower and carry out the safety assessment of the system.

*[Translation]***Prices of Chemical Fertilizers**

\*42. SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI:  
SHRI IJYARAJ SINGH:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a differential price mechanism in fertilizers for the benefit of the small and marginal farmers;

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

(c) whether any mechanism exists to review the prices of the subsidized fertilizers on a continuous basis;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide relief to the small and marginal farmers in the country in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):  
(a) to (e) To ensure adequate availability of fertilizers to farmers, including small and marginal farmers, at affordable prices, fertilizers subsidy is transferred to the farmers in the form of Maximum Retail Prices (MRPs) fixed by the Government which are much lower than the delivered cost of the subsidized fertilizers at farm gate level.

The prices of chemical fertilizers in the country are same for all farmers including the small and marginal farmers. The prices of the subsidized fertilizers have been kept constant since February 2002 rather has been reduced for complex fertilizers with effect from 18th June 2008, for the benefits of farmers. The difference between the notified selling price of the fertilizers and the normative delivered cost of subsidized fertilizers at farm gate level is paid to manufacturers/importers as subsidy by the Government. However, there is no proposal to set up a differential price mechanism in fertilizer for the benefits of the small and marginal farmers.

*[English]***Delay of Trains due to Fog**

\*43. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:  
DR. BHOLA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheduled arrivals/departures of a large number of trains were affected due to the fog conditions which prevailed during January, 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the loss suffered by the Railways due to cancellation and delay of trains during the said period;

(d) whether the Railways have taken remedial measures to check delayed operation of trains due to fog particularly in the Northern parts of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (e) The punctuality of approximately 15704 passenger carrying trains was affected and about 4371 passenger carrying trains were cancelled due to fog during the month of January, 2010. The monetary loss to the Railways is not calculated train-wise or on the basis of punctuality of the train.

The main reason for slow movement of trains during fog is the inability of the driver to see the track and signals ahead from a safe distance. As safety of trains is attached greater importance than punctuality, speeds of trains during fog are kept restricted up to 60 kmph and further reduced to 30 kmph on passing the Double Yellow and Yellow aspects in Automatic Signalling Territory.

As per railway working, location of an approaching signal can be indicated to the driver by use of fog signal (detonators) placed on the track at sufficient distance in advance of the signal. During dense fog detonators are placed on the track short of the first stop signal of the station in Absolute Block System of working in which there is one train in each Block Section. However, in the Automatic Signaling territory each automatic signal pre-warns the aspect of the signal ahead. As block stations in the Automatic Signaling territory have four or five (or

even more) Automatic Signals, there can be as many trains between two Block Stations and detonators are not placed short of signals and speed of the trains is suitably regulated for safe working through different aspects of signals.

The three end-on-collisions in the Automatic territory during January 2010 underlined the paramount need to emphasize on the safety of operations even if it resulted in loss of punctuality of trains. In view of the record fog during January, 2010 in the past 50 years the following instructions were issued to the Zonal Railways:

- (i) Loco Pilots were instructed to proceed at near walking speed (8 kmph) after passing Automatic Signal at red aspect.
- (ii) Red flashing tail lamp to be used in the rear most coach even during fog so that the following trains can see the train standing out of course in mid section.
- (iii) Loco Pilots were initially advised, as a trial measure for taking increased safety precaution in the record levels of fog this year to stop at red aspect of automatic signal for five minutes instead of two minutes or till the signal changes to 'yellow'.
- (iv) When the dense fog persisted for a longer duration Loco Pilots on some critical sections were advised to completely stop at red aspect of automatic signal till it becomes yellow and to proceed only after receiving an authority from the station ahead, at a speed not exceeding 8 kmph.

During January 2010, the cancellation of trains was also done to reduce the total number of passenger carrying trains in very saturated sections with a view to increasing the headway between the trains and reducing the impact of delays due to queuing of trains. When the passenger carrying trains were running very late, scratch rakes were also inducted by the railways to the extent operationally feasible in order to ensure right time start of the pairing train.

#### **Losses suffered by NACIL**

\*44. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:  
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) is incurring heavy losses for three consecutive years;

(b) if so, the loss incurred by NACIL during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) to review sick companies and suggest revival plans has sought financial details of NACIL from the Ministry of Civil Aviation;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the measures suggested by the BRPSE for the revival of NACIL; and

(e) the steps being taken for the financial turn around of the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Loss of Rs. 447.43 crores (by erstwhile Air India) and Rs. 240.29 crores (by erstwhile Indian Airlines), Rs. 2226.16 crores (after merger) and Rs. 5548 crores have been incurred by NACIL during financial year 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. BRPSE has requested Ministry of Civil Aviation to send a detailed note about working of NACIL, its present financial position, future plans/strategies etc. in order to present the case before its Board. However, BRPSE has been informed that the financial position of NACIL is already under consideration of the Committee of Secretaries and Group of Ministers.

(e) NACIL has formulated a Turnaround Plan, along with cost reduction/revenue enhancement programme focussing on Fleet Rationalisation, Route Profitability, Manpower Rationalisation and Structural Changes. Fleet Rationalisation is being attempted through reduction of fleet size from 146 aircraft to 105 by March, 2011, which will result in reduction of future requirement of cockpit, cabin crew and engineers. Reduction in wage costs and other related expenses need to be effected. Operationalisation of subsidiaries companies to enlarge business opportunities in maintenance, repair and overhaul, ground handling and cargo is also part of the overall plan.

[Translation]

**Encroachment in Airport Areas**

\*45. SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether encroachments in the Airport areas have been reported from various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is facing difficulties in removing the illegal encroachments therefrom;

(d) the total land of airports from where encroachments have been removed during the last three years till date; and

(e) the corrective action taken by the Government in this regard?

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

Madam.

(b) Details of the encroachment reported is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) The total land area freed from encroachments during last three years is 70 acres at NSCBI airport, Kolkata, where the land was under unauthorized cultivation.

(e) Airports Authority of India (AAI) is regularly monitoring the situation for removal of encroachments on its land. The removal of encroachments has to be followed as per the process of law prescribed under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971. AAI has also sought the assistance of various State Governments, local bodies and enforcement agencies as and when required, the said actions have been successful for removal of unauthorized encroachments from its land at various airports.

**Statement**

Revised upto  
FEBRUARY 2010

*Encroachment at AAI Airports in India*

Sl.No.	Airport Name	State	Total land (in acres)	Encroachment (in Acres)	Airport/Region
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	917.51	10.66	Western Region
2.	Amritsar	Punjab	1008.00	83.00	Northern Region
3.	Belgaum	Karnataka	440.33	1.00	Western Region
4.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	1021.85	21.23	Western Region
5.	Dibrugarh	Assam	355.00	2.50	North East Region
6.	Gaya	Bihar	757.00	5.58	Eastern Region
7.	Guwahati	Assam	580.25	0.55	North East Region
8.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	846.02	97.00	Southern Region
9.	Juhu	Maharashtra	384.50	29.00	Western Region
10.	Kolkata	West Bengal	1571.33	5.70	Kolkata



1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Kota	Rajasthan	441.41	49.54	Northern Region
12.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	1218.34	1.70	Northern Region
13.	Malda	West Bengal	155.00	1.00	Eastern Region
14.	Nagpur	Maharashtra	1564.00	13.00	Mumbai*
15.	Port Blair	UT	43.90	1.50	Eastern Region
16.	Rajamundry	Andhra Pradesh	365.49	8.00	Southern Region
17.	Rajkot	Gujarat	250.00	1.00	Western Region
18.	Safdarjung	Delhi	313.72	1.50	Northern Region
19.	Satna	Madhya Pradesh	452.00	150.00	Northern Region
20.	Silchar	Assam	265.00	4.01	North East Region
21.	Tirupati	Andhra Pradesh	329.57	0.30	North East Region
22.	Trichy	Tamil Nadu	702.02	3.40	Southern Region
23.	Vadodara	Gujarat	1024.86	17.30	Western Region
24.	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	368.55	1.92	Western Region
TOTAL			15375.65	510.39	

*[English]***Hike in Prices of Petroleum Products**

\*46. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR:  
SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:

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

(a) whether an expert group headed by the economist Kirit Parikh has suggested in its report that the petrol and diesel prices must be freed from Government control and prices of cooking gas and kerosene should be increased by Rs. 100 per cylinder and rupees six per litre respectively;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to implement the recommendations of the Committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which the Government proposes to protect the interests of the common man?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (e) An Expert Group, constituted by the Government on "A Viable and Sustainable System of Pricing of Petroleum Products" under the chairmanship of Dr. Kirit Parikh, has submitted its Report on 3rd February, 2010. The main recommendations of the Group are as under:—

- (i) Prices of Petrol and Diesel should be market determined, both at the refinery gate and at the retail level.
- (ii) PDS Kerosene allocation across states should be rationalized, which will bring down all-India allocation by at least 20%. Further reduction in PDS Kerosene allocation can be done on the basis of progress of rural electrification, LPG and piped gas availability.

- (iii) The price of PDS Kerosene needs to be increased by at least Rs. 6 per litre. Thereafter, price can be raised every year in step with the growth in per capita agricultural Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at nominal price.
- (iv) Prices of Domestic LPG can be increased by at least Rs. 100 per cylinder. Thereafter, the price of Domestic LPG should be periodically revised based on increase in paying capacity as reflected in the rising per capita income. The subsidy on Domestic LPG should be discontinued for all others except the BPL households once an effective targeting system is in place.
- (v) A transparent and effective distribution system for PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG can be ensured through UID/ Smartcards framework.
- (vi) The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) marketing PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG should be compensated fully for their under-recoveries. The mechanism for financing under-recoveries on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG would involve the following:—
  - (a) Periodic reduction in PDS Kerosene allocation,
  - (b) Increase in prices of PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG from time to time,
  - (c) Mopping up a portion of the incremental revenue accruing to ONGC/OIL from production in those blocks, which were given by the Government on nomination basis.
  - (d) Providing cash subsidy from the Budget to meet the remaining gap.

The Government has not taken a decision on the implementation of the Expert Group's recommendations. While taking a decision in this regard, the Government will keep in mind the interests of the common man, especially the vulnerable sections of the society, the financial health of the Public Sector Oil Companies and the fiscal/budgetary constraints of the Government.

### Creation of Special Purpose Vehicle

\*47. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL:

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

(a) the number of pending cases in Lower Courts, High Courts and Supreme Court as on 1 January 2010, court-wise;

(b) whether the Government has chalked out any road map for judicial reforms for disposal of the pending cases by the year 2012 by creation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV);

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to impose any cess or an appropriate tax for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (e) The information regarding the number of pending cases in Lower Courts, High Courts and Supreme Court as on January 1, 2010 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

A Blueprint for Judicial Reforms titled "National Mission for Delivery of Justice and Legal Reforms" has been drawn up. A proposal to create a body in the nature of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) with the aim of reducing pendency and backlog of cases in the various courts of Law is under consideration. The Special Purpose Vehicle will facilitate implementation of the judicial reforms. The Blue Print for Judicial Reforms is available on the web-site of Department of Justice ([www.lawmin.nic.in](http://www.lawmin.nic.in)).

### Accidents on Unmanned Railway Crossings

\*48. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail accidents which occurred due to unmanned railway crossings during each of the last three years and the current year, Zone-wise;

(b) the total number of persons died and injured alongwith the compensation given in such rail accidents during the said period;

(c) whether the Railways are considering to adopt some mechanical or computerized system of alarm at these crossings; and

(d) if not, the steps being proposed to be taken to prevent accidents at unmanned crossings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Zone-wise and year-wise number of unmanned level crossing accidents occurred during the last three years and the current year from April 2009 to January 2010, is given below:

Railway	Number of Accidents at Unmanned Level Crossings			
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (April, 2009 to January, 2010)
Central	—	—	—	—
Eastern	1	1	1	—
Northern	15	10	3	11
North Eastern	5	8	11	7
Northeast Frontier	2	—	1	4
Southern	11	6	5	1
South Central	5	4	4	—
South Eastern	—	5	1	4
Western	9	5	9	5
East Central	—	4	3	3
East Coast	3	4	5	1
North Central	3	1	2	2
North Western	10	4	11	8
South East Central	3	2	3	1
South Western	4	8	1	2
West Central	1	3	2	1
Total	72	65	62	50

(b) The number of persons who lost their lives and suffered injuries in unmanned level crossing accidents during the last three years and in the current year from April 2009 to January 2010, is as under:—

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	April, 2009 to January, 2010
Deaths	146	148	129	134
Injuries	156	144	142	119

Compensation is paid by the Railways based on provisions of the Railway Act when a claim is filed in the Railway Claims Tribunal and a decree is awarded by the Tribunal. Ministry of Railways, however, sometimes pays an ex-gratia amount in unmanned level crossing accidents in rare cases on humanitarian grounds. No compensation has been paid to the road users by the railways under any decree of the Railway Claims Tribunal for accidents at unmanned level crossings.

(c) Train Actuated Warning Device (TAWD) to warn the road users at unmanned level crossings had been tried but the trials have not proved successful due to theft and vandalism of the equipment.

(d) Steps taken by the Railways to prevent accidents at the unmanned level crossings include:—

- (i) Ensuring availability of basic infrastructure at level crossings which include levelled road surface at crossings, proper road signs at the approaches including 'STOP' boards to warn the road users, speed breakers/ rumble strips on the approach roads, whistle boards for the train drivers to whistle while approaching the level crossings and approach roads with proper gradient for safe movement of the road vehicle users negotiating the level crossings;
- (ii) Public awareness programmes and publicity campaigns undertaken regularly through various electronic and print media to educate the road users for observing safe practices while negotiating unmanned level crossings. State Governments have also been requested to undertake similar campaigns;
- (iii) Joint ambush checks with involvement of civil authorities to check the erring road users;
- (iv) Delegation of powers to Zonal Railways for sanctioning 'Limited Use Subways' costing upto Rupees 45 lakhs in each case, based on feasibility and local condition;
- (v) Delegation of powers to Zonal Railways for sanctioning of Normal Height Subways costing upto Rupees 1.25 crores for single line and Rs. 1.50 crores for double line;

- (vi) Manning of unmanned level crossings in a phased manner upon their qualifying the laid down criteria for manning. A policy decision has also been taken to increase the pace of manning on Indian Railways. Manning of around 3000 level crossings was approved in 2009-10 and a further 1000 level crossings will be taken up next year.

### **Drugs under Price Control**

\*49. DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring more drugs under price control without awaiting the approval of the National Pharmaceutical Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the other steps contemplated to control prices of essential drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) :  
(a) to (c) Since the Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 is under consideration of the Government, a final view to bring more drugs under price control is yet to be taken.

(d) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO) 1995, the prices of 74 bulk drugs, specified in the first schedule, and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)/ Government fix or revise prices of scheduled drugs/ formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. No one can sell any scheduled drugs/formulations at a price higher than that fixed by NPPA. NPPA as part of its price monitoring activity, regularly examines the movement in their prices. The monthly reports of ORG IMS and the information furnished by individual manufacturers are utilized for the purpose of monitoring price of non-scheduled formulations. Whenever a price increase beyond 10% per annum is noticed, the specific manufacturers are asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions, action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO,

1995 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest. This is an ongoing process.

In so far as "essential drugs" are concerned, the Draft Pharmaceutical Policy 2006 which is under consideration of the Government, proposes to include essential drugs as contained in the in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) 2003 under price control.

#### **Levy of User Development Fee**

\*50. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has proposed to levy a user development fee on the passengers of domestic and international flights;

(b) if so, the details of the amount and the airports where this fee is proposed to be levied and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has examined its likely impact particularly on the passengers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has submitted a proposal for levy of UDF at Amritsar, Udaipur, Varanasi, Manglore, Trichy and Vizag airports. In respect of Ahmedabad and Trivandrum airports, which are major airports, proposals have been submitted to the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA). The details of User Development Fee (UDF) to be levied at the above airports is under examination. Most of the above airports are loss making airports and at these airports, airport infrastructure has been modernised, upgraded for providing better passenger facilitation. UDF proposed is for improving the financial viability of these airports and also to achieve a reasonable rate of return on the investments made by the AAI.

(c) and (d) Section 22A of the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994 empowers to levy and collect development fee. Section 29 of International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) policies on Airport Charges state that where an airport is provided for international use, the users shall ultimately bear their full and fair share of the cost of providing the airport. The likely impact on the passengers

will be taken into consideration while deciding the amount of UDF to be charged at the AAI managed airports.

#### **Natural Gas based Fertilizer Units**

\*51. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many fertilizer companies have shifted from naphtha to natural gas due to the easy availability of natural gas from KG D-6 RIL block;

(b) if so, the details and the names of the companies;

(c) whether such shifting to natural gas has cut the cost by 65 percent for these fertilizer plants; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to pass on the benefits thereon to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The following gas based units have substituted primarily the use of Naphtha in their units by Natural Gas:—

Sl. No.	Name of the unit	Contact with gas companies RIL (MMSCMD)
1	2	3
1.	NFL-Vijaipur-I and II	0.6000
2.	CFCL-Gadepan-I and II	1.150
3.	IFFCO-Aonla-I and II	1.750
4.	IFFCO-Phulpur-I and II	0.250
5.	TCL-Babralla	0.880
6.	IGFL-Jagdishpur	0.250
7.	SFC-Kota	0.620
8.	KSFL-Shahjahanpur	0.978
9.	KRIBHCO-Hazira	1.370
10.	NFCL-Kakinada-I and II	1.549

1	2	3
11.	RCF-Trombay-V	0.950
12.	RCF-Thal	2.100
13.	IFFCO-Kalol	1.273
14.	GSFC-Vadodara	0.720
15.	GNVFC-Baruch	0.342
Total of Gas based plants		14.782

(c) The average cost of overall production of indigenous urea has reduced by about 10% leading to a saving of subsidy of approximately Rs. 2500 crore to Government.

(d) The urea is being sold to the farmers at statutory MRP of Rs. 4830/Tonne which is substantially lower than the average cost of production of urea i.e. Rs. 12227 per tonne.

### Upgradation of Airports

\*52. SHRI VITTHALBHAI HANSRAJBHAI  
RADADIYA :  
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to upgrade airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details of airports proposed to be upgraded; and

(c) the present status of such airports?

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

(b) and (c) Details are given in the enclosed Statements-I, II, III and IV.

### Statement-I

Sl.No.	Name of work	Cost in crores	Status
<b>Chennai Airport, Chennai</b>			
1.	Development of Kamraj Domestic Terminal, Expansion of Anna International and face lifting of existing terminal and also expansion of secondary runway across Adiyar river, parallel taxi track and 10 nos. parking bays.	Rs. 1808.00	35% work completed.
<b>NSCBI Airport, Kolkata</b>			
2.	C/o Integrated Terminal Building, i/c face lifting of terminals and extension of secondary runway, C/o taxi track, apron lighting aids, apron lighting parking bays, bridges, apron etc.	Rs. 1942.51	24% work completed.
<b>Jalgaon Airport, Jalgaon</b>			
3.	Construction of Terminal Building, Apron, Link taxi track etc. at Jalgaon.	Rs. 61.00	Work is likely to be awarded shortly.
<b>Arunachal Pradesh, TEZU</b>			
4.	Construction of new airport at Tezu in Arunachal Pradesh.	Rs. 79.00	Detailed estimate is under preparation.

**Statement-II***Status of Development of 35 Non Metro Airports*

Sl. No.	Airport	City Side/Terminal Building works	Air side works	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Agra	Renovation of Terminal Building. — work completed.	Expansion of Apron- work completed.	
2.	Agartala	Construction of Technical Block — work completed.	Expansion of Apron. Strengthening of existing runway — work completed.	
3.	Ahmedabad	Domestic (Arr/Dep) — Completed.  New International Terminal Building — work in progress, Projected Date of Completion (PDC) March, 2010.  Subway Pedestrian walk way linking International Terminal and Domestic Terminal — PDC March, 2010.  New Control Tower cum Tech Block — Planning Stage.	New International Apron — completed.  Extension of Domestic Apron — Completed.  Construction of part parallel taxi track	67 acres of Land requisitioned from S/Government)
4.	Amritsar	Construction of New Terminal Building — work completed.  Modular expansion of Terminal Building Phase II — June 2010.	Extension of runway — work completed.  Expansion of apron — work completed.	Put into operation.  Put into operation.
5.	Aurangabad	New Integrated Terminal Building — work completed.  Installation of 2 no's passenger Boarding Bridges — work completed.	New Apron — work completed.  Strengthening and extension of runway — work completed.	Building put into operation in April, 09
6.	Bhopal	Construction of new Expandable Modular Integrated Terminal Building — PDC May, 2010.	Extension of runway — work completed.  New Apron — PDC March, 2010.	

1	2	3	4	5
			2 nos of link taxiway — PDC March, 2010.	
			-Part parallel taxiway — PDC March, 2010.	
7.	Bhubaneswar	Construction of Domestic Terminal Building — Tender stage.	Expansion of arpon — work completed.	
8.	Calicut	Extension and modication of the international and domestic terminal building — work completed.	Strengthening and expansion of existing Runway — work completed except EMAS (Egineered Material Arresting System).	
9.	Chandigarh	Construction of New Terminal Building — PDC Jun, 2010.		
10.	Coimbatore	Expansion of modification of existing Terminal building — PDC May, 2010.	Construction of part parallel taxiway, expansion of Apron — work completed.	
		Construction of new Integrated Terminal Building — Planning stage.	Strengthening of old apron and allied works — completed.	
			Extension of runway — Planning stage.	Subject to hand over of additional land by State Government.
11.	Dehradun	Construction of new Terminal building — work completed.	Strengthening and extension of runway — work completed.	
			Construction of apron — work completed.	
12.	Dibrugarh	Terminal Building — work completed.	New apron work completed.	
			Runway strengthening — PDC May, 2010.	
			Extension of runway — Kept in abeyance due to want of land from the Army.	
13.	Goa	Construction of new integrated terminal building.	Construction of parallel taxi track. Two link taxi tracks.	
			Two rapid exit taxiways.	



1	2	3	4	5
14. Guwahati	Modification to the existing Terminal Building — work completed.	Extension of Runway, apron, Isolation Bay — work completed.		
	Construction of International Terminal building—Planning stage.	Construction of parallel taxi track—Planning stage.		
15. Indore	Construction of Integrated Terminal building — PDC May, 2010	Extension of runway, Construction of New Apron and link taxiway — completed.	NOC from IAF awaited.	
16. Imphal	Modification of Terminal Building—PDC June, 2010.	Expansion of apron and link taxiway — PDC June, 2010.		
17. Jaipur	New International building – Completed	Construction of new apron, link taxi track and part parallel taxi track – completed.	Commissioned on 1st July, 09.	
	Expansion of new International Terminal Building - Planning stage.	Extension of runway-Planning stage.		
18. Khajuraho	Construction of terminal building—PDC Dec., 2010.	Construction of new apron, link taxi track – Completed.	Contract rescinded due to non performance of agency. Fresh tender being called.	
19. Lucknow	Construction of new international terminal building, car park- PDC June, 2010.	Construction of new apron/Expansion of existing apron, rapid taxi track, parallel taxi track – Completed		
20. Madurai	Construction of new Integrated Terminal building complex—PDC March, 2010.	Extension of runway, new apron—Completed. Parallel taxi track – Planning stage.	Subject to availability of additional land by State Government	
	Control Tower cum Technical Block – Planning stage.			
21. Mangalore	Construction of a new Integrated Terminal Building – Completed.	Extension of Runway – Completed.		
22. Mysore*	Construction of Terminal Building, Tech Block cum control tower, Fire Station etc—Work Completed.	The work for construction of Runway—work completed.	Subject to balance availability of land from S/Government	
		Runway extension-Planning stage		

1	2	3	4	5
23.	Nagpur	Construction of New international arrival hall + Expansion of existing Terminal Building Completed.	Provision of New Tech. Block cum Control Tower – Planning stage.	Subject to availability of additional land by State Government.
24.	Port Blair	New integrated terminal building – Planning stage.	Expansion and strengthening of apron – Completed.	
25.	Pune	Lateral expansion of terminal building to make it an integrated terminal building – PDC March, 2010.	Construction of parallel taxi track and expansion of apron – completed.	
26.	Raipur	Construction of new integrated terminal building – PDC June, 2010.  Development of the airport for wide bodied aircraft operations – Planning Stage.	Runway Extension and new apron - Completed.	Subject to balance availability of land from S/Government.
27.	Ranchi	Construction of new Integrated terminal building – PDC June 2010.	Expansion/Strengthening of apron – PDC March, 2010.	
28.	Srinagar	Expansion and modification of Terminal Building—Completed.	Expansion of apron – June 2010.  Construction of cargo complex – Planning Stage  Expansion of car park.	
29.	Surat	New Terminal Building – Completed.	Extension of Runway and apron - completed.	
30.	Trivandrum	Construction of new International terminal building – Completed.	Part parallel taxi track – Work Completed.	State Govt. related works pending.
31.	Trichy	Construction of new integrated terminal building – Completed.	Extension of runway-Completed.	Subject to provision of land, to be acquired.
32.	Udaipur	Construction of new terminal building – Work Completed.	Construction of new apron, link taxi track, isolation bay (Phase I- Completed.	

1	2	3	4	5
		Construction of Technical Block and Control Tower – PDC June, 2010.	Extension of runway — work completed.	
33.	Vishakhapatnam	Construction of new integrated terminal building – Completed.	Apron – completed.	
34.	Varanasi	Construction of new integrated terminal building – PDC March, 2010.	Extension of runway – Completed.  Expansion of apron – PDC March, 2010.	
35.	Vadodara	2) New integrated terminal building complex – Tender stage.	Apron for night parking – Completed.  Construction of parallel taxiway – Planning stage.	

**Statement-III***Status of Developments of other 13 Airports*

Sl.No.	Airport	City Side/Terminal Building works	Air side works	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Agatti/ Lakshadweep	Construction of New Terminal Building. – work completed.  Technical Building cum control tower and fire station—work completed.  Extension of runway, construction of new apron, Relocation of terminal building, Control Tower/Tech. Block – Planning Stage.	Runway Extension, Construction of new Apron—work completed.	Dep. Block completed. Arr. Block work deferred due Rwy extension.  Subject to provision of additional land by Lakshadweep Administration.
2.	Akola	Modification of existing terminal building and other allied buildings – Work completed.  Construction of control tower and Tech Block—planning stage.	Runway extension—Planning stage.  Expansion of apron—Completed.	Subject to land to be acquired from State Government.
3.	Belgaum	Expansion and modification of existing terminal building— Work Completed.	Extension of runway. Planning stage.	Subject to signing of MOU and availabil-

1	2	3	4	5
	Construction of New Terminal Building – Planning stage.			ity of additional land from State Government.
4. Cooch Behar	Construction of new Terminal Building – Work Completed.	Runway strengthening work completed.		28.86 acres of land including strip of 600m × 200m across the river handed over by state Government Est. are under preparation.
5. Dimapur	Scope of work for face lifting of Terminal Building, and city Side developments are being finalized.	Expansion of apron – PDC March, 2010.		
6. Gondia	Construction of New Terminal Building – Completed.	Construction of 1 hanger – Completed. Fire Station, Boundary wall, Control Tower- Completed.		
	Passenger lounge (for 25 passengers), Fire Station, Residential Quarters – completed.	Extension of runway, part parallel taxi track – completed.		
7. Hubli	Expansion and modification of existing Terminal Building- work completed.	Runway extension subject to availability of land – Planning Stage.		Subject to signing MOU and availability of land from SG.
	Construction of new Terminal Building- Planning stage.			
8. Jammu	Modification of terminal building-Dec., 2010. (Planning stage).	Extension of Runway and expansion of apron – Planning Stage.		Pending due to land acquisition from army.
	Construction of new civil air terminal complex. – Planning stage subject to land acquisition from State Government.			
9. Kullu	Construction of new terminal building – work completed.	Resurfacing of runway. Construction of new Apron and taxiway.		

1	2	3	4	5
10. Patna	Construction of New Terminal Building, Isolation Bay and New Fire Station — Planning stage.			Subject availability of additional land for State Government.
11. Rajahmundry	Construction of new Terminal Building—PDC June, 2010.	Extension of Runway-Planning Stage		Subject to availability of land from State Government.
12. Rajkot	Construction of new terminal — Planning stage.	Extension of Runway — Planning stage.		(Subject to required land 21 Hectares is made available by Railway Board and diversion of Rajkot Jamnagar highway by State Government.)
13. Vijayawada	New Terminal Building-Planning Stage.	Extension and strengthening of runway—PDC January 2010.		

**Statement-IV**

*Additional 10 Airports*

**Tirupati Airport**

Strengthening of Rwy and extension of Apron.

Work completed.

Installation of ILS.

PDC March 2010.

New Integrated Terminal Building.

Planning stage.

**Tuticorin Airport**

Extension of Rwy and associated facilities for the operation of AB-320 class of aircraft

Planning stage. Master plan forwarded to Government of Tamil Nadu for additional land requirement of 650 Acres.

**Pondicherry Airport**

Extension and strengthening of Rwy for dimension 150m × 45m for ATR72 type of aircraft and subsequently for AB-320 type of aircraft operation with associated facilities including Apron, including widening of basic strip to 300m.

MOU signed. Government of Puducherry handed over 50 acres of land on the eastern side of the airport for the extension of the Rwy for ATR72 type of aircraft operation. Government of Puducherry is being pursued to hand over remaining land.

Work order issued for extension and strengthening of runway for ATR 72 operations for Rs 19.80 Crores.

Work completed.

### **Bagdogra Airport**

Phase I

Work Completed.

Expansion of Apron for parking of 4(A-321), 1 (IL-76) and 2 Helicopter parking.

### **Jaisalmer Airport**

Construction of New Apron for 3 parking stands – C Type

Work in Progress, Progress 15%.

Construction of New Terminal Building.

Planning stage.

### **Silchar Airport**

Runway extension on either end upto 7500 ft.

One side extension completed (150 M) Either side work held up for NOC from IAF

### **Cuddappah Airport**

Construction of Runway, Apron, Taxiway, Compound wall and allied works.

Runway and apron works completed, for ATR72 type of aircraft operation. Pre-fabricated Terminal building, technical block cum control tower and fire station in final stage. Tender under process.

### **Warangal Airport**

Development of Airport for ATR type of aircraft operations.

MOU with Government of Andhra Pradesh signed in 2007. Projected the additional land requirement of 438 acres to Government of AP in 2008. Land transfer awaited.

### **Pantnagar Airport**

Runway extension to cater for ATR 72 type of aircraft, Renovation of Terminal Building and Provision of Ground Lighting completed.

Work Completed.

### **Leh Airport**

- Construction of Civil Apron, Car Park
- Construction of New Terminal Building

Work Completed.

Drawing finalized. Land transfer from IAF awaited.

[Translation]

### **Variation in Sale Price of Natural Gas**

- \*53. SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:  
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

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

(a) whether natural gas is being sold at different rates in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the rates thereof;

(c) the maximum and the minimum rates of the natural gas sold by private and public sectors; and

(d) the reasons behind the disparity in sale prices in Governmental and Non-Governmental sectors?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) The natural gas produced by Government Oil Companies is sold at a maximum rate of US\$ 4.75mmbtu (to non-Administered Price Mechanism (APM) customers) and a minimum rate of US\$1.08mmbtu (to power & fertilizers customers in North-East). Further, the price of Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) purchased by Petronet LNG Ltd. and marketed by GAIL (India) Ltd,

Indian Oil Corporation & Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. is between US\$ 5.67/mmbtu to 11.7/mmbtu.

The natural gas produced by private sector is sold at a maximum rate of US\$ 5.73 mmbtu (Panna Mukta) and a minimum rate of US\$1.29 mmbtu (Anguri fields - Canoro).

(d) The price of APM gas is set by the Government. As regards New Exploration License Policy (NELP) and pre-NELP Joint Venture (JV) gas, its pricing is governed in terms of the provisions of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed between the Government of India and the Contractor.

While the price of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) imported under term contracts is governed by the Sale Purchase Agreement (SPA) between the LNG seller and the buyer, the spot cargoes are purchased on mutually agreeable commercial terms.

### Statement

#### *Different Prices at which Natural Gas is being sold by Private and Public Sectors*

Source	Customers	Gas Price	Gas Price (US \$/MMBTU)
1	2	3	4
PMT	Weighted average price of PMT except RRVUNL & Torrent	\$5.65/mmbtu	5.65
PMT	RRVUNL	\$4.6/mmbtu	4.60
PMT	Torrent	\$4.75/mmbtu	4.75
Rawa	GAIL	\$3.5/mmbtu	3.50
Rawa Satellite	GAIL	\$4.3/mmbtu	4.30
CB/OS-2(Cairns)	GPEC	\$4.75/mmbtu	4.75
	GSPC	\$5.5/mmbtu	5.50
	GTCL	\$4.6/mmbtu	4.60
Hazira (Niko)*	GACL/GSEG/GSPC Gas*	\$4.612/ mmbtu	4.61
Olpad (NSA) (Niko)*	GGCL*	\$5.57 mmbtu	5.50
Dholka	Small Consumer	Rs. 79.437 mmbtu	1.77

1	2	3	4
North Balol (HOEC)	GSPC	\$2.71 /mmbtu	2.71
Palej (HOEC)	Small Consumer	\$3.5/mmbtu	3.50
KG-D6	All Consumers	\$4.2/mmbtu	4.20
Amguri Fields (Canero)	AGCL	Rs.3840/ mscm	2.15
Amguri Fields (Canero)	GAIL	Rs.2304/ mscm	1.29
APM	Power & Fertilizer Out side North East	Rs.3200/ mscm	1.79
APM	City Gas & Small Consumer Out side North East	Rs.3840/mscm	2.15
APM	KG Basin & Cauvery at Market Price	\$3.5/mmbtu	3.50
APM	Gujarat, Maharashtra & along HBJ @ market Price	\$4.75/mmbtu	4.75
APM	Power & Fertilizer n North East	Rs.1920/ mscm	1.08
APM	City Gas & Small Consumer in North East	Rs.2304/ mscm	1.29
APM	North East at Market price	Rs.3200/ mscm	1.79
Term R-LNG	For all	\$5.767 mmbtu	5.76
Spot-R-LNG	For all	\$5.67-11.77 mmbtu	5.67-11.7

**Note:**

- 1 mscm = 39.682 mmbtu
- 1 USD has been taken as equal to Rs.45
- Term RLNG price changes every month on the basis of a formula agreed between seller & buyer. In the above table, term RLNG ex-terminal price for February 2010 has been considered.
- Spot RLNG prices vary from cargo to cargo. The prices of spot RLNG supplied in 2009 vary from \$5.67/mmbtu to \$ 11.7/mmbtu (ex-terminal).
- Panna Mukta gas price is \$5.73/mmbtu & Mid Tapti gas price is \$5.577 mmbtu
- Gas price of Hazira & OLPAD (Niko) is excluding royalty.
- All the prices are excluding marketing margin.

**Exploration of New Gas Reserves**

\*54. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has identified new gas reserves in various States including Tripura, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of gas estimated to be present in the said gas reserves and gas likely to be produced per day;

(d) whether the production work has since begun from the new gas reserves; and



(e) if not, the time by which production is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (e) Oil and Natural Gas, Corporation (ONGC) has identified new pool of gas reserves in Sundalbari-4 in Tripura, during 2009-10. Apart from this, ONGC has established presence of gas reserves in Kunjaban and Sundalbari fields during 2007-08 and Tulamura and Khubal fields during 2008-09 in Tripura. The quantum of estimated gas from the recent discoveries (discoveries made during 2007-08 and 2008-09) is 27.20 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) in place with ultimate component of 5.44 BCM. The assessment of quantum of gas from Sundalbari-4 is under evaluation. Production from these discoveries is linked up with upcoming 726.6 MW Tripura Power Plant.

[English]

#### **Delay/Cancellation of Flights due to Fog**

\*55. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:  
SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of flights were delayed/cancelled due to fog and other technical reasons during the recent winter months especially at Indira Gandhi International Airport;

(b) if so, the number of domestic and international flights delayed/cancelled during the last three years;

(c) whether the airlines have incurred huge losses and the passengers put to inconvenience due to delayed flights;

(d) if so, the details of the losses during the last three years;

(e) whether the Instrumental Landing Systems installed in some of the airports are not effective and some of the flights are forced to divert to various other destinations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The flights get delayed and cancelled in the winter season at IGI Airport due to foggy conditions, when the visibility falls below the limit to which the flight crew and aircraft are compatible to operate. During this winter season, on a couple of occasions, the technical failure i.e., non-availability of Runway Visual Range (RVR) information contributed to delay and cancellation of flights.

(b) to (d) During this current winter season due to low visibility in foggy conditions at IGI airport, 339 flights were cancelled and 201 flights were diverted. Information for last three years is being collected.

Due to visibility falling below operating minima during fog, many a times flights get delayed/cancelled with consequential effect. Some airlines do not maintain details related to delays due to 'landing restrictions' or late clearance for take off. It is, therefore, not possible to compute loss on this count.

(e) and (f) The Instrument Landing Systems (ILS) are effective for permitting flight operations to the visibility conditions specified with the instrument capability. The flights are diverted, when the visibility falls below limit to which the ILS, flight crew and aircraft are compatible to operate. However, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued guidelines to minimize hardship to the passengers detailing the role of all agencies for passenger facilitations and management of flight operations during fog period at IGI airport in the cases of diversion of flights.

#### **Supply of Natural Gas from KG Basin**

\*56. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:  
PROF. RAMSHANKAR:

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

(a) the demand and supply of natural gas of various States including Andhra Pradesh during the last three years and the current year; and

(b) the quantum of gas supplied from Krishna Godavari Basin to various industrial sectors including power, fertilizer, steel and other sectors, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh during the period?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) The information regarding State wise demand and supply of natural gas to various users, including in Andhra Pradesh, during the last three years, i.e., 2006-07 to 2008-09, and in the current year is given in the enclosed Statements-I and II respectively.

(b) The gas from Krishna Godavari basin was supplied only to customers in Andhra Pradesh till 2008-09; the details regarding the same are given in the enclosed Statement-III. Subsequent to production from KG D6 field in April 2009 and commissioning of East West Pipeline (EWPL), gas from Krishna Godavari basin, including from KG D6 field, is presently being supplied to customers in various parts of the country, including in Andhra Pradesh, as mentioned in enclosed Statement-IV.

**Statement-I**

*Demand of Natural Gas*

(in mmscmd)

State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Andhra Pradesh	15.73	19.44	21.41	23.40
Assam	6.40	7.31	7.92	8.53
NCT of Delhi	6.45	7.47	8.20	8.95
Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.50
Gujarat	49.03	56.54	62.31	70.68
Haryana	6.08	6.96	7.65	9.70
Karnataka	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.91
Madhya Pradesh	8.09	8.12	8.25	8.74
Maharashtra	30.65	34.98	38.90	44.42
Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.61
Puducherry	0.69	0.74	0.78	0.81
Rajasthan	8.67	9.87	11.11	13.63
Tamil Nadu	4.69	5.86	6.64	10.36
Tripura	1.60	1.99	2.25	2.52
Uttar Pradesh	24.30	26.76	29.05	30.66
Total	162.88	185.81	203.19	238.10

**Note:** There was no demand of natural gas in other States.

**Statement-II**

*Supply of Natural Gas*

(in mmscmd)

State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Present Status
Andhra Pradesh	6.50	6.35	5.99	19.30
Assam	5.88	6.19	6.40	6.40
NCT of Delhi	4.69	4.94	5.11	5.25
Gujarat	31.52	33.20	34.31	58.22
Haryana	1.16	1.22	1.26	1.39
Madhya Pradesh	4.77	5.02	5.19	6.76
Maharashtra	13.04	13.73	14.19	30.13
Puducherry	0.23	0.24	0.25	0.25
Rajasthan	5.77	6.08	6.28	8.21
Tamil Nadu	2.86	3.02	3.12	3.12
Tripura	1.39	1.47	1.52	1.52
Uttar Pradesh	18.94	19.95	20.62	24.42
Total	96.76	101.42	104.23	164.95

**Note:** There has been no supply of natural gas in other States.

**Statement-III**

*Supply of KG Basin Gas in Andhra Pradesh*

(in mmscmd)

Sectors	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Power	4.35	4.16	4.01
Fertilizers	1.90	1.84	1.64
CGD	0.01	0.013	0.024
Others	0.24	0.337	0.316
Total	6.50	6.35	5.99

**Note:** Supply outside Andhra Pradesh from KG D6 Basin was nil during the above mentioned period.

**Statement-IV***Present Status of KG Basin Supply (including from KG D6 fields) to various States*

(in mmscmd)

States	CGD	Fertilizer	Power	Refinery/ PC	Steel	Others	IC/ Shrinkage	Total
Andhra Pradesh	0.02	3.32	14.89	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.82	19.30
NCT of Delhi	0.14							0.14
Gujarat	0.14	2.51	7.40	9.41	3.85		0.60	23.91
Haryana			0.13					0.13
Madhya Pradesh		0.62					0.95	1.57
Maharashtra	0.41	4.62	8.53	0.75	1.15		0.48	15.94
Rajasthan		1.90	0.03					1.93
Uttar Pradesh		2.44	0.45				0.91	3.80
Total	0.69	13.78	27.34	10.16	5.00	0.00	3.76	66.72

**Note:** There is no supply of natural gas to other States.

**Shortage of LPG**

\*57. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:  
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

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

(a) whether there is shortage of LPG in several States including Kerala, West Bengal and Assam;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether as a result of shortage of LPG, hoarding and black-marketing of LPG have been resorted to by the gas agencies/ dealers;

(d) if so, the details of such cases; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to meet the demands of the consumers and prevent black-marketing/ hoarding of LPG?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Public Sector

Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country including in the States of Kerala, West Bengal and Assam and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

OMCs have reported a backlog of few days in LPG supplies in certain States in the country including Assam, Kerala and West Bengal due to a combination of factors viz., severe winter and fog during the month of January 2010, agitation for a separate Telangana, contract labour issues in Kerala and excessive booking due to various festivals. Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the States by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours. The backlog is expected to be cleared by the end of February, 2010.

OMCs have reported that they have supplied 9314.45 Thousand Metric Tonne (TMT) of domestic LPG in the

country during the period April, 2009 — January, 2010 as against 8793 TMT of domestic LPG during the corresponding period of last year, showing a growth rate of 5.93%. Similarly, OMCs have reported that they have supplied 149.10 TMT, 395.76 TMT and 502.39 TMT of domestic LPG in the States of Assam, Kerala and West Bengal respectively during the period April, 2009 — January, 2010 as against 145.32 TMT, 372.54 TMT and 472.55 TMT domestic LPG during the corresponding period of last year, showing a growth rate of 2.61%, 6.23% and 6.32% respectively. As on 19.02.2010, the stock of LPG on all India basis including stock on wheels is about 345 TMT, which is equivalent to 9 days cover.

(c) to (e) While no case of hoarding of LPG cylinders by the distributors has been established, the possibility of blackmarketing/diversion of subsidized domestic LPG cylinders by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to the wide gap between the retail price of LPG for domestic use and the market price for commercial LPG.

In order to stop blackmarketing/diversion of domestic LPG cylinders, the Government has enacted "Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000" and formulated "Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 2001" which provides for penal action against LPG distributors indulging in diversion/blackmarketing of LPG.

Whenever OMCs receive complaints on diversion/blackmarketing of LPG against their LPG distributors, these are investigated. If the complaint is established, action is taken against the LPG distributor in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

MDG provides for following action against the distributor:—

- Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.
- Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence.
- Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

In addition to the action taken by the OMCs, State Governments are empowered under the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 to take action against blackmarketing/diversion of domestic LPG.

Similarly, the Weights and Measures Departments of the States/UTs initiate legal action against those LPG distributors found blackmarketing or diverting LPG cylinders.

### **Quality of Processed Food Products**

\*58. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the food safety and quality assurance schemes/plans for food processing industries, under implementation in the country;

(b) the mechanism for certification of processed food in existence at present; and

(c) the steps taken to enable adherence to stringent quality in the processed food products and increase confidence of consumers in our processed products?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI) under its scheme for (i) Research and Development in Processed Food Sector, (ii) Setting up/Upgradation of Quality Control/Food Testing Laboratories, (iii) Implementation of HACCP/ISO22000, ISO14000/GHP/GMP quality/safety management systems and (iv) Promotional activities is providing financial assistance for implementation of Total Quality Management System. Under the scheme all implementing agencies are eligible for reimbursement of 50% of cost of consultant fee, fee charged by Certification Agency, plant and machinery, technical civil works, and other expenditure towards implementation of Total Quality Management System including ISO14000, ISO22000, HACCP, GMP and GHP in general areas subject to maximum limit of Rs. 15 lakh and 75% in difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 20 lakh.

In addition, other organizations like Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under Ministry of Commerce, and Development Commissioner Small Scale Industries DC (SSI) under Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises are also providing assistance under its various schemes for quality development.

(b) and (c) Consequent upon the establishment of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

under the provision of Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA), 2006, the various food safety and quality assurance schemes for food processing industries namely (1) Fruit Products Order, 1955, (2) Meat Food Products Orders, 1973 (3) Milk and Milk Products Order, 1992, (4) Solvent Extracted Oil, De — Oiled Meal and Edible Flour (Control) Order, 1967, (5) Vegetable Oil Products (Regulation Order, 1998, (6) Edible Oils Packaging (Regulation) Order, 1998 etc. regulating the different commodity of food and the (7) the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 have been brought under the administrative control of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) by invoking the provisions of section 90 of the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA), 2006. Now, these orders and act are being implemented under the administrative control of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

The mechanism of certification of the processed food is taken care by issuing the license and registration to the manufacturing units. The applicants who wish to manufacture the processed food products has to obtain license/registration under the different commodity specific order which stipulates certain conditions to be observed and provided with adequate infrastructure facilities including potable water in the manufacturing units to ensure the hygienic and standard quality production of the processed food.

There are provisions in the different food related orders and acts which empowers the authorized/technical officers to inspect the manufacturing units periodically to ensure that the minimum hygienic conditions as stipulated in the different orders and acts are complied by the units and samples of the different commodities are being drawn for testing in the food laboratories to ascertain their conformity. The defaulters are being dealt with as per the provisions of the orders and acts.

Besides implementation of provisions in the above mentioned food related orders and acts, some additional activities are carried out, including certification systems and awareness programmes for the industry and other stakeholders on the theme of food safety and quality.

There are, broadly, 3 kinds of certification system presently existing in the country:—

- (a) Product certification — This system ensures quality/safety of the product itself e.g. BIS certification.

- (b) Process certification — This system ensures process as well as product safety like GMP/ GHP/HACCP — Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point.

- (c) Management systems certification — This system ensures the systems which will produce safe food like ISO 22000.

The National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) under Quality Council of India (QCI) is a national Accreditation body. Quality Council of India (QCI) is responsible for the National Quality Campaign which has been assigned to it by the Central Government since inception and has identified food as a focus area. It conducts awareness programmes for the industry and other stakeholders on the theme of food safety and quality to apprise them of the latest standards and developments.

QCI was a partner with The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI) for FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY YEAR 2008-2009 and had conducted a number of programmes during that year. MOFPI has also been sponsoring and funding some of these programmes conducted by QCI since 2007. Thus, 18 programmes were organized during 2008-09 and 8 programmes were organized during 2009-10 for generation of awareness about food safety and quality for stake holders of food processing sector by QCI.

*[Translation]*

#### **Pilferage of LPG**

- \*59. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:  
SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the cases of pilferage of gas from the LPG cylinders in various parts of the country before their supply to the customers;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) the total number of such cases brought to the notice of the Government during each of the last three years and the current year; and

- (d) the measures being taken to curb such malpractices including action taken against the guilty LPG distributors?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that based on the established complaints of supply of partially used cylinders/under-weight cylinders/pilfering product from LPG cylinders, action has been taken in 172 cases in the country during the last three years and between April and December, 2009 under the provisions of MDG/Distributorship Agreement. The year-wise details are as under:

Year	Established cases
2006-07	29
2007-08	59
2008-09	56
2009-10 (upto December, 2009)	28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>172</b>

Surprise Quality Control Checks which include weighment of cylinders, are carried out at the distributor godowns and weight checking of filled cylinders in transit is being done by the field officers to check pilferage/presence of any underweight cylinders. The distributors have also been instructed to satisfy the customers about the correct weight of cylinders by weighing them, to ensure that the seals are verified & shown to the customers at the time of delivery. In case any under-weight cylinder is received by the customer, such cylinders are replaced free of charge by the OMCs. Industry has also invited a Global Expression of Interest for development of an Anti Pilferage Device.

Government has enacted "Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000" and formulated "Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 2001" which provide for penal action against erring LPG distributors. Accordingly, MDG, 2001 were issued and made effective from 12.04.2001 to take action against erring distributors for serious malpractices like diversion of domestic LPG cylinder for non-domestic use, recovery of unauthorized charges from customers, supply of underweight cylinders, etc.

MDG, 2001 provides inter-alia following action against erring LPG distributors for major offences:

- Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.
- Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence.
- Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

In addition to the action taken by the OMCs, State Governments are also empowered to take action under the LPG (Regulation of Supply & Distribution) Order, 2000. Similarly, the Weights and Measures Departments of the States/UTs initiate legal action against those LPG distributors found supplying under-weight LPG cylinders.

#### **Performance of Textile Industry**

\*60. SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL:  
RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the share of the Indian textile industry in the field of textile manufacturing in the world;

(b) whether the Indian textile industry is lagging behind other countries of the world in the manufacture of textiles;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) India is No. 1 in the production of Handlooms accounting to 84% of the world production and also in Jute products accounting to 70% of the world production, occupies No.2 position in the production of Cotton yarn accounting to 10.75% of the world production and also No.2 position in the production of manmade yarn accounting to 6.65% of the world production. India occupies No.3 position in Cotton fabrics production accounting to 17.41% of the world production. India's share of silk in the world accounts to 15%. Total textile production during the year 2008-09 was around 54966 million square meters.

(b) No, India is amongst the leading producers of fabrics & textiles products in the world.

(c) and (d) Indian textiles industry does not have the same technological edge as the textile industry in developed countries particularly in the weaving and processing segments. Therefore, Government commissioned Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), for modernization and technology Upgradation in the textile sector on 01.04.1999 initially for a period of 5 years. The Scheme aims at making available funds to the domestic textile industry for technology Upgradation of existing units as well as to set up new units with state-of-the-art technology so that its viability and competitiveness in the domestic as well as international markets may enhance. The Scheme, which has now been extended up to 31.03.2012, has been fine-tuned to catapult the rapid investments in the targeted segments of the textiles industry.

In order to provide infrastructure support, the Government has initiated the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) w.e.f. August 2005. Under the scheme, 40 projects with total project cost of Rs.4141.39 crore including Government of India assistance of Rs. 1422.43 crore has been sanctioned.

The Government of India has also launched "Jute Technology Mission (JTM)" with effect from 2007-08, spanning a period of 5 years (11th Five Year Plan Period), for overall development of the Jute Industry in the country and promotion of jute and jute products at home and abroad.

Central Silk Board and the State Sericulture Departments have taken several initiatives to strengthen the Indian Silk Industry by focusing on improvement in productivity and quality through improved technology to counter the import of Chinese silk into the country.

In order to enhance the production, productivity and efficiency of the handloom sector and also to improve the income and socio-economic status of the weavers through skill upgradation, infrastructure input supply and marketing support to handloom weavers, the Government of India is implementing following schemes during the XI Five Year Plan:-

- (i) Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme
- (ii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme
- (iii) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme

(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme

(v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme

[English]

### **Sugarcane Juice**

440. SHRI P. BALRAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to bring sugarcane juice in packaging;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) As per the information provided by Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, no such proposal relating to packaging of Sugarcane Juice is under consideration. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has several schemes for promotion of the food processing industry. The Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernisation of Food Processing Industries is aimed at creation of new processing capacity and up-gradation of existing processing capabilities, modernization of Food Processing Sector to include Milk, Fruit and Vegetables, Meat, Poultry, fishery, cereal, consumer items, oil seeds, rice milling, flour milling, pulse etc. for which MFPI extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas under the Scheme of Setting up/Modernization/Expansion of food processing industries.

### **Assessment of Finance of Oil PSUs**

441. SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the finances of Oil Public Sector Undertakings; and

(b) if so, the details of the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) The details of turnover and profit after tax (PAT) in respect of major oil

Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

### Statement

*Turnover and Profit After Tax (PAT) of the major oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) during the period 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-2010 (upto December 2009)*

(Rs. in crore)

Name of oil PSU	2007-08		2008-09		2009-2010 (Upto December, 2009)	
	Turnover	Profit After Tax	Turnover	Profit After Tax	Turnover	Profit After Tax
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)	61543.00	16702.00	65049.00	16126.32	46321.31	12991.00
Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)	247456.63	6962.58	285337.31	2949.55	208289.46	4663.78
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)	121684.07	1580.56	145392.07	735.90	93060.61	834.44
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)	103837.00	1134.88	116427.83	574.98	81599.35	543.84
Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL)	18580.12	2601.46	24292.00	2803.70	18411.00	2229.00
Oil India Limited (OIL)	6081.95	1788.93	7241.45	2161.68	6073.41	2179.53

[Translation]

#### Broad Gauge Rail Line between Kalka-Parvanu

442. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:  
SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the work of construction of Broad Gauge line was commenced between Kalka in Haryana and Parvanu in Himachal Pradesh and the present status of the remaining work; and

(b) the time by which the train operation would be commenced on the above line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Construction

of new broad gauge line between Kalka and Parwanoo was included in Budget 1997-98. The work, however, could not be taken up as State Government requested for taking up alternate proposal. Accordingly, Chandigarh-Baddi was taken up. For Chandigarh-Baddi also, land is not being provided in Chandigarh Union Territory and alternate alignment of Ghanauli-Baddi is proposed.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

#### National Commission on Judicial Reforms

443. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:  
SHRI P. BALRAM:

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



(a) whether the Government is considering to set up of a National Commission on Judicial Reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such Commission will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

### Radar System at Airports

444. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of such air routes in the country which are not under the range of radar or air traffic control room;

(b) the reasons for not having radar or air traffic control rooms on such air routes; and

(c) the steps taken to bring these routes under radar or air traffic control system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Most of routes over Indian Continental airspace are covered under RADAR. AAI is in the process to cover gaps in the radar coverage by providing 7 nos. additional radars (Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radar) to be provided at Bellary, Bhopal, Jharsuguda, Jodhpur, Katihar, Porbandar and Vizag.

[English]

### Export Targets

445. SHRI MANOHAR TIRKEY:  
SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the textile export targets set for the last three years, segment-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the export targets have not been achieved during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof, segment-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the textile export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The targets set for exports of textiles products, and achievements thereof, in respect of Financial Years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in the table below. As may be seen from the segment-wise tabulated figures of exports given below, the targets set could not be achieved during 2007-08 and 2008-09. The shortfall in achieving targets are attributable to the high and persistent appreciation of the Indian rupee vis-à-vis the US dollar during 2007-08 leading to lower realization for the textile sector. This phase was immediately followed by onset of global economic slowdown and recession in the major markets for India's textiles exports, leading to lower sales in these markets.

(in US Million)

Sl. No.	Segment	Target (2006-07)	Achievement (2006-07)	Target (2007-08)	Achievement (2007-08)	Target (2008-09)	Achievement (2008-09)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Readymade Garments	9,500	8282.27	12065	9065.36	10878.44	10242.79
2.	Cotton Textiles (Mill-made, Powerloom, Handloom)	5,000	5564.15	6350	6851.84	8222.21	4741.60
3.	Man-made Textiles	2,300	2398.90	2921	3175.56	3810.67	3280.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Woolen Textiles	500	423.84	635	442.90	531.48	478.22
5.	Silk Textiles	700	705.95	890	657.40	788.88	675.53
6.	Handicrafts	500	1364.91	635	1450.98	1741.17	1073.97
7.	Jute	300	260.22	381	326.09	391.31	299.13
Total		18,800	19000.24	23877	21970.13	26364.16	20791.74

(d) Government have introduced several reliefs and concessions including tax concession, rebates on prevailing duties, exemption from certain taxes concerning exports, enhancements of credit limits, extension of duty entitlement scheme etc. These measures were part of relief packages introduced by Government to safeguard exports from falling drastically in the face of rupee appreciation and later the global economic recession. In addition, several other encouragement measures have been introduced in the Union Budget 2009-10 as well as through Schemes of Foreign Trade Policy 2009-14.

[Translation]

#### Infrastructure in Textile Sector

446. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to initiate any ambitious programmes to develop infrastructure in textile sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of employment opportunities likely to be generated in this sector;

(d) whether the Government is likely to take care of the financial aspect entirely; and

(e) if so, the foreign exchange likely to be earned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) In order to provide infrastructure support, the Government has initiated the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) w.e.f. August 2005. Primary objective of the SITP is to provide the industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units. The scheme facilitates textile units to meet international environmental

and social standards. SITP creates new textile parks of international standards at potential growth centres. This scheme envisages engaging of a panel of professional agencies for project identification and execution. Government has already approved 40 projects under SITP. The estimated employment in the 40 projects is given below:

In Lakh nos.		
Direct	Indirect	Total
3.15	5.04	8.19

Funding pattern of SITP is as under:

- (i) The total project cost is funded through a mix of Equity/Grant from the Ministry of Textiles, State Government, State Industrial Development Corporation, Industry, Project Management Consultant and Loan from Banks/ Financial Institutions.
- (ii) The Government of India's (GoI) support under the Scheme by way of Grant or Equity will be limited to 40% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 40 crore. GOI support under the Scheme will generally be in the form of grant to the SPV unless specifically decided to be equity. However, the combined equity stake of GOI/ State Government/State Industrial Development Corporation, if any, should not exceed 49%.
- (iii) Government of India support will be provided @90% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 40 crore for first two projects in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir.

For powerloom sector the Government has initiated a scheme of Group Workshed Scheme with effect from 29.07.2003 which has been modified in 2007-08. The Group workshed scheme aims at setting up of powerloom parks with modern weaving machinery to enhance their competitiveness in global market. Ordinarily minimum 4 weavers should form a group each with 12 modern looms single width or 6 wider width looms per person will be allowed to be installed.. The scheme does not envisage more than 500 looms under one project proposal. Under modified Group Workshed Scheme 27 projects have been approved. However, employment has not been estimated

As per Modified Group Workshed Scheme, subsidy for construction of workshed would be limited to 40% of the unit cost of construction subject to a maximum of Rs.120/- per sq ft. whichever is less. The maximum subsidy will be Rs.12 lakh per beneficiary. Under Modified Group Workshed Scheme, 27 projects with a project cost of Rs 239.19 crore has been sanctioned.

The Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme was introduced in 2008-09 for development of 2 Mega Clusters i.e. Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) & Sivasagar (Assam) for their integrated and holistic development. Each cluster will cover over 25,000 handlooms at a cost of Rs.70.00 Crore. The scheme will be implemented as a Central Sector Scheme. The scheme will provide sustainable employment for economic development of handloom weavers. During the year 2009-10, two additional Mega Handloom Clusters have also been taken up one each in Virudhanagar (Tamil Nadu) and Murshidabad (West Bengal). Under the scheme, there are some components, which are fully funded by GOI. This includes conducting Diagnostic Study, formulation of Detailed Project Report (DPR), engaging Designer, Product Development, Corpus for raw material, Credit for working capital, Worksheds (for BPL weavers), Skill up-gradation etc. However, the components like Technology up-gradation, Design Studio, including the Computer Aided Design System, Marketing Complex, Value Addition (setting up of garment unit), Dye House,

Common Infrastructure, Publicity etc., the share of Government of India is 80%.

The Central Silk Board (CSB), a statutory body under the Ministry of Textiles is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme viz. "Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) with the assistance of State Governments, covering all the States. Under the scheme, assistance is being provided during the XIth Plan to create basic infrastructure support mainly under private sector for the following sericulture related activities:

- Infrastructure support for irrigation, plantation development etc.
- Infrastructure support for seed multiplication.
- Infrastructure support for construction of rearing houses.
- Infrastructure support for establishment of Chawki Rearing Centres (CRCs).
- Infrastructure support for construction of Cocoon storage houses (for tasar).
- Infrastructure support for establishment of CSTRI Certified improved reeling units and Handlooms.
- Infrastructure support for loom upgradation.
- Infrastructure support for establishment of Computer Aided Textile Design (CATD).
- Infrastructure support for establishment of Shuttle-less looms.
- Infrastructure support for establishment of Common Facility Centres (CFCs) for post cocoon activities like dyeing & printing.

Details of employment generated under various activities of silk industry during the last three years (2006-07 to 2008-09) are given as under. By the end of XIth Plan it is targeted to generate employment to the tune of 77 lakh persons.

(in Lakh persons)

Year	Employment in Sericulture Activities			
	Rearing	Reeling	Weaving	Total
2006-07	43.24	3.04	13.74	60.03
2007-08	44.09	3.10	14.01	61.20
2008-09	45.45	3.20	14.45	63.10

The funding pattern under CDP among Central Government, State Governments and the beneficiaries is as under:

Category of States	Central Govt. contribution	State Govt. contribution	Beneficiary contribution
General States	60%	20%	20%
Special Status States	80%	10%	10%

The silk export earnings expected by the end of XI<sup>th</sup> Plan period is Rs. 4500 crores.

#### **Reservation Counter at Sultanpur Railway Station**

447. DR. SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state:

(a) the number of reservation counters functioning at Sultanpur Railway Station presently and the number of staff deputed there for reservation at a time;

(b) whether there is normally long queue for reservation at Sultanpur Railway Station due to less number of reservation counters and insufficient staff in the reservation office;

(c) if so, reaction of the Railways thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) At present, at Sultanpur, two reservation counters are opened regularly from 08.00 to 20.00 hrs. from Monday to Saturday and 08.00 to 14.00 hrs. on Sunday. During rush period, additional counter is opened from 10.00 to 18.00 hrs as and when required. Eight Reservation Clerks are deputed in this reservation office.

(b) to (d) No, Madam. An analysis of number of reservation related requisitions being handled at Sultanpur has revealed that the existing number of reservation counters is adequate to cater to present level of traffic.

#### **Passenger Amenities**

448. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have incurred loss of 14 thousand crores of rupees in passenger services in 2008-09;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have taken any step for balancing the loss in passenger services with other avenues in 2009-10;

(c) whether the Railways are contemplating to increase passenger amenities for the passenger of general classes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes Madam. The loss of Rs. 14,000 crores (provisional) also includes other coaching services.

(b) Following steps have been taken in this regard:

(i) Introduction of new trains, enhancing load of more popular trains, running of special trains, facilitating ticket dispensation through various means like e-ticketing, etc.

(ii) By increasing freight and parcel earning.

(iii) By increasing earning through commercial publicity.

(iv) Mobilizing additional financial revenue through non-tariff measures by utilization of railway land/air-space, not required by Railways for its immediate future operational needs.

(c) and (d) Provision of passenger amenities at stations, for all classes, is a continuous process. Indian Railways have taken up the job of cushioning the seats in all the unreserved class (General) Coaches. Unreserved coaches being manufactured by Production Units are provided with cushioned seats. Existing coaches on the Railways are also being retrofitted with cushioned seats.

*[English]***Rail Link between Monuguru to Ramagundam**

449. SHRI RAJAIAH SIRICILLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any plan to start a new Rail link between Monuguru to Ramagundam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be started for this new Rail link?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) A Survey for Manuguru — Ramagundam (200 km.) has been completed. State Government of Andhra Pradesh has agreed to share 50% of the capital cost of the project. The work is yet to be sanctioned.

(c) Does not arise.

**ROB at Trivandrum-Pettah Road**

450. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted the estimate for construction of Rail over Bridge at Trivandrum-Pettah road (LC No. 578) in Kerala to the Railways in December, 2008;

(b) if so, whether an estimation of Rs. 10.8 crores has been prepared and sent to the Railways for approval;

(c) if so, the time by which the approval for this project is likely to be given by the Railways; and

(d) the time by which the amount for this project is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) to (d) A work of construction of ROB in Anayara is already sanctioned in Railway Works Programme year 2009-2010. The final consolidated estimate of Rs. 10.80 crores is yet to be received from the State Government

of Kerala. Upon receipt of the same, approval for the estimate can be processed and Railway's share of cost can be released after due sanction of the estimate.

*[Translation]***Museum at Shimla**

451. SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made towards establishing a Rail Museum at Shimla; and

(b) the time by which the said museum is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The structural work at proposed site has been completed. The false ceiling, flooring and finishing work is in progress.

(b) The work is likely to be completed by 30-6-2010.

**Modernisation in Textile Sector**

452. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to modernise the powerloom, handloom and textile units in the country;

(b) ifso, the specific programmes chalked out for this purpose;

(c) the amount of funds proposed to be spent thereon during the current five year plan and the amount of funds spent during each of the last three years, head-wise;

(d) whether any foreign assistance has been provided for the modernisation of the said units; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Yes, Government commissioned Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), for modernisation and technology

upgradation in the textile sector on 01.04.1999 initially for a period of 5 years. The Scheme aims at making available funds to the domestic textile industry for technology upgradation of existing units as well as to set up new units with state-of-the-art technology so that its viability and competitiveness in the domestic as well as international markets may enhance. The Scheme, which has now been extended up to 31.03.2012, has been fine-tuned to catapult the rapid investments in the targeted segments of the textile industry. It is a credit linked scheme and provides interest reimbursement of 5% points on the interest charged by the lending agency on a TUFs compatible machinery/project. The scheme

provides an additional option to the powerloom units to avail of 20% Margin Money subsidy in lieu of 5% interest reimbursement on investment in TUF compatible machinery. The scheme also provides 15% Margin Money subsidy for SSI textile and jute sector in lieu of 5% interest reimbursement. The scheme provides 5% interest reimbursement plus 10% capital subsidy for specified processing, technical textile and garmenting machineries. The allocation under the Scheme for the current five year Plan period i.e 2007-2012 is Rs. 8000 crore.

The year-wise progress of the TUFs Scheme is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Period	Received		Sanctioned		Disbursed			
	No. of applications	Project Cost	No. of applications	Project Cost	Amount	No. of applications	Amount	Subsidy
1999-00	407	5771	309	5074	2421	179	746	1
2000-01	719	6296	616	4380	2090	494	1863	70
2001-02	472	1900	444	1320	630	401	804	198.89
2002-03	494	1835	456	1438	839	411	931	202.59
2003-04	867	3356	884	3289	1341	814	856	249.06
2004-05	986	7941	986	7349	2990	801	1757	283.60
2005-06	1086	16194	1078	5032	6776	993	3962	485
2006-07	12336	61063	12589	66233	29073	13168	26605	823.92
2007-08	2408	21254	2260	19917	8058	2207	6854	1143.37
2008-09(P)	6113	56542	6072	55707	24007	6111	21826	2632.00
2009-10 (upto Sept. 2009)	584	7065	583	7065	1158	584	1019	2576.00
As on 30.09.2009(P)	26472	189218	26277	186804	79383	26163	67223	8665.438

As regards Powerloom Sector is concerned, the amount spent under 20% capital subsidies during the

last 3 years are given below. (This amount is included in total amount spent under TUFs table above).

(in Rs. crore)	
Year	Amount Spent under 20% CLCS
2007-08	35.92
2008-09	32.48
2009-10 (as on 27.01.10)	2263
Total	91.03

Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme (IHDS) has been introduced for its implementation during the XI Plan as a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for the development of Handlooms Sector and welfare of handlooms weavers. The scheme aims to focus on formation of weavers group as a visible entity, develop the Handlooms Weavers Groups to become self-sustainable, inclusive approach to cover weavers both within and outside the Cooperative fold, skill up-gradation of handlooms weavers/ workers to produce diversified, products with improved quality to meet the market requirements, provide suitable workplace to weavers to enable them to produce quality products with improved productivity etc.

The handlooms weavers, who are not covered by clusters, are benefited by a "Group Approach" in a project mode for development of handloom weavers. A Group should have preferably 10 weavers or more which can be in the form of SHG/ Primary Weavers Cooperative Society/ other independent/ individual weaves. Assistance to such a group of weavers are being provided for (i) Basic inputs; (ii) Training Programme in weaving, dyeing, designing aid managerial disciplines; and (iii) Construction of Workshed. The main components of the scheme are: (i) Cluster Development Programme; (ii) Group Approach; (iii) Marketing Incentive and (iv) Strengthening of Handloom Organizations. Basic input is one of the components under the Scheme. Financial assistance is provided towards margin money, purchase of new loom, dobby, jacquard and accessories.

Financial assistance provided towards purchase of new loom, dobby, jacquard, accessories. Setting up of Common Facility Centers, setting up/up-gradation of Dye House etc. under Cluster Development Programme and Group Approach Projects of IHDS during 2007-08 2008-09 and 2009-10 (upto January 2010) is as under:

Components	Funds released (Rs. in lakh)		
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (As on January 2010)
New Looms	184.17	426.54	234.83
Dobby	73.61	73.99	54.66
Jacquard	90.58	146.18	1.77
CFC/Upgradation/ Modernization of Dye-House	82.83	426.75	230.63
Total	431.19	1073.46	521.89

The Government under its centrally sponsored scheme "Catalytic Development Programme (CDP)" through Central Silk Board (CSB), a statutory body under the Ministry of Textiles, providing support for the establishment of Central Silk Technological Research Institute (CSTRI) Certified Improved Handlooms, Shuttle less Looms in the silk sector. During the XIth Plan, the following CDP schemes pertaining to the weaving sector covering both handloom & shuttle-less weaving are being

implemented in the country covering all the States:

- (i) Support for establishment of CSTRI Certified improved Handlooms
- (ii) Support for loom upgradation
- (iii) Support for establishment of Computer Aided Textile Design (CATD)
- (iv) Support for establishment of Shuttle-less looms

Physical and Financial Target/Achievement under CDP during the current five year Plan (XIth Plan) and

progress made during the last three years (2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (upto January 2010)) is as under:

(Unit: Physical in Nos & Fin. Rupees in Lakhs)

Scheme	Target for XIth Plan		Achievement* during the last 3 years	
	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
Support for establishment of CSTRl certified handlooms	2000	322.00	2470	367.60
Support for loom up-gradation	5000	310.00	2711	146.89
Support for establishment of CATD	50	163	84	226.50
Support for establishment of Shuttle less looms	20	500.00	22	550.00

(\*Up to January 2010)

No foreign assistance has been provided for the modernization of any units under Central sector schemes.

[English]

### Introduction of Trains and Stoppage of Trains

453. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new trains introduced from western region to various parts of the country in the last two Railway Budgets particularly in reference to Surat;

(b) whether these new trains are being operated presently;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Railways would consider stoppage of the north bound and south bound trains at various Sub-divisional Headquarters like Godhara, Surat and Bharuch in Gujarat; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The trains are not introduced region-wise, hence no region-wise data of trains is maintained. However, nine pairs of trains, serving Surat were announced during the Railway Budget

2008-2009 and 2009-2010. Trains announced in the Railway Budget are introduced during the course of the financial year. Except, 2997/2998 Hapa-Tirunelveli Express (bi-weekly) which will be introduced shortly and 2489/2490 Dadar-Bikaner Express (bi-weekly) will be introduced after commissioning of Samdari-Bhildi line into broad gauge, all the announced trains have been introduced.

(d) and (e) Stoppages are considered keeping in view operational constraints and commercial feasibility. Experimental stoppage of 2993/2994 (new No. 2215/2216) Bandra (T)-Jaipur-Delhi Sarai Rohilla Garib Rath Express (triweekly) and 1453/1454 Nagpur-Ahmedabad Prerna Express (weekly) at Bharuch station has been provided from 15.7.2009 and same have been extended upto 30.6.2010. Further, experimental stoppage of 2995/2996 Ajmer/Udaipur-Bandra (T) Express (tri-weekly) at Bharuch has been provided from 3.2.2010.

### Investment in Steel Industry

454. SHRI RAMESH RATHOD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state the details of investment made and incentives given to steel industry during the Eleventh Five Year Plan in the country especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): Steel is a deregulated sector and the Government does not directly make



investments in the steel industry. However, a Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) of Rs. 118.00 crore has been provided for promotion of Research and Development (R&D) in the Iron and Steel Sector during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Government implements various fiscal measures in the form of duties and taxes, from time to time with an overall view to regulate economy and boost the industry. However, on the aftermath of global economic slowdown the following economic stimulus measures were initiated by the Government during October 2008 to February 2009:

- (i) Export Duty on steel items (except melting scrap) withdrawn with effect from 31.10.2008;
- (ii) Duty Entitled Pass Book (DEPB) on steel items restored with effect from 14.11.2008;
- (iii) Import Duty on iron and non-alloy steel items re-imposed at 5% with effect from 18.11.2008;
- (iv) Central Value Added Tax (CENVAT) on steel items reduced to 8% with effect from 24.02.2009; and
- (v) Countervailing duty (CVD) on Thermo Mechanically Treated (TMT) bars and structurals were reintroduced with effect from 02.01.2009.

#### **Sampark Kranti**

455. SHRI ADAGOORU H. VISHWANATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to introduce a daily Sampark Kranti Express between Yeshwanthpur and New Delhi as there is heavy rush on this route; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Karnataka Sampark Kranti Express is providing daily service between Nizamuddin-Yeshwantpur — 5 days via Nagpur-Secunderabad as 2649/2650 and 2 days via Manmad-Pune-Hubli as 2629/2630.

#### **Shortage of Bogies**

456. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have faced acute shortage of passenger bogies in the trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Taking into account the unfulfilled demands for introduction of more trains, there is a shortage of coaches on Indian Railways.

(b) and (c) To meet with requirement of coaches, the production capacity of the existing Railway production units has been augmented and orders for coach manufacture have also been placed on public and private sector firms.

A new rail coach factory has been sanctioned at Rae Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh. Setting up of coach manufacturing factories at Palakkad in Kerala and Kanchrapara in West Bengal are in process.

#### **Cotton Production**

457. SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been estimated that production of cotton thread and cotton clothes will be lower by approximately ten per cent in the country during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been decrease in the export of clothes and thread due to higher prices of cotton in the country this year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Madam. The current trend of production do not indicate decline in the current financial year. The production of cotton yarn for the year 2008-09 and 2009-10 (April-December) is given below:—

Item	Unit	(April-December)			
		2008-09	2008-09	2009-10	% change
Cotton Yarn	Million Kilogramme.	2898	2192	2272	3.6
Cotton Cloth	Million square metre.	26898	20162	21477	6.5

(c) and (d) The export of cotton yarn has shown a decreasing trend. The decrease is attributable to the high and persistent appreciation of the Indian rupee vis-à-vis the US dollar during 2007-08 leading to lower realization

for the textile sector. This phase was immediately followed by onset of global economic slowdown and recession in the major markets for India's textiles exports. Details of export of cotton cloth and cotton yarn are given below:—

*Export of Major Textile Items*

(Value in US\$ Million)

Item	2008-2009	April — September		
		2008-2009	2009-2010	% Change
Cotton Yarn, fabrics, madeups etc.	4125.07	2351.36	1529.95	-34.93
Cotton sewing thread	10.00	5.00	4.00	-20.00
Readymade garments cotton including accessories	8388.73	4067.57	3542.29	-12.91

**Investigation of IT Companies**

458. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal or recommendation to investigate the working of several IT companies;

(b) if so, the details of such companies; and

(c) the action plan prepared to monitor the working of these companies in view of financial scam in a major IT company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has not received any proposal or recommendation from its field offices to investigate the working of several IT companies.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No action plan has been prepared by this Ministry, specially for monitoring the working of IT companies. However, the regulatory framework under the Companies Act, 1956 is available and used against the defaulting companies as and when warranted.

**Import of Steel**

459. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has become a net importer of steel over the last few years;

(b) if so, the quantum of steel imported during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) the impact of domestic steel prices on the consumers in view of the economic recession globally; and

(d) the time by which the price fluctuation is likely to be stabilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The desired data are given in the table below:—

Year	Total finished steel imported (in million tonnes)
2006-07	4.93
2007-08	7.03
2008-09	5.84
April-January, 2009-10*	5.94
April-January, 2008-09	5.01

Source: JPC; \* — provisional

(c) and (d) Prices of steel, in general have reduced after September 2008, on account of reduction in demand of steel in the global market and consequent fall in steel prices in major steel exporting countries. The prices of steel in the domestic market have also remained largely stable, with minor periodic variations being observed on account of seasonal demand-supply gap.

[Translation]

#### Allotment of LPG Distributorships

460. SHRI ANJANKUMAR M. YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG distributorships allotted in Andhra Pradesh company-wise and area-wise;

(b) the number of complaints received against these distributors during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the guilty distributors?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) As on 01.02.2010, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are operating 930 LPG distributors in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The Company-wise details are as under:

Name of oil company	No. of LPG distributors
IOC	395
BPCL	206
HPCL	329

The area-wise details are available with Directors (Marketing) of the OMCs concerned.

(b) and (c) OMCs have reported that based on the established complaints for various irregularities, action has been taken in 399 cases against the LPG distributors in the State of Andhra Pradesh during last three years and April-December, 2009 under the provision of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

[English]

#### Burning of Railway Coaches

461. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether few railway coaches were torched recently by some mobs few months ago in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the losses incurred by the Railways due to burning of railway coaches during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the Railways have fixed any responsibility and taken any strict action against the offenders and to recover the losses incurred as a result thereof in each of such cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### Vacant Railway Land

462. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have formulated any scheme to use the vacant land of Railways;

(b) if so, the details of such land in Jabalpur zone under Western Central Railway; and

(c) the steps taken by railways to make use of that land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Vacant land not required for Railway's immediate operational needs is put to alternative use including commercial development wherever feasible. Railways have set up a separate authority namely Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) through an amendment of Railway Act, 1989 to undertake commercial development of such vacant railway land.

RLDA utilises such land wherever feasible on Indian Railways including West Central Railway for setting up of various infrastructure projects through innovative financing models. An area of 97 acres has been identified on West Central Railway in this regard.

[English]

#### **Electrification of Railway Line**

463. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal for doubling and electrification of Sabarmati to Abu Road, via Palanpur railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. On Sabarmati to Abu Road via Palanpur section, patch doubling from Abu Road to Sarotra Road (23.12 Km.) and Sarotra Road to Karjoda (23.59 Km.) have been proposed in the Budget 2010-11. However, there is no electrification proposal for this route.

[Translation]

#### **Empowerment of Minority Women**

464. SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI BAVALIA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to chalk out any action plan for the empowerment of minority women in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has received any recommendations from the National Commission for Women in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government on the said recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) to (e) Yes, Madam. The Government has formulated and approved a scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women. Inputs received, inter-alia, from National Commission for Women (NCW) were also taken into account. NCW had envisaged a scheme which would reach out to minority women and help them to assume leadership roles in accessing services, skills and opportunities for improving their lives and livelihood. The details of the scheme which was finalized in the Ministry and launched on 27th January, 2010, are posted on the website of the Ministry viz. [www.minorityaffairs.gov.in](http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in)

#### **ROB at Hansi Road**

465. SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Railways have received any representation from various public representatives for the construction of railway over bridge at Hansi Road, railway crossing in Bhiwani city (Haryana) to give relief to the local people from the persistent problem of traffic jam; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam.

A representation has been received from Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Smt. Shruti Choudhry in connection with construction of Road Over Bridge at

Hansi Road (level crossing No.53-B) in Bhiwani city (Haryana).

(b) There are two ROB works sanctioned on cost sharing basis in lieu of level crossings No.53-B and 53-C in Bhiwani City (Haryana). In view of the congestion in flow of traffic and to avoid inconvenience in city portion, State Govt. has advised to defer the work of construction of ROB in lieu of level crossing No.53-B till the completion of ROB in lieu of LC No.53-C on Bhiwani-Tosham road.

[English]

#### **Bhiwani Junction**

466. SHRIMATI SHRUTI CHOUDHRY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds have been allocated in the rail budget of year 2006 and released for the development and modernisation of Bhiwani junction railway station in consonance with its status of a Model Railway Station;

(b) whether it is a fact that these Funds were not utilised to create passenger amenities at the station;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed in the matter and the steps taken by the Railways to undertake expansion and modernization of Bhiwani junction railway station as per its status of Model Railway Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Funds allotted for development were fully utilized for creation of facilities for extension of platform to accommodate 24 coaches train, improvement to platform surface, waiting hall, booking counter, toilets, circulating area, etc.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Upgradation of Aligarh Railway Station**

467. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to upgrade Aligarh railway station with the VIP guest house and escalators there;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the station is likely to be upgraded; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) No VIP guest house is provided at the station. However, one AC VIP Room is already available at Aligarh station. At present, there is no proposal for provision of escalators at this station, as escalators are provided on need basis.

[English]

#### **Takeover of Palakkad Unit of Instrumentation Limited by BHEL**

468. SHRI M.B. RAJESH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Government for the takeover of Palakkad Kerala Unit of Instrumentation Limited by BHEL;

(b) if so, present status and details of the proposal;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the revival plan involves private participation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The separation of Palakkad Unit and its transfer to BHEL was not considered feasible due to:—

(i) inter-dependent and complementary nature of operations of Kota and Palakkad Unit;

(ii) loss of price flexibility on products manufactured by it;

(iii) company loosing competitive advantage in offering total turnkey solutions to process industries and

(iv) Kota unit being exposed to risk of technology obsolescence necessitating heavy investments for technological up gradation and creation of additional facilities.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) Question does not arise.

#### **Gauge Conversion**

469. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal for gauge conversion of Marwa-Mavli Junction stretch about 150 KM to facilitate direct connection between Jodhpur and Udaipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Requests have been received for gauge conversion of Marwar-Mavli metre gauge line to broad gauge.

(c) An updating survey for gauge conversion of this line was completed in 2007-08. As per the survey report, the cost of the proposed gauge conversion was assessed as Rs. 810.37 crore. The project is yet to be sanctioned.

[Translation]

#### **Black-marketing of Kerosene**

470. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:  
SHRI PURNMA SI RAM:

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

(a) the details of quantities of kerosene oil supplied during the last three years and the current year under public distribution system in the country, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether kerosene/LPG are being diverted/black-marketed for adulteration/commercial use and there is an acute shortage of kerosene/LPG in the country;

(c) if so, the State-wise details of such complaints and the steps taken to check the diversion/black-marketing of kerosene/LPG and to ensure availability of these items at fair price to consumers; and

(d) the measures taken to increase the production of kerosene/LPG?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Quantity of Public Distribution System (PDS) kerosene allocated to the States/UTs during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) undertake regular and surprise inspections at kerosene dealerships and LPG distributors. Also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in black-marketing and diversion. In spite of these measures, the possibility of black-marketing of kerosene and misuse of LPG cylinders by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel and gap between the retail price of LPG for domestic use and the market price for commercial LPG.

OMCs have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG and kerosene in the country. Demand of kerosene and LPG are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand.

Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that 25 cases of black-marketing of kerosene oil by wholesale dealers and 332 cases of diversion/overcharging of domestic LPG cylinders had come to notice during April-December 2009. State-wise details of cases of black-marketing and diversion of domestic LPG cylinders and action taken thereon are available with Director (Marketing) of OMCs.

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, 19. according to which the dealers cannot sell PDS kerosene at a price higher than the price fixed by the Government or OMCs and that the PDS kerosene dealers should prominently display stock-cum-price board at the place of business including the place of store at a conspicuous place. State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in black-marketing and other irregularities.

Also, the Government has taken a number of additional initiatives viz., Tamper proof locking system, monitoring of movement of Tank Trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS), canalization of import of kerosene etc.

The following measures have been taken to prevent the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes:

- (i) Under the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes by the distributors of public sector OMCs is prohibited. The State Governments are empowered to take action against erring distributors under the provisions of this Order. The State Governments have been alerted from time to time to take steps against the diversion of domestic cylinders for unauthorized usage.
- (ii) The officials of public sector OMCs carry out random checks at distributor's godown, delivery point, as well as en-route to ensure that no

diversion/black marketing takes place. As per the MDG, in established cases of diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinder for commercial purposes, the following action is taken against the distributor.

- (a) Fine of Rs 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.
- (b) Fine of Rs 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence, and
- (c) Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

In addition to the above, with the objective of ensuring that the benefit of the subsidy reaches the targeted consumers and to check leakage in supply of PDS kerosene and domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), this Ministry has taken in principle decision to issue bio-metric Smart Cards to users of PDS kerosene and domestic LPG customers beginning with some large cities. The pilot project on Smart Card has initially been proposed to be launched in Pune in Maharashtra, Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh and Bangaluru in Karnataka. Depending upon the success of the pilot project, the scheme will be extended out to other parts of the country.

(d) The refining capacity of public sector and private sector refineries is estimated to reach 255.832 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) at the end of XIth Plan from existing capacity of 179.956 MMTPA. This would imply corresponding increase in production capacities of petroleum products including kerosene/LPG.

### **Statement**

#### *Allocation of PDS Kerosene*

(Quantity in Metric Tonnes)

Name of States/UTs	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
1	2	3	4
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5659	5816	5816
Andhra Pradesh	517102	517158	517158
Arunachal Pradesh	9170	9257	9257

1	2	3	4
Assam	257893	258007	258007
Bihar	643786	647430	647430
Chandigarh	7181	9999	13067
Chhattisgarh	145822	146938	146938
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2785	2782	2782
Daman and Diu	2073	2118	2118
Delhi	135235	160935	168484
Goa	19209	19212	19212
Gujarat	742668	743759	743759
Haryana	144830	145619	145619
Himachal Pradesh	45466	49409	50537
Jammu and Kashmir	75326	76044	76044
Jharkhand	210964	211175	211175
Karnataka	461340	461478	461478
Kerala	216310	216308	216308
Lakshadweep	795	795	795
Madhya Pradesh	487845	488609	488609
Maharashtra	1276588	1276876	1276876
Manipur	19743	19907	19907
Meghalaya	20359	20401	20401
Mizoram	6181	6217	6217
Nagaland	13318	13312	13312
Orissa	314334	314977	314977
Puducherry	12249	12257	12257
Punjab	234700	237192	237192
Rajasthan	398431	398913	398913
Sikkim	5566	5582	5582
Tamil Nadu	558428	558929	558929



1	2	3	4
Tripura	30740	30832	30832
Uttar Pradesh	1240789	1241772	1241772
Uttarakhand	89845	89849	89849
West Bengal	751536	752103	752103
Total Allocation	9104266	9151967	9163712

### **New Food Processing Units in Madhya Pradesh**

471. SHRI SAJJAN VERMA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from the Government of Madhya Pradesh to set up new food processing units in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposals; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the process of setting up of new food processing units in the State?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) under its Plan Scheme for Technology Upgradation, Establishment and Modernization of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance to the proposals received from eligible agencies for setting up of food processing units as per guidelines of scheme. MFPI schemes are project specific, not State specific. MFPI has not received any proposals directly from State Governments including that of Madhya Pradesh for financial assistance for setting up of food processing units on its own during the last three years.

To promote food processing in the country, Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs @25% of the cost of Plant & machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas under the Scheme of Setting up/Modernization/Expansion of food processing industries. In order to ensure speedy disbursement of financial assistance, the Ministry has

decentralized the disbursement procedure through banks/ financial institutions under the scheme of setting up/ Establishment/ Modernization/Expansion of Food Processing Industries w.e.f. 01.04.2007.

Under the decentralized procedure, the applications are received directly by the Banks/FIs, hence the data for receipt of the applications for 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 is not maintained centrally by the Ministry. However, during last three years total 63 proposals have been received through e-portal in the Ministry in respect of Madhya Pradesh State which are at various stage of implementation.

In order to ensure speedy disbursement of financial assistance, the Ministry has decentralized the disbursement procedure through banks via an e-portal under the Scheme of Setting up/Modernization/Expansion of food processing industries with effect from 01.04.2007.

Government has formulated and is implementing several Plan Schemes to provide financial assistance for the establishment and modernization of Food processing units, creation of infrastructure, support of R&D, human resource development besides other promotional measures to encourage development of food processing industries. Moreover, the Government has taken several steps like tax reduction, waiver/reduction of excise duty, reduction of custom duty on specific food items with a view to encourage the growth of Food Processing Industries and make them more competitive. Further, the Ministry under its Plan Scheme of establishing Food Testing Labs, Implementation of Quality Systems such as Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP), Promotion of Research and Development, Capacity Building and Human Resources Development provide assistance to food processing industries to enable them to compete in the international market.

*[English]***Mixing of Naphtha with Petrol**

472. SHRI S. ALAGIRI:  
DR. SANJAY SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that naphtha is being mixed with petrol;

(b) if so, the percentage thereof;

(c) whether smoke emitted from the naphtha mixed with petrol is harmful to health and environment;

(d) if so, the nature of ill effects of the naphtha mixed smoke on health; and

(e) the details of the steps that the Government has taken to check such adulteration?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) The possibility of mixing of Naphtha with petrol by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out owing to substantial price differential between petrol and Naphtha and the easy miscibility of Naphtha with petrol.

(c) and (b) Yes, Madam. If petrol is mixed with Naphtha, it affects the Octane Number and thereby combustion, which leads to increase in unburnt Hydrocarbon and Carbon-monoxide emissions.

(e) Government have issued the Naphtha (Acquisition, Sales, Storage and Prevention of Use in Automobile) Order, 2000 under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 to prevent diversion and misuse of Naphtha for adulteration. State Governments have been empowered under this Order to take action in the case of malpractices/irregularities. Also, the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) take action against their dealers under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG), for adulteration in petrol.

**Extension of Railway line from Baripada to Chakulia**

473. SHRI LAXMAN TUDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken any decision to extend the railway line from Baripada to Chakulia via Budhamara to connect Tata Kharagpur railway line under South-Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds earmarked for the completion of the project; and

(c) the time frame stipulated for the completion of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Extension from Buramara to Chakulia (50 Kms) including upgrading of the rail line from Rupsa to Buramara (75 Kms) has been approved as part of Rupsa-Baripada-Buramara-Bangriposi (90 Kms) Gauge Conversion project. The total project cost is Rs. 466.48 crore.

The work is being executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). Rs. 22.14 crore has been provided in Budget 2009-10 for the complete project including Gauge conversion work.

(c) Rupsa-Bangriposi is targeted for completion during 2009-10.

*[Translation]***Audit under NELP**

474. SHRI HARSH VARDHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) the Government proposes to make provision for mandatory audit by the CAG in the production sharing contracts (PSC);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details and the number of blocks where the audit has been conducted under NELP till December, 2009.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) As per provision of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), "the Government shall have the right to audit the accounting records of

the Contractor in respect of Petroleum Operations as provided in the Accounting Procedure". Accordingly, audit of PSC for NELP block KG-DWN-98/3 and pre-NELP blocks Parma Mukta fields, Tapti fields and RJ-ON-90/1 by Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) have commenced for the year 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Audit of the books of accounts up to the year 2006-07 have been done by the Government appointed Auditors as per PSC provisions in respect of 52 NELP blocks. Further, CAG has selected 14 NELP PSCs and 8 pre-NELP PSCs for Performance Audit.

[English]

#### **Joint Venture/Diversification Projects of FACT**

475. SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give clearance for the Joint Venture and diversification projects of Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT), Kerala, for improving its profitability, as recommended by M/s Deloitte [an external agency appointed by the Committee of Secretaries (COS)] to prepare a turnaround strategy and make necessary recommendations;

(b) if so, the time-frame set for its execution; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) M/s. Deloitte had submitted its report for improving the profitability of FACT, containing several suggestions on major technical, raw material and financial issues. Besides these major issues, the report also suggested alternate use of surplus assets for generating additional resources. Based on the suggestion, FACT has considered expansion/diversification Projects which are in process of examination/evaluation at various stages. At this stage definite time frame cannot be set for the evaluation process.

[Translation]

#### **Shelved Railway Projects**

476. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some old railway projects have been shelved;

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

(c) the funds spent on these projects so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No project has been shelved at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **New Railway Line between Faizabad-Raibareilly and Lalganj**

477. DR. NIRMAL KHATRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways had contemplated earlier to construct new rail line at Faizabad-Raibareilly and Lalganj stretch; and

(b) if so, the status of this project as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Survey for a new Broad gauge line between Faizabad and Lalganj via Akbarganj, Semrauta, Mehraj Ganj and Raebareli (ISO km) has been taken up.

#### **Women Employees in Food Processing Industries**

478. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women employees in food processing sector at present;

(b) whether Government has launched any scheme to provide maximum employment to women in the food processing industries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The Ministry of FPI does not maintain data on the Gender Composition of the workforce in Food Processing Sector in the country.

(b) and (c) In the 11th Plan, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing various schemes to encourage investment in the food-processing sector for development of the sector. The proposals can be submitted by potential investors under the following schemes for availing Financial Assistance:

- (i) Scheme for Infrastructure Development for Food Processing Sector-Mega Food Parks.
- (ii) Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure.
- (iii) Scheme for Modernization of Abattoirs.
- (iv) Scheme for Human Resource Development.
- (v) Scheme for Setting-up/Expansion of Food Processing Industries.
- (vi) Scheme for Setting-up/Upgradation of Food Testing/Quality Control Laboratories. The beneficiaries of projects assisted by the Ministry are those supplying raw materials to food processing industries, people working in food processing plants and those engaged in marketing activities downstream. The benefit accruing to women from these schemes has not been quantified.

#### **Employment Opportunities in Steel Industry**

479. SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government has assessed the possibility of increasing employment opportunities in the steel industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of employment generated through the steel industry during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the strategy formulated by the Government for the generation of employment in Steel Industry in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Government engaged Indian Institute of Metal (IIM), Kolkata in March 2007 for a comprehensive study on

technical manpower requirement at different levels in the steel industry. The report has been submitted by IIM, Kolkata to Ministry of Steel in March 2008 which inter-alia covers discipline-wise requirement of technical manpower needed by the iron and steel industry by the year 2020, including shortages thereof.

(c) and (d) The details of year-wise employment generated through steel industry are not available. Steel being a deregulated sector, employment decisions are taken by the steel companies.

[English]

#### **Foreign Pilots in Domestic Airlines**

480. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign pilots are working with domestic airlines in the country;

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

(c) whether some foreign pilots were deported from the country recently; and

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

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

(b) The number of foreign pilots working in India as on 01.01.2010 are Go Air – 4; Blue Dart – 7; Alliance Air – 23; Kingfisher Airlines – 139; Jet Airways – 137; Air India (including Air India Express) – 136; Jetlite – 3; Indigo – 41; Deccan Cargo – 7; Paramount Airways – 22; Spice Jet – 42 and Jagson – 1.

(c) and (d) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) only validates the foreign licences of aircrew. No foreign pilot has been deported on the instance of DGCA. However, as per data available with DGCA, 124 foreign pilots have been phased out by various airlines since June, 2009 till 01.01.2010.

#### **Setting-up of Institute at Gondia**

481. SHRI BAL KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is establishing a National Institute of Technology and Management at Gondia, Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the streams of aviation courses offered;

(c) whether the Institute will be affiliated with any Prime Technical Institution of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) It has been decided to establish a National Institute of Aviation Training and Management at Gondia, Maharashtra as a Joint Venture Enterprise with an Indian Company having a foreign tie up, to cover various streams of aviation such as Basic Aircraft Maintenance Engineers Licence; Cabin crew training course; Airline Management course; Airport Terminal Management course etc.

[Translation]

#### **Rail Neer**

482. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rail Neer is not being supplied in all trains;

(b) if so, the details of such trains where it is yet to be introduced, zone-wise; and

(c) the measures initiated by the Railways to ensure that each train has the availability of Rail Neer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### **New LPG Connections**

483. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:  
SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:  
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:  
SHRI ARJUN MUNDA:  
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:  
SHRI MAHESHWAR HAZARI:

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

(a) the present estimated demand for cooking gas vis-a-vis gas connections provided as per latest information, State-wise;

(b) the estimated number of gas connections to be provided during the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government is providing gas connection on priority basis in rural and tribal areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have assessed the requirement/demand of domestic LPG for the entire country at 13.7 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) for the year 2010. As on 01.02.2010, OMCs are serving about 1141.5 lakh LPG customers in the country. The State-wise details are available with Directors (Marketing) of OMCs concerned.

(b) to (d) The new LPG connections are available across the counter for genuine domestic customers where OMC distributors are present irrespective of whether they fall in urban, urban/rural or tribal areas. Further, as per the "Vision 2015" adopted for LPG sector, a target has been given to the OMCs to raise the over-all LPG population coverage to 75% in the country by releasing 5.5 crore new LPG connections by 2015 especially in rural areas and undercovered areas.

#### **Reports by Law Commission**

484. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of reports submitted by the Law Commission so far;

(b) whether the Government has implemented all the recommendations contained in these reports;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the reports pending for implementation alongwith the names of the Ministries in which these are pending; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The Law Commission has submitted total 234 reports so far. All the recommendations contained in these reports have not been implemented. The reports submitted by the Law Commission are on different subjects and the copies of the reports have been forwarded to the Ministries/Departments concerned with the subject-matter of the

recommendations for implementation.

(d) and (e) The details of the pending reports and the Ministries/Departments concerned with the reports are given in the enclosed Statement. The Ministries/Departments concerned have been requested to implement the recommendations contained in the reports on priority and furnish present status of the reports.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Report No.	Subject	Ministry/Department concerned
1	2	3	4
1.	6	Registration Act, 1908	D/o Land Resources
2.	13	Contract Act, 1872	Leg. Deptt.
3.	17	Report on Trusts Act, 1882.	Leg. Deptt.
4.	34	Indian Registration Act, 1908.	D/o Land Resources
5.	38	Indian Post Office Act, 1898.	D/o Posts
6.	65	Recognition of Foreign Divorces	Leg. Deptt.
7.	66	Married Women's Property Act, 1874.	
8.	70	The Transfer of Property Act, 1882.	Leg. Deptt.
9.	83	The Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 and certain provisions of the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956.	Leg. Deptt.
10.	86	The Partition Act, 1893.	Leg. Deptt.
11.	87	Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920.	M/o Home Affairs
12.	89	The Limitation Act, 1963.	Leg. Deptt.
13.	108	Promissory Estoppel.	Leg. Deptt.
14.	111	The Fatal Accidents Act, 1855.	Leg. Deptt., D/o Economic Affairs
15.	123	Decentralisation of Administration of Justice: Disputes Involving Centres of Higher Education.	D/o Higher Education
16.	133	Removal of Discrimination against Women in matters relating to Guardianship and Custody of Minor Children and Elaboration of the Welfare Principle.	Leg. Deptt.
17.	136	Conflicts in High Court Decisions on Central Laws – How to foreclose and how to resolve.	Leg. Deptt.

1	2	3	4
18.	144	Conflicting Judicial decisions pertaining to the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.	Leg. Deptt.
19.	148	Repeal of Certain pre-1947 Central Acts	Leg. Deptt.
20.	150	Suggesting some Amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure (Act No. V of 1908).	Leg. Deptt.
21.	151	Admiralty Jurisdiction.	M/o Shipping
22.	153	Inter-Country Adoption.	Leg. Deptt.
23.	154	The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Act No. 2 of 1974).	M/o Home Affairs
24.	156	The Indian Penal Code.	M/o Home Affairs
25.	157	Section 52: Transfer of Property Act, 1882 and its Amendment.	Leg. Deptt.
26.	158	The Amendment of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.	D/o Industrial Policy and Promotion
27.	159	Repeal and Amendment of Laws: Part I.	Leg. Deptt., M/o Corporate Affairs, D/o Economic Affairs, D/o Financial Services, D/o Revenue, D/o Posts, M/o Information and Broadcasting, D/o Commerce,
28.	162	Review of functioning of Central Administrative Tribunal, Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal and Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal	D/o Revenue, D/o Personnel and Training
29.	165	Free and Compulsory Education for Children.	D/o School Education and Literacy
30.	166	The Corrupt Public Servants (forfeiture of property) Bill.	D/o Personnel and Training
31.	172	Review of Rape Laws.	M/o Home Affairs
32.	176	The Arbitration and conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2002.	Leg. Deptt.
33.	177	Law Relating to Arrest.	M/o Home Affairs
34.	178	Recommendations for amending various enactments, both civil and criminal.	Leg. Deptt., M/o Corporate Affairs, D/o Revenue, M/o Home Affairs, D/o Road Transport and Highways
35.	179	Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers.	D/o Personnel and Training
36.	182	Amendment of Section 6 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894.	D/o Land Resources
37.	183	A Continuum on the General Clauses Act, 1897 with special reference to the admissibility and codification of external aids to interpretation of statutes.	Leg. Deptt.

1	2	3	4
38.	184	Legal Education and Professional Training and Proposals for amendments to the Advocates Act, 1961 and the University Grants Commission Act, 1956.	D/o Higher Education
39.	185	Review of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.	Leg. Deptt.
40.	186	Proposal to Constitute Environment Courts	M/o Environment and Forests
41.	187	Mode of Execution of Death Sentence and Incidental Matters	M/o Home Affairs, D/o Justice
42.	188	The Proposals for Constitution of Hi-Tech Fast – Track Commercial Divisions in High Courts.	D/o Commerce
43.	189	Revision of Court Fees Structure	D/o Justice
44.	191	Regulation of Funds collected for Calamity Relief	M/o Home Affairs
45.	192	Prevention of vexatious Litigation.	Leg. Deptt., M/o Home Affairs
46.	193	Transnational Litigation, Conflict of Laws, Law of Limitation.	Leg. Deptt.
47.	194	Verification of Stamp Duties and Registration of Arbitral Awards.	Leg. Deptt.
48.	195	The Judges (Inquiry) Bill, 2005	D/o Justice
49.	197	Public Prosecutor's Appointments.	M/o Home Affairs
50.	198	Witness Identity Protection and Witness Protection Programmes	M/o Home Affairs
51.	199	Unfair (Procedural and Substantive) Terms in Contracts	Leg. Deptt.
52.	200	Trial by Media: Free Speech Vs. Fair Trial Under Criminal Procedure (Amendments to the Contempt of Court Act, 1971).	D/o Justice
53.	201	Medical Treatment after Accidents and During Emergency Medical Condition and Women in Labour	M/o Health and Family Welfare
54.	202	Proposal to amend Section 304B of Indian Penal Code	M/o Home Affairs
55.	203	Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 as amended by the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2005 (Anticipatory Bail)	M/o Home Affairs
56.	204	Proposal to Amend the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 as amended by Act 39 of 2005	Leg. Deptt.
57.	205	Proposal to Amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 and Other Allied Laws	Leg. Deptt.



1	2	3	4
58.	206	Proposal for enactment of new Coroners Act applicable to the whole of India	M/o Home Affairs
59.	207	Proposal to amend Section 15 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 in the case a female dies intestate leaving her self acquired property with no heirs	Leg. Deptt.
60.	208	"Proposal for amendment of Explanation to Section 6 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 to include oral partition and family arrangement in the definition of "partition".	Leg. Deptt.
61.	209	Proposal for omission of Section 213 from the Indian Succession Act, 1925	Leg. Deptt.
62.	210	Humanization and Decriminalization of Attempt to Suicide	M/o Home Affairs
63.	211	Laws on Registration of Marriage and Divorce – A Proposal for Consolidation and Reform	Leg. Deptt.
64.	212	Laws of Civil Marriages in India – A Proposal to Resolve Certain Conflicts	Leg. Deptt.
65.	213	Fast Track Magisterial Courts for Dishonoured Cheque Cases	D/o Financial Services, D/o Justice
66.	214	Proposal for Reconsideration of Judges cases I, II, III — S.P. Gupta Vs. UOI reported in AIR 1982 SC 149, Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association Vs. UOI reported in 199(4) SCC 441 and Special Reference I of 1998 reported in 1998(7) SCC 739	D/o Justice
67.	216	Non-Feasibility of Introduction of Hindi as Compulsory Language in the Supreme Court of India	D/o Justice
68.	217	Irretrievable Breakdown of Marriage – Another Ground for Divorce	M/o Home Affairs
69.	218	Need to accede to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (1980) Child Development	M/o Home Affairs, M/o Women and
70.	219	Need for Family Law Legislations for Non-resident Indians	M/o Overseas Indian Affairs
71.	220	Need to fix Maximum Chargeable Court Fees in Subordinate Civil Courts	D/o Justice
72.	221	Need for Speedy Justice – Some Suggestions	Leg. Deptt., M/o Home Affairs
73.	222	Need for Justice – dispensation through ADR etc.	Leg. Deptt., M/o Corporate Affairs, D/o Justice, M/o Labour, Bar Council of India, D/o Legal Affairs

1	2	3	4
74.	223	Need for Ameliorating the lot of the Have-nots – Supreme Court's Judgments	Leg. Deptt., M/o Home Affairs, M/o Labour
75.	224	Amendment of Section 2 of Divorce Act, 1869 Enabling Non-domiciled Estranged Christian Wives to seek Divorce	Leg. Deptt.
76.	226	The Inclusion of Acid Attacks as Specific Offences in the Indian Penal Code and a law for Compensation for Victims of Crime	Leg. Deptt., M/o Home Affairs
77.	227	Prevention Bigamy via Conversion to Islam – A Proposal for giving Statutory Effect to Supreme Court Rulings	Leg. Deptt., M/o Home Affairs
78.	228	Need for Legislation to Regulate Assisted Reproductive Technology Clinics as well as Rights and Obligations of Parties to a Surrogacy	M/o Health and Family Welfare
79.	229	Need for division of the Supreme Court into a Constitution Bench at Delhi and Cassation Benches in four regions at Delhi, Chennai/Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai	D/o Justice
80.	230	Reforms in the Judiciary – Some suggestions	D/o Justice
81.	231	Amendments in Indian Stamp Act, 1899 and Court-Fee Act, 1870 permitting different modes of payment.	D/o Justice
82.	232	Retirement Age of Chairpersons and Members of Tribunals – Need for Uniformity	D/o Legal Affairs
83.	233	Amendment of Code of Criminal Procedure Enabling Restoration of Complaints	M/o Home Affairs
84.	234	Legal Reforms to Combat Road Accidents	M/o Home Affairs, D/o Road Transport and Highways

**Promotion of Organic Manures and Bio-fertilizers**

485. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plans to promote the production and usage of organic manures and bio-fertilizers;

(b) if so, the organic/bio-fertilizers produced and marketed in the country and the existing support systems;

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring these organic/bio-fertilizers under the proposed nutrient based subsidy system;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the nature of support likely to be given by the Government for organic fertilizers produced by farmers in their own fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):  
(a) Government is promoting the production and use of organic manures and bio-fertilizers under different schemes of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation such as National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) and National Project for Management of Soil Health and Fertility.

(b) During 2008-09, 64223.81 MT of different Bio-fertilizer and other microbial inputs were produced in the country.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Under the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, financial assistance is provided for setting up of vermicompost production units at farmer's fields under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Vermiculture hatcheries under National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF).

#### **Employment in Silk Industry**

486. SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY:  
SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of employment status in various sericulture activities, State-wise;

(b) if so, the details of women population engaged in such activities thereof; and

(c) the welfare measures that the Government has taken for such persons during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The State-wise employment status in various sericulture activities, including women population engaged in such activities, during the year 2008-09 is as follows:—

(No. in lakh)

Sl. No.	States	Rearing			Reeling			Weaving			Total		
		Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
1.	Karnataka	3.91	5.86	9.77	0.24	0.45	0.69	1.24	1.86	3.10	5.39	8.17	13.56
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2.36	3.55	5.91	0.15	0.27	0.42	0.75	1.13	1.88	3.26	4.95	8.21
3.	Tamil Nadu	1.35	2.02	3.37	0.08	0.15	0.23	0.43	0.64	1.07	1.86	2.81	4.67
4.	West Bengal	1.43	2.15	3.58	0.09	0.16	0.25	0.46	0.68	1.14	1.98	2.99	4.97
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.91	1.37	2.28	0.06	0.10	0.16	0.29	0.44	0.73	1.26	1.91	3.17
6.	Others	8.21	12.33	20.54	0.51	0.94	1.45	2.61	3.92	6.53	11.33	17.19	28.52
Total		18.17	27.28	45.45	1.13	2.07	3.20	5.78	8.67	14.45	25.08	38.02	63.10

Source: DOSs of States.

(c) The Government has taken the following welfare measures for the benefit of the stake holders of silk industry:

**Health Insurance for Women Workers** — The Scheme aims at financially enabling the women workers in the silk industry to access the best of health facilities in the country. The scheme is being implemented through ICICI Lombard. The scheme involves a premium of Rs. 767.28 per year per person, which provides a health coverage to the tune

of Rs. 15,000 per year. The benefit of the scheme is applicable to the Women workers and their family (1+3). The cost of the premium is shared between Central Silk Board, State Government and Beneficiaries in the ratio of 75:15:10. As against the target to cover 31,000 women beneficiaries under the scheme during XI Plan, 1,41,840 women beneficiaries have already been covered in 11 States with the CSB's share of 8.94 crores during the last 2 years (2008-09 and 2009-10).

*State-wise details of physical and financial progress of this scheme for the last 3 years are given below:*

#	Scheme/States	2007-08**		2008-09		2009-10	
		Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
1.	Karnataka	—	—	10000	64.25	20000	125.63
2.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	1370	8.8	4000	25.13
3.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	4760	29.9	—	0.00
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	2500	16.06	2500	15.70
5.	Assam	—	—	3000	19.27	—	0.00
6.	Jharkhand	—	—	1410	9.06	50000	314.08
7.	West Bengal	—	—	3000	19.27	30000	188.45
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	1200	7.54
9.	Tripura	—	—	—	—	1400	8.79
10.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	700	4.40
11.	Orissa	—	—	—	—	6000	37.69
Total		—	—	26040	166.61	115800	727.40

\*\*implementation of the Scheme commenced in 2008-09.

**Creating Toilets, Rest Rooms and Creche facilities for women in Cocoon Markets**—In order to encourage the participation of women in cocoon markets, a provision has been made during XI Five Year Plan to create separate toilets and rest rooms

exclusively for women in cocoon markets and provide creche facilities for their kids to enable them to freely participate in the cocoon transactions. Statewise details for the last 3 years are as follows:—

(fin. in Lakh Rs.)

#	Scheme/States	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
		Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
1.	Tamil Nadu	4	7.5	—	—	—	—
2.	Karnataka	—	—	—	—	8	15.00

[Translation]

**Installation of CCTV System at Airports**

487. SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:  
SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN:  
SHRIMATI SHRUTI CHOUDHRY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether CCTVs installed at the Indira Gandhi International Airport to ensure tight security was out of order and shut for the last two months;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents and raise the quality of CCTVs installed at International Airports to ensure the security of the airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Madam. CCTV installed at IGI Airport, New Delhi are working continuously. However, out of 526 CCTV cameras, 28 CCTV cameras were not working in the last two months.

(c) Monitoring exercises are conducted from time to time and directions are issued to Delhi International Airport Ltd. (DIAL) for necessary action. A 24x7 maintenance team has been engaged by DIAL at IGI Airport and prompt action is taken to repair the cameras whenever required.

[English]

#### **Development of Customised Fertilizers**

488. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take steps to ensure adoption of geo-referenced sampling and analysis of soil to develop the appropriate grades of customized fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) A new scheme namely, the National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility has been launched during 2008-09 and under the scheme, provision has been made for preparation of digital district soil maps (using Global Positioning System) and soil fertility monitoring system by ICAR/State Agriculture Universities. In order to promote balanced use of fertilizer, the concept of customized fertilizer has been introduced in the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 and the guidelines have also been brought out.

These fertilizers are crop and area specific. So far, 17 such customized fertilizer grades have been specified under the Fertilizer Control Order, 1985.

#### **Demerger of Air India and Indian Airlines**

489. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:  
SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA:  
DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether after merger into a single entity the NACIL has registered huge loss;

(b) if so, the profit/loss registered by NACIL during each of the last three years

(c) whether keeping in view the continuous loss by NACIL Government proposes to demerge both the companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Losses of Rs. 447.43 crores (erstwhile Air India) and Rs. 240.29 crores (erstwhile Indian Airlines). Rs. 2226.16 crores and Rs. 5548 crores have been incurred by National Aviation Company of India Limited during financial year 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Railway Lines in Uttar Pradesh**

490. DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any plan to connect some cities of Uttar Pradesh with the railway line during this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have received any request for laying railway line between Sambhal-Gajraula via Hasanpur in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the time by which the work on said railway line is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The new line from Agra to Bah via Fatehabad and Lalitpur-Udaipura are targeted for completion during 2010-11.

(c) Requests have been received for the new line, and survey was done in 2008-09. However, another survey for new line from Gajraula to Manipuri via Sambhal, Rajghat, Budaun, Etah has been taken up.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

### **Ground Handling Operations**

491. SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI:  
SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the norms/guidelines laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organisation and the International Air Transport Association about ground handling operations at International airports;

(b) whether due to poor handling operations at some airports, passengers have to wait unduly for longer period before they receive their luggage;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons for such poor ground handling operations; and

(e) the steps taken to improve ground handling operations at all domestic as well as international airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) guidelines regarding passenger handling (maximum clearance time at International airports) as incorporated in Recommended Practices 3.36 and 339 of ICAO Annex. 9 (Facilitation) is as under:—

"The goal of clearing arriving passengers within 45 minutes of disembarkation and within 60 minutes for departing passengers."

(b) to (e) The airlines at present are self handling their ground operations. With the improvement in terminal and apron side infrastructure there has been a positive impact in handling of baggage. In order to achieve world class standards in Ground Handling operations, a new Ground Handling Policy was approved by the Government

in the Year 2007. Any specific complaints are dealt by the Airport/Airline operator on case to case basis.

### **Supreme Court Benches**

492. SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to change the character of the Supreme Court by setting up four Supreme Court Benches in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai/Hyderabad as ostensibly recommended by the Law Commission;

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

(c) whether changing of the character of the Supreme Court require an amendment to the Constitution of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Attorney General of India has opined against any more to alter the character of the Supreme Court;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Chief Justice of India or other Judges of the Supreme Court been asked or have expressed any opinion on the above subject; and

(h) if so, the details thereof? \

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (h) The Law Commission of India, in its 229th Report, has recommended as under:—

(1) A Constitution Bench be set up at Delhi to deal with constitutional and other allied issues.

(2) Four Cassation Benches be set up in the Northern region/zone at Delhi, the Southern region/zone at Chennai/Hyderabad, the Eastern region/zone at Kolkata and the Western region/zone at Mumbai to deal with all appellate work arising out of the orders/judgments of the High Courts of the particular region.

Giving reasons, the Attorney General for India has intimated that the above recommendations require wide

ranging amendments that would change the constitution of the Supreme Court completely. In his opinion, this is impermissible and a Constitutional amendment of this kind is simply unacceptable.

The response of the Chief Justice of India is awaited.

**Courts to deal with Crimes  
against Women**

493. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:  
SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:  
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:  
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:  
SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:  
SHRI P. BALRAM:  
SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up more courts to dispose off sex abuse and rape cases of minors expeditiously in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to enact a stringent law to deal with crime against children; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Vision-2015 for LPG Usage in Kerala**

494. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the districts/locations identified as potential areas under the Vision-2015 for LPG usage in Kerala;

(b) the expected LPG coverage in Kerala in the next five years;

(c) whether Kerala has been included in the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak Scheme; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b): The "Vision 2015" adopted for LPG sector inter-alia focuses on raising the population coverage of LPG with the focus on rural areas and areas where LPG coverage is low. The Vision-2015 envisages to achieve atleast 75% population coverage in the country by LPG by the year 2015. To ensure that growth of LPG usage is evenly spread, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are assessing/identifying locations in a phased manner under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak Yojana (RGGLVY).

As a step towards achieving this objective, RGGLVY scheme has been launched on 16.10.2009 and subsequently advertisements inviting applications for distributors under the scheme have been released in 8 States where the reach of LPG is very low namely, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal covering 1215 locations in the 1st phase of implementation of this scheme.

(c) and (d) The setting up of LPG distributors under this scheme will now be a continuous process till all parts of the country deficient in LPG, including in the State of Kerala are covered by LPG network.

*[Translation]*

**Gauge Conversion in Madhya Pradesh**

495. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Railways have any proposal for gauge conversion in Madhya Pradesh under the National Rail Development Scheme (NRDS); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**New Railway Line in West Bengal**

496. SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Balurghat-Buniador-Kaliaganj rail line under North Frontier Railway, West Bengal which was announced in Railway Budget 2009-2010; and

(b) the time by which the said railway line is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The work of new line from Balurghat to Hilli (29 Kilometers) and Buniadpur to Kaliaganj (33.13 Kilometers) have been included, in 2010-11.

### **Railway Projects**

497. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects sanctioned by the Railways during each of the last three years as on date alongwith the amount sanctioned for each project, State-wise;

(b) the details of projects that have been under

construction for more than 12 years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to complete the pending railway projects within a stipulated time limit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) There are 26 new line, 14 gauge conversion and 4 doubling projects which are more than 12 years old i.e. taken up prior to 1997-98.

(c) To expedite completion of projects, a number of initiatives have been taken to generate additional resources through non-budgetary measures like Public-Private Partnership, funding by State Governments and other beneficiaries. Besides, to reduce delays on account of land availability, security issues and forestry clearances, etc. meetings with State Officials are held from time to time. Contract conditions have been modified to bring in efficiency in contract management, and field units have been further empowered.

### **Statement**

(a) *State-wise details of railway projects taken up during the last three years is as under*

(Rs. in Cr.)

Sl. No.	Plan head	Name of the Project	State(s)	Length (in KMs)	Anticipated cost
1	2	3	4	5	6

#### **Projects included in the Railway Budget 2008-09**

1.	New Line	Agartala-Sabroom	North East Region, Tripura	110	813.34
2.	New Line	Ara-Bhabua Road	Bihar	122	490.8
3.	New Line	Araria-Supaul	Bihar	92	304.41
4.	New Line	Attipattu-Puttur	Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh	88.3	446.87
5.	New Line	Banaguram-Ras	Rajasthan	27.8	125
6.	New Line	Bhairabi-Sairang	North East Region, Mizoram	51.38	619.34
7.	New Line	Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Beri	Himachal Pradesh, Punjab	63.1	1046.88
8.	New Line	Chennai-Cuddalore via Mahabalipuram	Tamil Nadu, Puducherry	179.28	523.52



1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	New Line	Cuddapah-Bangalore (Bangarapet)	Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh	255.4	1000.23
10.	New Line	Dehri on Sone-Banjari	Bihar	36.4	106.2
11.	New Line	Erode-Palani	Tamil Nadu	91.05	288.87
12.	New Line	Gaya-Chhtra	Bihar, Jharkhand	97	415.67
13.	New Line	Gaya-Daltonganj via Rafiganj	Bihar	136.88	445.25
14.	New Line	Jalalgarh-Kishanganj	Bihar	50.077	282.92
15.	New Line	Kursela-Bihariganj	Bihar	57.35	192.56
16.	New Line	Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga	Bihar	66.9	281.3
17.	New Line	Muzaffarpur-Katra-Orai- Janakpur Road	Bihar	66.55	228.05
18.	New Line	Nawada-Laxmipur	Bihar	137	620.57
19.	New Line	Sitamarhi-Jayanagar-Nirmali via Susand	Bihar	188	678.62
20.	New Line	Sivok-Rangpo	North East Region, Sikkim	53	1339.48
21.	New Line	Wardha-Nanded	Maharashtra	270	697
22.	Gauge Conversion	Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-	Rajasthan, Gujarat	299.2	742.88
23.	Gauge Conversion	Bhuj-Naliya with extn. to Vayor	Gujarat	125	318.24
24.	Gauge Conversion	Jaipur-Ringus-Churu and Sikar-Loharu	Rajasthan	320.04	653.55
25.	Gauge Conversion	Madurai-Bodinayakanur	Tamil Nadu	90.41	182.66
26.	Gauge Conversion	Ratlam-Mhow-Khandwa-Akola	Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra	472.64	1421.25
27.	Gauge Conversion	Suratpura-Hanumangarh- Sriganganagar	Rajasthan	240.95	542
28.	Doubling	Banspani-Jaruli	Orissa	9	90.88
29.	Doubling	Bhopal-Beena 3rd line	Madhya Pradesh	143	428
30.	Doubling	Champa-Jharsuguda 3rd line	Chhattisgarh	165	872.12
31.	Doubling	Chandrapura-Rajabera- Chandrapura-Bhandaridah	Jharkhand	10.6	21.87
32.	Doubling	Guna-Ruthiyai	Madhya Pradesh	20.5	66.5

1	2	3	4	5	6
33.	Doubling	Jakhal-Mansa	Haryana	45	109.13
34.	Doubling	Muri-North Outer Cabin/Muri-Doubling of section with provision of 2nd bridge over Subarnarekha	Jharkhand	1	11.74
35.	Doubling	Panskura-Kharagpur 3rd line	West Bengal	44.7	195.35
36.	Doubling	Raghavapuram-Mandamari 3rd line	Andhra Pradesh	24.47	92.29
37.	Doubling	Rajkharsawan-Sini-3rd line	Jharkhand	15	91.61
38.	Doubling	Tinpahar-Sahibganj Ph-I of Tinpahar-Bhagalpur	Jharkhand	37.81	135.7
39.	Doubling	Tiruvallur-Arakkonam 4th line	Tamil Nadu	26.83	78.92
40.	Doubling	Udhna-Jalgaon with electrification	Gujarat, Maharashtra	306.93	714.6
41.	Doubling	Villupuram-Dindigul (With electrification)	Tamil Nadu	273	822.39

**Projects included in the Railway Budget 2007-08**

1.	New Line	Bariarpur-Mananpur	Bihar	67.78	450.55
2.	New Line	Bihta-Aurangabad	Bihar	118.45	326.2
3.	New Line	Chandigarh-Baddi	Punjab, Himachal Pradesh	33.23	328.14
4.	New Line	Chhotaudipur-Dhar	Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh	157	570
5.	New Line	Deoband (Muzzaffarnagar)-Roorkee	Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh	27.45	164.8
6.	New Line	Rayadurg-Tumkur	Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh	213	1027.89
7.	New Line	Sultanganj-Katuria	Bihar	74.8	450
8.	Gauge Conversion	Bhojipura-Pilibhit-Tanakpur	Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh	101.79	144.99
9.	Gauge Conversion	Burdwan-Katwa	West Bengal	51.52	346.47
10.	Gauge Conversion	Mayiladuturai-Karaikudi and Tiruturaipundi-Agastiyampalli	Tamil Nadu	224	711.16
11.	Gauge Conversion	Sadulpur-Bikaner and Ratangarh-Degana	Rajasthan	394.35	681.69
12.	Doubling	Adra-Joychandipahar	West Bengal	6	25.31

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Doubling	Alwar-Harsauli	Rajasthan	34.86	90.79
14.	Doubling	Ambalapuzha-Haripad	Kerala	18.13	48.38
15.	Doubling	Arasikere-Birur	Karnataka	44.28	136.01
16.	Doubling	Barabanki-Burhwal	Uttar Pradesh	39	79.98
17.	Doubling	Barbil-Barajamda	Orissa	10	50.01
18.	Doubling	Bimalgarh-Dumitra	Orissa	18.3	99.01
19.	Doubling	Byepass at Annupur	Chhattisgarh	6	21
20.	Doubling	Byepass at Champa	Chhattisgarh	14	31
21.	Doubling	Gokulpur-Midhapur New bridge on diversion alignment with substructure and steel super structure on Br.No. 143.	West Bengal	2	34.15
22.	Doubling	Harsauli-Rewari	Haryana, Rajasthan	39.33	110.95
23.	Doubling	Kalumna-Nagpur	Maharashtra	6.16	21.61
24.	Doubling	Kukrana-Panipat	Haryana	8	36.08
25.	Doubling	Kuruppanthara-Chengavannam	Kerala	26.58	99.2
26.	Doubling	Malda and Old Malda	West Bengal	0.38	20.7
27.	Doubling	Mau-Indara	Uttar Pradesh	8	36.52
28.	Doubling	New Guwahati-Digaru	North East Region and Assam	29.81	116.24
29.	Doubling	Pen-Roha	Maharashtra	40	130.35
30.	Doubling	Raipur-Titlagarh	Orissa, Chhattisgarh	203	614.35
32.	Doubling	Ramanagaram-Mysore incl. elect. of Kengeri-Mysore	Karnataka	91.5	126.69
33.	Doubling	Samalkot-Kakinada	Andhra Pradesh	15.6	114.49
<b>Projects included in the Railway Budget 2006-07</b>					
1.	New Line	Araria-Galgolia (Thakurganj)	Bihar	100	529.88
2.	New Line	Azra-Byrnihat	North East Region, Assam, Meghalaya	30	546.47
3.	New Line	Chhapra-Muzzafarpur	Bihar	84.65	378.56
4.	New Line	Chhitauni-Tumkuhi Road	Bihar, Uttar Pradesh	58.88	235

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	New Line	Darbhangha-Kusheshwar Asthan	Bihar	70.14	205
6.	New Line	Dimapur-Kohima (Zuba)	North East Region, Nagaland	88	850
7.	New Line	Jaggayapet-Mallacheruvu	Andhra Pradesh	19.1	94.69
8.	New Line	Manoharabad-Kotapalli	Andhra Pradesh	148.9	497.47
9.	New Line	Mothari-Sitamahi	Bihar	76.7	211
10.	New Line	Obulavaripalle-Krishnapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	113	732.81
11.	New Line	Tindivanam-Gingee-Tiruvannamalai	Tamil Nadu	70	227.4
12.	New Line	Tindivanam-Nagari	Tamil Nadu	179.2	582.83
13.	New Line	Vishnupuram-Janapahar	Andhra Pradesh	11	54.57
14.	Gauge Conversion	Aluabari Road-Siliguri	West Bengal, Bihar	76	255.96
15.	Gauge Conversion	Bharuch-Samni-Dahej	Gujarat	62.36	165.66
16.	Gauge Conversion	Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat and Pollachi-Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu, Kerala	224.88	557.27
17.	Gauge Conversion	Kolar-Chickballapur	Karnataka	96.5	200
18.	Gauge Conversion	Manamadurai-Virudhnagar	Tamil Nadu	66.55	156.4
19.	Gauge Conversion	Rajpipla-Ankleshwar	Gujarat	62.89	196.97
20.	Doubling	Balance section of Utreria-Sultanpur-Zafraabad	Uttar Pradesh	148	369.9
21.	Doubling	Bhatni-Baitalpur	Uttar Pradesh	28	78.46
22.	Doubling	Bhatni-Jiradei	Uttar Pradesh, Bihar	38.11	100.27
23.	Doubling	Chengalpattu-Villupuram-Tiruvannamalai	Tamil Nadu	103	369.21
24.	Doubling	Changanur-Chingavanam	Kerala	26.5	132.25
25.	Doubling	Dausa-Bandkui	Rajasthan	29.04	81
26.	Doubling	Dharwad-Kambarganvi	Karnataka	26.68	96.76
27.	Doubling	Ghagharaghat-Chowkaghat	Uttar Pradesh	5.63	91.58
28.	Doubling	Gorakhpur Cantt.-Baitalpur	Uttar Pradesh	37.93	89.18
29.	Doubling	Hubli-Hebsur	Karnataka	17.17	62.62
30.	Doubling	Kankanadi-Panamburu Patch Doubling	Karnataka	19	147.8

1	2	3	4	5	6
31.	Doubling	Khodri-Anuppur with flyover at Bilaspur	Chhattisgarh	61.6	223.45
32.	Doubling	Kottavalasa-Simthachalam North 4th line	Andhra Pradesh	16.69	94.73
33.	Doubling	Munderwa-Babhanan	Uttar Pradesh	45.25	102.1
34.	Doubling	Padapahar-Banspani	Orissa, Jharkhand	28	129.74
35.	Doubling	Parvel-Pen	Maharashtra	35.46	99.38
36.	Doubling	Sambalpur-Titlagarh	Orissa	182	474.25
37.	Doubling	Tughlakabad-Palwal 4th line	Delhi, Haryana	33.5	123.9
38.	Doubling	Vizianagram-Kottavalasa 3rd line	Andhra Pradesh	34.7	194.89

### **Sick Textile Mills**

498. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of workers rendered jobless due to closure of textile mills during each the last three years till February 2010 in the country, State-wise;

(b) the fresh measures taken to rehabilitate them;

(c) the number of workers given financial assistance so far, State-wise, year-wise;

(d) whether lakhs of workers have been denied financial assistance;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the fresh measures being taken to ensure assistance to the workers rendered jobless?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The total number of workers rendered jobless due to the closure of private textile mills during the last 3 years, (i.e., 2007, 2008, 2009) are 12919 workers as per details given in the enclosed Statement-I. In the public sector, National Textile Corporation had given voluntary retirement to 420 employees. The state-wise details of workers opted for voluntary retirement is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(b) Government of India under Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) provides interim relief to the textile workers rendered unemployed as a consequence of permanent closure of any particular portion or entire textile unit in the private sector. Assistance under the Scheme is payable to eligible workers only for the purpose of enabling them to settle in another employment. Any worker is eligible provided he/she is engaged in a closed textile unit on the date of its closure continuously for five years or more and earning a wage equivalent of Rs. 2500 per month or less for the mills closed between 6.6.1985 to 1.4.1993 and Rs. 3500 or less thereafter. They should be contributing to the Provident Fund maintained by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner of the State concerned.

The employees of NTC mills opted for retirement under the Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme have been given compensation package on the basis of their service rendered by them and service left for superannuation. Besides Department of Public Enterprises has formulated a Scheme for counseling, retraining and redeployment for employees of Public Sector Companies.

(c) to (e) Since inception of the Scheme, a total of 104476 workers out of 133666 workers on the rolls have been given financial assistance under TWRFS till 31.12.2009 as per the funds available under the Scheme.

(f) Apart from the above measures, constant efforts were/are made by the Government to provide relief to

displaced workers of closed textile mills expeditiously by organizing various Grievances Redressal Meetings, which are presided over by the Textile Minister/Textile Commissioner/Joint Textile Commissioner etc. Such

meetings have representatives from various State/ Central Government Departments/Organisations/Labour Associations and from workers.

***Statement-I***

*State wise list of closed Cotton Man-made Fibre Mills during the last three years as on December-2009*

Sl. No.	State	2007		2008		2009		Total	
		No. of Mills Closed	Workers	No. of Mills Closed	Workers	No. of Mills Closed	Workers	No. of Mills Closed	Workers
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0	1	107	1	107
2.	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
5.	Gujarat	1	134	3	2456	1	25	5	2615
6.	Haryana	2	115	8	526	1	42	11	683
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Karnataka	5	980	0	0		0	5	980
9.	Kerala	0	0	2	771	0	0	2	771
10.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Orissa	0	0	1	483	0	0	1	483
14.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Rajasthan	1	1627	0	0	1	1149	2	2776
17.	Tamil Nadu	11	1330	11	1721	1	400	23	3451
18.	Uttar Pradesh	2	361	0	0	0	0	2	361
19.	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	1	692	1	692
Total		22	4547	25	5957	6	2415	53	12919

**Statement-II**

*State wise list of Workers of National Textile Mills Opted for Voluntary Retirement during the last three years as on December-2009*

Sl. No.	State	2007	2008	2009	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	6	0	17
2.	Rajasthan	5	1	85	91
3.	Gujarat	6	56	18	80
4.	Maharashtra	26	0	0	26
5.	Madhya Pradesh	4	11	2	17
6.	Chhattisgarh	14	0	1	15
7.	West Bengal	0	4	1	5
8.	Bihar	34	64	0	98
9.	Assam	61	3	0	64
10.	Uttar Pradesh	6	1	0	7
Total		167	146	107	420

**Nedumbassery Railway Station in Kerala**

499. SHRI K.P. DHANAPALAN:  
SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to construct Nedumbassery railway station near Cochin International Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the same;

(c) whether there is any proposal to construct a guest and a commercial complex at the station; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Proposal for opening a halt at Nedumbassery has been received and is under the active consideration of Railways. No fund has been allocated for the same yet.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

**Voting Right to NRIs**

500. SHRI SHARAD YADAV:  
PROF. RANJAN PRASAD YADAV:  
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:  
SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to amend the Representation of Peoples Act, to allow voting power to Non- Resident Indians (NRIs);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said Act is likely to be amended for the above said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) A Bill, namely, the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2006, which seeks to amend section 20 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (43 of 1950) so as to make provision for enabling the Indian citizens, absenting from their place of ordinary residence in India owing to their employment, education or otherwise outside India, to get their names registered in the electoral rolls of the concerned Assembly constituency of their place of ordinary residence in India, was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 17th February, 2006.

The said Bill was referred to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances and Law and Justice on the 27 March, 2006 for examination and report. The Committee presented its 16th report on the subject to the Rajya Sabha and the same was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on the 4th August, 2006. The report is under active consideration of the Government.

[*Translation*]

#### **Compulsory Voting**

501. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:  
SHRI GANESH SINGH:  
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government is considering to enact any law to make voting compulsory;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has received suggestions from some States in regard to make voting compulsory; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The issue was considered by the Committee on Electoral Reforms, 1990 (Dinesh Goswami Committee) but the measure was, however, not favoured because of the practical difficulties involved in its implementation.

(d) No proposal for making voting compulsory has been received from any State Government.

(e) Does not arise.

[*English*]

#### **Increase in Prices of Drugs**

502. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the global financial crisis has led to increase in the prices of drugs/medicines in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to revise the 'drugs price control order' and 'essential drugs list';

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):

(a) and (b) As per information available in the Secondary Stock Audit Report of ORG-IMS for the month of September, 2009 a comparative position of change in price in relation to percentage share of packs is as under:—

Price changes	Average percentage of total number of packs 2007-08 (October – September)	Average percentage of total number of packs 2008-09 (October – September)
Price Increase	1.437%	1.979%
Price Decline	0.953%	1.724%
No change in price	97.610%	96.297%

During the period 2008-09 (October – September), the price on an average each month has remained



unchanged or decreased in case of 98% of the total packs; as against 98.56 of the total packs during the corresponding period of 2007-08.

(c) to (e) The Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006 is under examination of the Government. Decision to revise the 'Drugs Prices Control Order' will depend upon the finalization of the said policy. As regards revision of National List of Essential Medicines which was last revised in 2003, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has intimated that at present there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

### **Fly-overs on Railway Lines**

503. SHRI DEVENDRA NAGPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have a proposal for construction of fly-overs at Gajraula-Bijnor-Garh-Meerut section;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these fly-overs are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) A proposal for construction of Road Over Bridge (ROB) in lieu of level crossing No.45 Spl. at Railway km 55/19-20 on Ghaziabad-Moradabad section has been received. The proposal is on cost sharing basis. State Govt. has been requested to send an undertaking for closure of Level Crossing gate, after commissioning of the ROB, and for approval of profile sketch, reply of which is still awaited. Further necessary action will be taken thereafter.

### **Introduction of Budget Air Service**

504. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether aviation companies lose fuel worth crores of rupees when their aircraft have to hover over international airports due to congestion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce budget air service during lean hours; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The information is being collected.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

### **Corporate Railway Safety Plan**

505. SHRI ARJUN MUNDA:  
SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:  
DR. G. VIVEKANAND:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent so far on ten year period of 2003-2013 comprehensive corporate railway safety plan;

(b) the extent by which the plan has improved the railways security arrangement;

(c) the amount spent in different railway zones of the country particularly in Jharkhand under this safety plan during each of the last three years and the current year;

(d) whether the Railways are mulling to levy safety surcharge; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The expenditure being incurred on Corporate Safety Plan works is maintained financial year wise. Upto March, 2009 Rs. 24677.61 Crores have been spent on works mentioned in Corporate Safety Plan.

(b) The Corporate Safety Plan envisages only operational safety related works, not the security on the Railways. As a result of spending on safety related works mentioned in the Corporate Safety Plan, Railway assets have improved qualitatively which is reflected in the gradual reduction in number of train accidents.

(c) The expenditure on Corporate Safety Plan works is not maintained state-wise.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) Does not arise.

[*English*]

#### **Railway Safety Fund**

506. SHRI R. THAMARAISELVAN:  
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway are considering to create the second safety fund; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Unused Airports in North-Eastern Region**

507. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many airports in the North Eastern Region remain idle or under-used;

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

(c) the steps taken to make such airports operational;

(d) whether there is any proposal to introduce small carrier aircraft from such airports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. There are 12 airports which are non operational/unfit for operation by scheduled airlines. Out of these airports Rupsi (Assam), Shella (Meghalaya), Turial (Mizoram), Kamalpur, Kailashahar and Khowai (Tripura), Passighat (Arunachal Pradesh) belong to Airports Authority of India. Tura (Meghalaya), Along, Zero, Daparizo and Tezu (Arunachal Pradesh) belong to respective State Governments.

(c) to (e) AAI has proposed to upgrade some of the airports subject to availability of land from State Governments, free of cost and free from all encumbrances and subject to provision of funds from the Government of India. Operation of small aircrafts from these airports can only begin after upgradation of these airports.

#### **Foreign Direct Investment in Steel Sector**

508. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Foreign Direct Investment in the steel sector remains sluggish;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) The Foreign Direct Investment in steel (ferrous) for the past three financial years and the current year (April–December) is given in the table below:—

(Amount in Million)

Sl. No.	Year (April–March)	FDI (in Rs.)	FDI (in US\$)
1.	2006-07	1281.51	27.84
2.	2007-08	53.48	1.32
3.	2008-09	3352.94	69.21
4.	2009-10 (April – December, 2009)	3945.17	81.57

(Source: Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion)

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

[*Translation*]

#### **Launching of New Premium Service**

509. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently proposed to start a premium cooking gas delivery service for working couples in the metre cities;

(b) if so, the salient features of the said service; and

(c) the time by which this premium service is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) Government has given in-principle approval for providing a premium facility of providing LPG refill delivery as per customer's desired time in metros and major cities to be gradually extended to entire country. Modalities of the scheme are under finalisation.

[English]

#### **Air Connectivity to Remote Areas**

510. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether efforts are being made by the Government to connect the remote and inaccessible areas of Karnataka with helicopter services to the capital of the State and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Madam. However, Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd. (PHHL) is providing helicopter services to State Governments, on long term lease basis for remote and inaccessible areas. If, any State Government, desires to take the helicopter services from PHHL on long term lease, PHHL would endeavor to meet State Government's requirement of transportation of VIPs/Officials, heli-tourism etc. at mutually agreed rates, terms and conditions.

(c) and (d) In view of the above, do not arise.

#### **Monitoring of Free Legal Aid**

511. SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is monitoring and evaluating the functions and activities of the free legal aid authorities and the free legal aid centres functioning under them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received proposal to expand its activities to reach out to the all needy poor under trial prisoners;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (e) The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has set up a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the functions and activities of the various legal services institutions established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 which was approved by its Central Authority consisting of Members including representatives from the Ministries of Law and Justice and Finance. A National Plan of Action for the year 2009-10 was drawn up by National Legal Services Authority to be implemented by the 35 States Legal Services Authority and 596 District Legal Services Authorities and 2037 Taluk Legal Services Committees in the country. NALSA is taking measures for development of a web based monitoring system for monitoring of the activities of all legal services institutions upto the Taluk Legal Services Committee throughout India.

#### **15 Point Programme**

512. SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER:  
SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make Prime Minister's 15 Points Programme judicially enforceable;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of alternate means of enforcement being contemplated; and

(e) the demands still pending from each State especially Andhra Pradesh regarding the implementation of 15 point programme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No Madam.

(b) Does not arise

(c) to (e) The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities aims at enhancing opportunities for education, equitable share in economic activities and employment, improving the conditions of living of minorities and prevention and control of communal riots. The new programme envisages location of a certain proportion of development projects in minority concentration areas. It also provides that, wherever possible, 15% of targets and outlays under various schemes should be earmarked for minorities. Accordingly, State-wise and scheme-wise targets are fixed for benefits to minorities under various schemes included in the programme considered amenable to earmarking. Implementation of the 15 Point Programme is monitored at the State/UT and district levels by the State/District level committees for implementation of the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities. At the Centre, the progress of implementation of programme, monitored and reported by the various Ministries/Departments concerned, is reviewed every quarter by the Ministry of Minority Affairs and on half yearly basis by a Committee of Secretaries and by the Cabinet.

#### **Measures against Hijacking of Aircraft**

513. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any mechanism in place to avert hijacking of planes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the security measures have been intensified considering the hijacking threat in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) It may not be prudent to place the reply to this part on the floor of the House.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam.

[Translation]

#### **Electrification of Rail Routes**

514. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of rail network in Bihar which have not been electrified so far;

(b) the details of the requests received by various State Governments including Bihar Government for electrification of rail routes in their respective States during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) As on 1.4.2009, in the state of Bihar, out of 3407 Route Kilometres (RKMs), 830 Route Kilometres are electrified.

(b) and (c) No proposal has been received from the State Government of Bihar. However, during the last three years, the following proposals for electrification of Rail Routes have been received from various State Governments and their present status is as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the proposed section(s)	State Government	Status
1	2	3	4
1.	Vijayawada-Gudiwada-Machilipatnam-Bhimavaram/Narsapur-Nidadavolu	Andhra Pradesh	Feasibility studies for electrification shall be carried out.

1	2	3	4
2.	Bibinagar-Nadikudi/Macherial-Nallapadu (Guntur)	Andhra Pradesh	For electrification, these sections are not under active consideration.
3.	Guntur-Tenali-Repalle	Andhra Pradesh	Guntur-Tenali is already electrified. Electrification of Tenali-Repalle is not under active consideration.
4.	Itarsi-Allahabad	Madhya Pradesh	Feasibility studies for electrification shall be carried out.
5.	Talcher-Cuttack-Paradeep	Orissa	Completed.
6.	Koraput-Rayagada Vizianagaram	Orissa	Koraput-Damanjodi is already electrified. Electrification of Damanjodi-Singapur Road-Rayagada is not under active consideration. Feasibility studies for electrification of Vizianagaram-Raigada shall be carried out.
7.	Talcher-Jharsaguda	Orissa	For electrification, these sections are not under active consideration.
8.	Daitari-Banspani	Orissa	Work in progress and being done by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. Target-June' 2011.
9.	Haridaspur-Paradeep	Orissa	Electrification is being taken up by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited with new line.
10.	Bina-Kota	Rajasthan	Work in progress. Target March'2010.
11.	Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur	Rajasthan	Not feasible on operational ground.
12.	Ratlam-Neemuch-Chittorgarh	Rajasthan	For electrification, these sections are not under active consideration.
13.	DC/AC Conversion work at Kasara-Titawala section	Maharashtra	Completed.
14.	Delhi-Rohtak	Haryana	Work in progress. Target March'2010.
15.	Laksar-Rishikesh/ Dehradun	Uttarakhand	For electrification, these sections are not under active consideration.
16.	Najibabad-Kotdwar/ Moradabad-Kashipur-Ram Nagar/Kashipur-Lalkuan & Rampur-Lalkuan-Kathgodam	Uttarakhand	For electrification, these sections are not under active consideration.
17.	Villupuram-Tiruchchirappalli-Madurai	Tamil Nadu	Work in progress. Target March' 2010.
18.	Madurai-Tuticorin /Nagercoil	Tamil Nadu	Sanctioned. Preliminary works are being taken up.

1	2	3	4
19.	Coimbatore-Tiruchchirappalli	Tamil Nadu	For electrification, these sections are not under active consideration.
20.	Shoranur-Mangalore	Kerala	Cleared by Government for electrification.
21.	Bangarpet-Marikuppam	Karnataka	Material modification proposal for Bangarpet-Marikuppam under process.

[English]

### **Greenfield Projects**

515. SHRI S. SEMMALAI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state the details of Greenfield projects which are on track and the projects under consideration to achieve the target of domestic steel production of 124 million tonnes per annum by 2012-13?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): During the year 2008, based on the progress achieved by the steel investment projects and based on the projections furnished by the companies, the steel production capacity of India was projected as 124 million tonnes. However, on account of factor such as, global economic slowdown in later part of 2008, delay in land acquisition, allocation of raw material resources, law and order problems etc.; there has been some delay in the progress of certain projects. A meeting with major private sector steel producers will be held shortly in the Ministry of Steel, to review the current status of each major private sector projects. Therefore, the revised projection, on year-wise basis, will be furnished by the Ministry of Steel after a fresh review and further assessment.

### **Special Court for SC/ST**

516. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to establish special courts to dispose of the cases of SC/ST across the country particularly in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the Ministry concerned and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### **Failure of Computer System at IGI Airport**

517. SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently due to crashing of computer system giving flight data to Air Traffic Controller in Delhi, the air traffic was brought to standstill;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any step has been taken to avoid any such recurrences in future and also to replace the Auto Track-II (computer software) system with a better advanced version to rectify the snags of the existing software;

(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) ATC Automation System displays failed on 14.01.2010 from 1744 IST to 1930 IST. On 26.01.2010 from 0030-0200 hrs., two monitoring position in tower and standby position in ACC display units failed. Safety of flights, however, were ensured. During failure of ATC Automation System, another system which was available in shadow mode, was put into service immediately. Failed System was also restored subsequently.

(c) and (d) Autotrak III system has been installed and testing is in progress for operationalization.

(e) Doesn't arise.

### **Private Catering in Railways**

518. SHRI A. SAMPATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private catering units presently operating in the Indian Railways;

(b) the names of such companies/firms etc. doing the catering operations, zone-wise;

(c) whether any maximum limit for the allocation of such catering units has been fixed;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of complaints received against these catering units during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(f) the action taken/proposed to be taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### **Railway Projects**

519. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that various organizations/associations/unions have been representing since long to increase number of coaches in the trains/frequency of trains/introduction of new trains and Gujarat Government has also been forwarding the same from time to time to Railways for needful; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Representations from various Organizations/Associations/Unions etc. are received at various levels of Railway Administration. These are examined and action as found feasible and justified, is taken.

### **Opening of Sale Depots in Rural Areas**

520. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has instructed the State Governments companies to open sale depots in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of sale depots likely to be opened in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the National Steel Policy 2005, a target has been kept for increasing the per capita steel consumption in rural areas from 2 Kg per capita per annum to 4 Kg per capita per annum by 2019-20 through active focus on opening of new rural sales outlets along with promotional efforts to increase demand. As on 31.1.2010, the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the public sectors undertakings of the Ministry of Steel have appointed 1963 dealers and 80 dealers respectively.

### **Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Cars**

521. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce new policies and provide incentives to promote manufacturing of hybrid and electric cars in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. In view of the fast depletion of fossil fuels, need to reduce pollution and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from vehicles for reducing the adverse impact on the environment, there is a need to promote manufacturing of hybrid and electric cars in the country. The excise duty on hybrid vehicles and on electric vehicles has already been reduced by the Government. Currently, the excise duty of electric vehicle is 'Nil'. In addition, the National manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC) has taken initiative for promotion of manufacturing of

electric vehicles in the country, by holding discussion with all stakeholders.

### **New Catering Policy**

522. PROF. RANJAN PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating to bring a new catering policy to improve the quality of food served in trains; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The catering policy of Railways is under review.

### **Shortage of Vitamin 'C' Tablets**

523. SHRI PURNMASI RAM:

SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of Vitamin 'C' tablets in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make available adequate quantity of Vitamin 'C' tablets in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) There is no acute shortage of Vitamin 'C' tablets. However, there were some reports in the media that because of the high prices of the bulk drugs, there was shortage of Vitamin 'C' based formulation. M/s Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (A Government of India Undertaking) also brought to the notice of NPPA that the bulk drug Vitamin 'C' was available at higher price than the notified price. NPPA vide S.O. No. 127(E) dated 20.01.2010, has revised/increased the prices of Vitamin 'C' bulk drugs to make it viable to produce the related formulations as per provision of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995). NPPA monitors the availability of the drugs in the country through State Drugs Control Administrations. Wherever required, NPPA takes remedial steps for ensuring availability of drugs by

impressing upon manufacturers to rush the stocks to the places of shortage.

### **Reduction in Prices of Fertilizers**

524. SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to reduce the prices of fertilizers in order to help the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any representation from any State Government or Public representatives in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):

(a) No, Madam.

(b) In view of (a) above question does not arise.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) and (e) In view of (c) above, question do not arise.

[Translation]

### **Upgradation of Airports in Madhya Pradesh**

525. SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh to upgrade the airports in Khajuraho, Bhopal and Indore upto the international level; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) is developing and upgrading the facilities at Indore, Bhopal and Khajuraho



to be comparable with International standards. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has provided land to AAI for development of these airports. Details of the development works completed/ undertaken at these airports are as under:

Khajuraho airport-Strengthening and extension of runway from 1829 m to 2286 m and expansion of apron to accommodate additional five aircrafts including wide-bodied aircraft have been completed. In addition, construction of new terminal building has been taken up which is expected to be completed by December 2010.

Bhopal Airport-Strengthening and extension of runway from 2045 m to 2744 m has been completed. In addition, expansion of apron to accommodate more aircrafts including wide-bodied aircraft has been taken up which is expected to be completed by March 2010 and construction of new terminal building has been taken up and is expected to be completed by June 2010.

Indore Airport- Strengthening and extension of runway from 2287 m to 2750 m and expansion of apron to accommodate more aircraft including wide-bodied aircraft have been completed. In addition, construction of new terminal building has been taken up which is expected to be completed by June 2010.

[English]

#### **Paperless Courts**

526. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has launched its first paperless court recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to launch the above system in all the courts in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) As a pilot project, two courts in the High Court of Delhi have been converted into e-Court and have begun functioning as "paperless" courts. One court began functioning w.e.f. 15th December, 2009

and another court on 19th January, 2010.

(b) Entire records of the cases listed before the pilot e-Courts are digitized and transferred in different portfolios in PDF format. The Judge has, on the dais, a large sized monitor with an interactive touch screen which displays the list of cases to be heard on a particular day. By 'touching' the case number or name as appearing on the screen, the Judge can have the entire file on the computer screen. There is a large 46" monitor on the side wall of the Court room which can be viewed by the visitors/litigants. The lawyers can bring their laptops and 'plug' into the system for viewing of the Judge and other parties on the LCD monitor on side wall of the court. However, for the present, it is 'optional' for the advocate to use either paper files or digital files and the High Court will not straightway replace paper as far as lawyers are concerned. Concerned advocates will be provided digitized data of the case to enable them to argue their case though laptop without bringing the paper files. This will help them to get used to the e-Court System.

(c) and (d) The establishment of "paperless" court is not among the designated services under the current phase of the Central scheme for Computerisation of District and Subordinate Courts in the country.

#### **Subsidy Scheme on Kerosene and LPG**

527. SHRI JAYWANT GANGARAM AWALE:  
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government is planning to extend its subsidy scheme on the two fuels i.e. Kerosene and LPG for another five years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, in its Budget proposals for 2010-11 submitted to the Ministry of Finance, has inter-alia proposed for the extension of the 'PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG Subsidy Scheme, 2002' and the 'Freight Subsidy (For Far Flung Areas) Scheme, 2002' for another five years i.e. upto March 2015.

[Translation]

### Increase in Net Profit of SAIL

528. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PATIL GAWALI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether net profit of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has increased to Rs. 1675.55 crore in the third quarter of 2009-10; and

(b) if so, the amount of net profit during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The profit after tax during each of the last three years and for the period April - December 2009 for the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) was as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	April-December 2009
Profit After Tax (PAT)	6202	7537	6175	4669

[English]

### Railway Line in Kerala

529. SHRI P.K. BIJU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have conducted any survey for Edapally-Guruvayoor and Kallengode-Thrissur railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to set up a coach factory at Palakkad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Details of surveys for Idappalli-Guruvayur and Kollengode-Thrissur new lines is given as under:—

1. Updating survey for Idappalli-Guruvayur new line has been taken up.
2. Survey for Kollengode-Thrissur new line has been completed during 2006-07. As per survey report, cost of construction of 59 km long new line had been assessed as Rs. 301.21 crore.

(c) Necessary action has already been initiated to obtain requisite clearances of the Government to set up a coach factory at Palakkad expeditiously.

### Information System of Airlines

530. SHRI RAMEN DEKA:  
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that information system of airlines in the country is not satisfactory;

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

(c) whether any fool-proof and reliable mechanism has been evolved to accurately inform passengers of their flight cancellations/postponements by telephone/ mobile during conditions of extreme fog thereby saving them from grave inconvenience;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the airlines have been instructed to make satisfactory administrative arrangements for passengers in the event of inescapable cancellations/ postponements of their flights; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Scheduled domestic airlines have dedicated call centres who provide updated information to passengers on delays/cancellation of flights. Further, airlines also provide information on delays/cancellation/rescheduling of flights through SMS. Some of the airlines are using auto dialer system wherein passengers contact numbers are fed in the system and pre-recorded messages are received in case of delays/cancellations.

(e) and (f) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued guidelines for aircraft operations during

low visibility conditions, whereby airlines have been instructed to observe the following:—

- Augment their ground staff and position them at the airport with proper briefing for handling various passenger facilitation processes in coordination with the other airport agencies.
- Inform the passengers of the delay/rescheduling/cancellation of their flights in advance through mobile/SMS/other communication mean to avoid congestion at the airport.
- Provide facilitation in terms of tea/water/snacks to the passenger of their delayed flights.

#### **Setting up of Smaller Airports**

531. SHRI P. VISWANATHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up smaller airports in various parts of the country;

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

(c) whether there is a proposal to set up such a smaller airport at Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said Airport is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Government of India has notified the Policy on Greenfield Airports in the country for setting up and development of small airports in the country.

(c) to (e) No, Madam.

[Translation]

#### **Electrification of Railway Line in Uttar Pradesh**

532. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to electrify Mau-Varanasi-Allahabad section, Mau-Azamgarh-Sahganj-Faizabad-Lucknow section and Mughalsarai-Varanasi-Jaunpur-Sultanpur-Lucknow section in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Railways grant any special fund for electrification of said sections; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) At present, there is no proposal to electrify Mau-Varanasi-Allahabad and Mau-Azamgarh-Shahganj-Faizabad-Lucknow section in Uttar Pradesh. However, electrification work is in progress on Mughalsarai-Varanasi-Jaunpur-Sultanpur-Lucknow section in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Electrification of Mughalsarai-Varanasi-Sultanpur-Lucknow(Utratia) rail line (288 Route Kilometres) is in progress and is targeted for completion by March 2012.

(c) Electrification of track is considered primarily on traffic volumes, economic viability and operational necessity.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Mushkil-Aasaan Pilot Project**

533. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:  
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have launched a pilot project named 'Mushkil-Aasaan' in which mobile vans will be stationed at several important inter-sections and shopping malls in and around Kolkata and Delhi;

(b) if so, the broad objectives of such project and whether the project has proved successful;

(c) if so, whether the Railways propose to introduce the project in more cities in near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam. The project envisages the concept of mobile ticketing vans at various cities/locations. One each has been introduced in Delhi and Kolkata.

(b) The purpose of the scheme is to bring the ticketing service near the door step of the public in areas where such service does not exist in the vicinity. Further expansion is planned.

(c) and (d) It has already been announced in the Railway Budget presented in July, 2009 that the facility would be provided at 50 locations. The facility is planned to be expanded by inducting e-ticket based mobile vans for issuing reservation tickets in government medical college hospitals, High courts, Districts Courts, university campuses, IT hubs, IITs and IIMs.

#### **Lok Adalats**

534. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering to introduce more Lok Adalats in various courts to meet the challenge of pending cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases which have been disposed off during the last year by these Adalats; and

(d) the other strategy to be adopted by the Government to clear the pending cases within time period?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) The Lok Adalats are organized by the various legal services institutions like National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), Supreme Court Legal Services Committee, 35 State Legal Services Authorities (for UT Territories also there are State Legal Services Authorities), 21 High Courts Legal Services Committees, 596 District Legal Services Authorities and 2037 Taluk Legal Services Committees. NALSA is encouraging people to settle their disputes through Lok Adalats even before the disputes reach the Court. Such Lok Adalats are known as pre-litigation Lok Adalats.

(c) Number of cases disposed off during the last financial year 2008-09 by the Lok Adalats is 29,59,555.

(d) The following steps have been taken to facilitate speedy disposal of cases in courts:—

1. Increasing the strength of Judges in Supreme Court and the High Courts.
2. Introduction of some legislative measures for improvement in judicial procedure and for expediting disposal of civil and Criminal cases in courts. The Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code have been amended and the concept of "Plea-Bargaining" has been introduced.
3. Alternative modes of disposal including mediation, conciliation and arbitration have been encouraged.
4. Other measures like grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches, setting up of special courts and organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals have also been taken.
5. Steps have also been taken for modernization of the judicial infrastructure through computerization of courts.

Separately, the Government has decided, in principle, to set up a National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms which proposes to undertake several strategic initiatives to (i) outline policy changes (ii) re-engineer procedures (iii) focus of Human Resource Development and (iv) leverage Information and Communication Technology and tools for better justice delivery.

#### **Budget Hotel**

535. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to give license to private players to establish Yatri Niwas and Budget Hotels on its land;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the tendering process for the grant of license;

(c) whether the Railways have framed model contract regarding revenue sharing, room tariff, responsibilities of the license, conditions of abrogating license etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railways are planning to set up such facilities at Siddharth Nagar, Gorakhpur, Shravasti and Varanasi which are prominent Buddhist sites; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) No, Madam.

(e) and (f) However, railways plan to provide budget hotels facilities as part of the schemes for development of world class stations/multi-functional complexes at identified stations. In this regard, Varanasi and Gorakhpur have been identified for development of world class station and multi-functional complex respectively.

#### **Health Care Infrastructure in Railways**

536. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:  
SHRI UMASHANKAR SINGH:  
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for developing health care infrastructure along the railway network across the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have identified the sites for health care infrastructure facilities across the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Union Government to expedite the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Health care infrastructure facilities both for allopathic and Indian System of Medicine will be developed by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at locations provided by Railways.

(c) to (e) Yes, Madam. Preliminary identification of locations has been done and these are listed in Rail Budget 2010-11. A High Power Working Group consisting of senior officials and experts from both the Ministries to work out roadmap for analysis of viability, feasibility of sites selected and the modalities for the execution, is also being set up.

#### **Instrument Landing System at Lengpui Airport**

537. SHRI C.L. RUALA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the instrument landing system which was installed at Lengpui Airport in Mizoram by the Airports Authority of India has become operational; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Madam. Installation and flight checks have been completed. Test flights have also been conducted by Airlines. Instrument Landing procedure has been sent to the DGCA for approval.

[Translation]

#### **Samastipur Railway Station in Bihar**

538. SHRI MAHESHWAR HAZARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to develop Samastipur railway station in Bihar as a satellite station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Presently, Samastipur is a major junction station of East Central Railway having adequate facilities to cater the present as well as anticipated traffic.

*[English]***Kalupur Railway Station**

539. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kalupur, railway station, Ahmedabad has become the busiest junction in terms of passengers and vehicular traffic;

(b) the remedial steps being taken by the Railways to ease the vehicular and passenger influx at this station;

(c) whether the Railways are considering to develop the Sabarmati railway station as terminal station for passengers and goods trains to avert heavy vehicular and passenger rush at aforesaid station; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Ahmedabad (Kalupur) is a busy station and it has registered a growth of almost 3.26% in passenger traffic during the year 2008-09.

(b) With a view to ease the passengers/vehicular traffic, the following steps have been taken:—

(i) The MG side of the station has been developed by improving the circulating area with adequate lighting.

(ii) Adequate number of exits and entrances places have been provided at both sides of Railway station e.g. four gates on BG side and one gate at MG side have been provided for easy approach to Railway Station.

(iii) Road connectivity with the station has been improved.

(iv) Stoppage of additional trains have been provided at Mani Nagar and Sabarmati Stations to ease the traffic at Ahmedabad.

(c) and (d) Sabarmati has already been developed to handle passenger trains appropriately with the facility of VIP Waiting room, Waiting hall, big side circulating area with sufficient parking facility.

*[Translation]***Agreement with Hungary for Exploration of Oil/Gas**

540. SHRI UMASHANKAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed any agreement with Hungary for exploration of oil and gas basins in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any other agreement has also been signed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), a Government of India Undertaking has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MOL, Hungarian Oil and Gas Pic. on 18th January, 2008 for cooperate on and joint participation in Exploration & Production (E&P) sector in India and abroad, exchange of basic and applied Research & Development (R&D) information, transfer of technology in upstream and downstream sectors, and cooperation in respect of training and human resource development activities. ONGC has also signed a Farm-out Agreement for assignment of 35% Participating Interest (PI) in exploration block HF-ONN-2001/1 located in Himalayan Foothills with BMN Investment Limited, a fully owned subsidiary of MOL Hungarian Oil and Gas Pic. on 8th May, 2008.

*[English]***Standard Operating Procedure for VVIP Flight Movement**

541. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:  
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:  
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has come up with a proposal of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for VVIP flight movement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the minor/major accidents reported of VVIPs flights during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. With a view to collate all the instructions and lay down Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for conduct/operation of VVIP/VIP flights, a Joint Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) between Airports Authority of India and Indian Air Force has been finalised and approved by Directorate General of Civil Aviation. As per the SOP VVIP term means and include the President, the Vice-President, the Prime Minister of India and foreign Heads of States/Government.

(c) During the last two years four incidents involving VVIP flights were reported. During the said period no accident was reported to VVIP flights.

[Translation]

#### **Goods Train between Katni-Bina Section**

542. SHRI BHOOPENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of goods trains running daily on Katni-Bina section of West-Central Railway alongwith the revenue earned by the Railways therefrom; and

(b) the details of the schemes to increase passenger amenities at the said stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) On an average 47.7 trains per day run on the Katni-Bina section of West Central Railway. An average of 4 rakes per day are loaded from this section with a total earning of approximately Rs.75.90 lakhs per day.

(b) There are 26 stations including 3 stations in 'A', 3 in 'D', 18 in 'E' and 2 in 'F' category having all minimum essential amenities as per norms. Saugor station in the Katni-Bina section has been notified as 'Adarsh Station' for improvement of passenger amenities.

#### **Fire Incidents in Courts**

543. SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several important documents in many High Courts were destroyed due to incidents of fire during the last three years in the country;

(b) if so, whether an inquiry has been conducted to ascertain the reasons of fire;

(c) whether some documents were burnt in the Allahabad High Court, Uttar Pradesh due to fire last year;

(d) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### **Meat Processing**

544. SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to bring meat processing industry to reach global quality standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the initiatives taken by the National Meat and Poultry Processing Board (NMPPB) to enhance the value added meat food products and commercially viable utilization of slaughter house by-products; and

(d) the details of various financial schemes intended to support meat processing units?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Government of India has set up National Meat and Poultry Processing Board (NMPPB) on 19.02.2009 to give boost to the Indian meat and poultry industry and to bring it up at par with the global quality standards.

(c) The NMPPB has organized two conferences/seminars/workshop/meat workers training i.e. one at New

Delhi and another at Nammakal and Tiruchengode during the months of November, 2009 and December, 2009 respectively to create the awareness among the stakeholders on the need of developing the industry in a scientific manner so as to ensure the supply of good quality and hygienic meat to the consumers. Moreover, The NMPPB has also participated in national as well as international exhibitions to promote the activities of the Board. The setting up of a Food Testing Laboratory at New Delhi is also in process so as to ensure that they meet the food safety standards. This laboratory would be commenced by 31st March, 2010. The Board has also drawn short term as well as long term action plans to achieve the objectives of the Board for which it has been established. The main action plans, inter-alia, includes Capacity Building-training of Supervisors/officers of Municipal Commissioners/State Governments and workers engaged in Meat and Poultry sector, 360° Awareness Campaign, Research and Development. Standardization of meat shops, Meat workers (Butchers) welfare programme, etc. A panel of consultants for the sector is also being prepared by the Board. The Board is also taking steps to standardize the technology, equipments and cost of various sizes of slaughter houses keeping in mind to make the slaughter houses more environment friendly and non-polluting as well as full commercial utilization of the by-products.

(d) Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas under the Scheme of Setting up/ Modernization/Expansion of food processing industries including meat processing units.

[Translation]

#### **Violation of Norms in Construction of Terminal at IGI Airport**

545. SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that norms in the construction of Domestic Terminal ID of the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi are being ignored;

(b) if so, whether the construction company 'DIAL' has not taken seriously the report regarding the ignoring

of norms in regard to the construction of Terminal ID submitted by the DGCA;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken against the DIAL; and

(d) the amount of fund spent so far in the construction of the said terminal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Delhi International Airport Private Limited (DIAL) is operating Indira Gandhi International Airport under the Operation, Maintenance and Development Agreement signed by the Government. The said agreement also lays down the norms and requirements to be followed by the DIAL.

(d) Excluding the cost of the equipments, Delhi International Airport Private Limited had incurred Rs.254 crores towards the terminal construction and system.

[English]

#### **Package for Minority Areas**

546. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced any package for the minority areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the XI Five Year Plan;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which such package is likely to be announced after consulting the experts and States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) A special area development programme, called Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP), was launched in 2008-09 as a Central Sponsored Scheme (CSS) in 90 identified Minority Concentration Districts (MCD) for implementation during the XI Five Year Plan. These MCDs are relatively backward and lagging behind the national average in terms of specific socio-economic and basic amenities parameters. MsDP has



been designed to address the development deficits in these districts. The current financial year is the second year of implementation of this programme. So far Rs. 1019.55 crore have been released to States/Union Territories concerned for its implementation.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

### **Introduction of Bullet Train**

547. SHRI P. BALRAM:

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have conducted any feasibility study on 533 km. long Pune-Mumbai-Ahmedabad section for introduction of bullet train;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of such studies to be conducted for other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) A Consultant has been engaged for pre-feasibility study for High Speed Rail Corridor between Pune-Mumbai-Ahmedabad. The study is going on and the Consultant has not yet submitted the final report.

(c) The other corridors selected for prefeasibility studies are:

- (i) Delhi-Chandigarh-Amritsar
- (ii) Hyderabad-Dornakal-Vijaywada-Chennai
- (iii) Chennai-Bangalore-Coimbatore-Ernakulam
- (iv) Howrah-Haldia
- (v) Delhi-Agra-Lucknow-Varanasi-Patna

[Translation]

### **Allocation of Kerosene/LPG**

548. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Kerosene/LPG supplied to each State/Union Territory during each of the last three years their current year;

(b) whether the Government has received any requests from various States, including Gujarat for increasing their kerosene/LPG quotas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas makes quarterly allocation of Public Distribution System (PDS) kerosene to States/Union Territories for further distribution under the PDS network. The quantity of PDS kerosene for distribution per card holder is decided by concerned State Govt./UT.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) supplies to distributors are being made by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in accordance with the requirement of customers registered with the LPG distributors. There is no State-wise quota fixed by the Government for the allocation of LPG.

The quantity of PDS kerosene allocated to the States/UTs during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement-I. State-wise sales of LPG for the last three years and current year is given in the enclosed statement-II.

Requests have been received from various State Governments including Gujarat for increasing the SKO allocation. The requests of the State Government were examined in this Ministry and was not approved in view of the fact that no reduction in allocation of PDS kerosene have been made after 2004-05 even though there has been substantial increase in the LPG coverage in the States/UTs including Gujarat. Further, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas makes additional allocations in exceptional circumstances like flood, drought, earthquake etc. On 20 Aug. 2009, 250 KL of PDS kerosene was allocated to the State of Gujarat to meet the flood situation in the State.

**Statement I***Allocation of PDS Kerosene Quantity in Metric Tonnes*

Name of States/UTs	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
1	2	3	4
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5659	5816	5816
Andhra Pradesh	517102	517158	517158
Arunachal Pradesh	9170	9257	9257
Assam	257893	258007	258007
Bihar	643786	647430	647430
Chandigarh	7181	9999	13067
Chhattisgarh	145822	146938	146938
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2785	2782	2782
Daman and Diu	2073	2118	2118
Delhi	135235	160935	168484
Goa	19209	19212	19212
Gujarat	742668	743759	743759
Haryana	144830	145619	145619
Himachal Pradesh	45466	49409	50537
Jammu and Kashmir	75326	76044	76044
Jharkhand	210964	211175	211175
Karnataka	461340	461478	461478
Kerala	216310	216308	216308
Lakshadweep	795	795	795
Madhya Pradesh	487845	488609	488609
Maharashtra	1276588	1276876	1276876
Manipur	19743	19907	19907
Meghalaya	20359	20401	20401
Mizoram	6181	6217	6217
Nagaland	13318	13312	13312

1	2	3	4
Orissa	314334	314977	314977
Puducherry	12249	12257	12257
Punjab	234700	237192	237192
Rajasthan	398431	398913	398913
Sikkim	5566	5582	5582
Tamil Nadu	558428	558929	558929
Tripura	30740	30832	30832
Uttar Pradesh	1240789	1241772	1241772
Uttarakhand	89845	89849	89849
West Bengal	751536	752103	752103
Total Allocation	9104266	9151967	9163712

**Statement II***State-wise LPG Sales (Quantity in metric Tonnes)\**

State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (April-Dec., 2009)
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	847169	916958	972038	788656
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5238	4916	5744	4632
Arunachal Pradesh	10138	10933	11109	8951
Assam	167347	177005	178869	136813
Bihar	251712	266437	282811	235523
Chandigarh	32550	35085	35816	28378
Chhattisgarh	105635	116068	119353	91192
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	9743	13378	13219	10380
Daman and Diu	6068	6952	6955	5365
Delhi	585041	619636	642144	493268
Goa	47905	52333	54001	41384

1	2	3	4	5
Gujarat	602629	661478	676066	511046
Haryana	391033	439092	456622	351683
Himachal Pradesh	82074	89962	92502	74557
Jammu and Kashmir	110814	123423	122274	100341
Jharkhand	95391	106400	113862	91941
Karnataka	707970	780005	812966	657707
Kerala	478784	516804	524268	424557
Lakshadweep	243	209	252	130
Madhya Pradesh	411292	452919	472614	368964
Maharashtra	1612385	1778282	1814300	1402964
Manipur	15211	17467	16703	14987
Meghalaya	12868	13289	13968	10398
Mizoram	17801	17440	17573	13413
Nagaland	13634	14302	14129	10963
Orissa	134334	145372	158784	126913
Pondicherry	24358	30184	30525	24413
Punjab	521686	556800	574484	434087
Rajasthan	443694	503453	529638	417792
Sikkim	5624	8376	8841	7102
Tamil Nadu	977780	1070558	1130294	912322
Tripura	18988	20061	19452	12102
Uttar Pradesh	1113938	1202725	1251057	999682
Uttarakhand	134491	148612	155187	128802
West Bengal	534474	571308	607011	488818
All India	10530044	11488220	11935429	9430226

\*Sales Figures are as per Y2 Data Provided by OMCS and.

### Setting up of New Airports in Orissa

549. SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct any new airport in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to upgrade or modernize the existing airports in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has a proposal for development and operationalisation of Jharsuguda Airport for ATR type of aircraft operations subject to signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Government of Orissa and AAI and handing over of the required land for development of the airport. AAI has also planned for development and upgradation of Biju Patnaik Airport at Bhubaneswar to international standards.

[English]

### Association of Corporations Apex Societies of Handlooms

550. SHRI MANOHAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Association of Corporations Apex Societies of Handlooms (ACASH) is authorised to supply handloom items in different Government Departments/ Ministries;

(b) if so, the details of orders given to ACASH during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the details of quantity and amount of handloom items supplied by ACASH during the said period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. The details of orders received, the quantity and amount of handloom items supplied by ACASH during

the last 3 years and current year (upto Feb. 2010) are as follows:—

Year	Value of the orders received (Rs. in crore)	Quantity supplied (number of pieces in lakh)	Value of handloom items supplied (Rs. in crore)
2006-07	26.64	18.95	27.36
2007-08	19.35	09.60	19.17
2008-09	32.90	14.08	27.09
2009-10 (upto Feb., 2010)	30.58	14.61	27.50

[Translation]

### Bifurcation of ONGC

551. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to bifurcate the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to form a new company for the assets management of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal to carve out a new company by bifurcating the ONGC in Assam for asset management is an initiative towards privatisation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the division of ONGC for assets managements in Assam is being protested at the local level; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) No Madam.

(b) to (f) Do not arise in view of the (a) above.

*[English]***Vacant Posts of SC/ST Judges**

552. SHRI RAJIAH SIRICILLA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of posts of Distt. Judges in Judicial Services reserved for SC/ST are lying vacant in Delhi and other States;

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

(c) the efforts being made to fill up the vacancies to help clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The filling up of vacant posts of judges/magistrates in the District and Subordinate Courts is the concern of the respective High Courts and the State Governments. As such, the information on the number of posts of District Judges reserved for SC/ST lying vacant is not maintained in the Department of Justice. The matter of filling up of vacancies in the subordinate courts was discussed at the Joint Conference of the Chief Ministers of States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts held on August 16, 2009 and it was decided that the Chief Justices of the High Courts will take requisite steps to fill up the vacancies in the Subordinate Courts anticipating the occurrence thereof so as to minimize any chance of delay in filling up the said vacancies.

*[Translation]***Accident at Jalgaon**

553. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware of the death of a person who was caught with high tension line of railways after riding on a petrol wagon of a goods train in Jalgaon, Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have conducted any inquiry of the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways to check the reoccurrence of such incident in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) On 2.1.2010 at about 12.05 hrs., a goods train No. AXN/BPTN Kerosene oil rake was placed on PF No. 4 of Jalgaon Station. A boy climbed on the top of the oil tanks of the said load, came in contact with Over Head High Tension Wire and got electrocuted. RPF and GRP personnel rushed to the spot and brought down the boy with the help of a wooden stick. Immediately he was rushed to the Hospital, where Doctor declared him dead due to severe burn injuries. After post mortem the body of the deceased was handed over to his parents. Government Railway Police/Jalgaon has registered a case vide AD No. 01/2010 under section 174 Cr.PC.

(d) Following steps are being taken to check the recurrence of such incidents:

- (i) All the Railway Officers and staff working at stations and in trains are sensitized to check the persons climbing on the roof of trains
- (ii) To avert such incidents, watch is being kept at such rakes in the yards in co-ordination with the operating staff
- (iii) Action under section 156 of the Railways Act is being taken against persons travelling on roof of trains.
- (iv) Warning Boards cautioning people against climbing and touching Over Head Equipments wire are displayed at sensitive places.
- (v) Public is educated through Public Address System at stations not to travel climb on roof of trains due to Over Head Wire.

*[English]***Gauge Conversion Work on Punalur-Sengottai Section**

554. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of gauge conversion work on Punalur-Sengottai section; and

(b) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed alongwith funds allocated for this project during 2009-10 Railway Budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Gauge conversion of Punalur-Sengottai (49 Km) Ghat section is a part of Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur and Tenkasi-Virudhunagar gauge conversion project. On this Ghat section, final location survey has been completed and detailed estimate amounting to Rs. 357.70 crore has been sanctioned. Works on this section would be completed as per availability of resources.

An outlay of Rs. 70 crore has been provided for the project during 2009-10.

#### **Development of Marginal Field in Offshores by ONGC**

555. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation is developing marginal field in some offshores;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress achieved and investment made/to be made so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is developing 32 marginal fields in offshore areas out of which, 30 fields fall in Western Offshore and 2 fields are in Krishna Godavari Offshore. The development of these marginal fields has been undertaken for fast track conversion into producible properties. The project cost in respect of these 32 fields is Rs. 24,987 crores against which an expenditure of Rs. 5445.10 Crore has been incurred so far.

#### **Pre-Enrolment Training for Lawyers**

556. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to reintroduce pre-enrolment training for lawyers;

(b) if so, details thereof and the number of the lawyers likely to be benefited annually under the scheme; and

(c) the time by which the above proposal is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### **Khurda-Bolangir Railway Line**

557. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the allocation and expenditure incurred on Khurda Bolangir Rail link project since its inception year-wise;

(b) the reasons for delay, if any; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Khurda Road—Bolangir new line (289 Kms) project was included in the Budget 1994-95. The latest anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 700 crore. An expenditure of Rs. 77.74 crore was incurred upto 31.03.2009 and an outlay of Rs. 28.07 crore was provided in Budget 2009-10. The year-wise details of the allocation and expenditure is as under:

(Figures in crore of Rs.)

Year	Allocation	Expenditure
1	2	3
1994-95	1.00	0.82
1995-96	2.00	0.93
1996-97	1.50	1.50
1997-98	2.00	0.23
1998-99	2.00	0.28
1999-00	10.00	3.77
2000-01	14.50	2.19

1	2	3
2001-02	5.00	1.86
2002-03	5.00	6.27
2003-04	15.00	10.29
2004-05	15.38	8.40
2005-06	10.00	8.33
2006-07	23.00	23.03
2007-08	20.00	6.34
2008-09	32.43	3.50
2009-10	28.07	*20.00

\*expected expenditure upto March'10.

(b) and (c) The work is being progressed as per availability of resources. Khurda Road-Begunia is targeted for completion during 2010-11.

[*Translation*]

#### **Rail Service between Somnath to Jaisalmer**

558. SHRI VITTHALBHAI HANSRAJBHAI RADADIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Railways propose to start a new rail service between Somnath-Verawal to Jaisalmer via Ahmedabad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam. At present, there is no proposal to introduce a train between Somnath/Veraval and Jaisalmer via Ahmedabad.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

#### **Curbs in Import of Fertilizers**

559. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has curbed imports of fertilizers to keep fertilizer subsidy within reasonable limits as the international prices of fertilizers have gone up by a factor of 2 to 3 times, resulting in a steep increase in the quantum of fertilizer subsidy;

(b) if so, whether this has resulted in a shortage of fertilizers in the country and led to violent agitation by farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether fertilizer is being distributed in some places from police stations; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ease farmers' problems in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):

(a) Urea is imported for direct agricultural use on Government account to bridge the gap between assessed demand and the indigenous production. Government of India closely monitor the demand supply scenario and arrange adequate imports to ensure comfortable availability of urea throughout the year. Other fertilizers are decontrolled and imported by the importers as per their commercial considerations and market demand. The imports of major fertilizers during the year 2008-09 and 2009-10 (upto January 10) is as under:—

(Qty. in Lakh MT)

Product	2008-09	2009-10 (upto January 10)
Urea	56.67	48.66
DAP (including TSP and MAP)	66.31	56.88
MOP	43.46	35.65

(b) to (e) No, Madam, Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. Department of Fertilizers ensures availability of fertilizers at state level. The distribution of fertilizers within the states is the responsibility of the State Governments. All other fertilizers viz., DAP, MOP, NPK etc. are de-controlled and de-canalized since August 1992. The requirement, availability and sales of Urea,



DAP, MOP and complex fertilizers during current year i.e. 2009-10 (April, 09 to January, 10) is given in the enclosed

Statement. As can be seen, the availability of these fertilizers has been adequate.

### **Statement**

*Cumulative availability of fertilisers during the year 09-10 (April'09 to January'10)*

Qty in ('000) MTs

2009-10 State	Urea			DAP			MOP			Complex		
	Require- ment	Availability	Sales	Require- ment	Availability	Sales	Require- ment	Availability	Sales	Require- ment	Availability	Sales
Andhra Pradesh	2490.00	2163.94	2144.10	925.00	831.95	828.03	560.00	544.82	465.33	1940.00	1604.51	1549.84
Karnataka	1216.00	1203.66	1181.75	730.00	704.82	700.74	452.00	551.00	477.11	995.00	860.79	824.32
Kerala	151.20	144.46	139.15	32.75	27.49	27.46	142.00	146.34	136.54	167.25	185.96	180.01
Tamil Nadu	970.00	867.47	863.72	386.00	263.60	263.48	496.00	458.74	415.22	332.00	529.26	522.30
Gujarat	1705.00	1603.36	1591.39	749.00	688.67	665.49	202.00	219.65	214.43	415.00	360.27	339.46
Madhya Pradesh	1507.41	1497.63	1480.32	848.32	914.14	903.85	119.46	131.03	110.82	354.56	204.88	198.48
Chhattisgarh	495.00	454.92	450.29	169.50	202.63	202.56	78.40	72.40	65.47	129.55	80.78	79.07
Maharashtra	2204.00	2020.21	2005.67	1095.90	1228.04	1210.45	470.70	607.21	517.90	1235.00	867.32	840.65
Rajasthan	1403.00	1222.70	1211.02	628.00	581.72	572.45	32.00	49.65	37.91	130.00	77.16	76.37
Haryana	1810.00	1563.15	1560.69	684.00	647.29	647.17	47.00	73.20	73.18	43.00	36.87	35.72
Punjab	2350.00	2114.69	2108.01	800.00	786.30	785.56	87.00	97.26	87.87	55.00	52.02	48.85
Himachal Pradesh	60.00	48.68	44.96	0.00	2.65	2.65	5.50	5.24	5.24	45.00	30.50	30.39
Jammu and Kashmir	116.86	64.31	62.35	73.79	40.35	39.49	22.84	15.47	15.47	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	4740.00	4467.22	4427.60	1580.00	1526.24	1520.42	275.00	303.76	266.87	750.00	688.46	626.13
Uttarakhand	183.00	195.63	194.02	36.00	37.23	36.89	12.50	3.46	3.46	45.00	29.40	26.86
Bihar	1660.00	1446.43	1436.14	430.00	379.75	377.84	195.00	200.10	179.90	300.00	224.62	220.41
Jharkhand	200.00	145.26	141.30	115.00	76.66	76.66	15.00	12.02	12.02	50.00	59.65	56.07
Orissa	485.00	417.60	394.69	188.05	209.88	200.04	150.93	125.01	104.04	258.72	205.49	195.29
West Bengal	1022.77	890.57	851.41	424.50	423.89	416.11	359.00	439.92	416.10	680.80	708.71	698.21
Assam	212.40	189.25	184.24	28.20	22.32	22.31	102.20	83.89	71.20	5.50	6.47	6.47
All India	25102.84	22796.54	22545.33	9962.48	9604.17	9508.22	3852.66	4156.75	3692.05	7972.44	6836.72	6578.44

### **Investment in Food Processing Sector**

560. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes an investment of Rs. One lakh crore into the food processing sector by 2015;

(b) if so, the details worked out so far for the remaining Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) the suggestions made by each State in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) As per the Vision 2015 document of the Ministry, investments to the tune of Rs. 100,000 crore are required to achieve the targets specified in the Vision for the year 2015. Of these, investments worth Rs. 10,000 crore are expected from Government sector and Rs. 45,000 crore each from financial institutions and the private sector.

(b) and (c) In order to attract the level of investments required, the Ministry has urged all the State Governments to take measures that would seek to address procedural bottlenecks in attracting private sector investment, create a conducive policy environment by having a separate food processing policy, better brand building, promote R&D for having high processable varieties, skill development and strengthening rural farmgate infrastructure. During the 1st Conference of State Food Processing Ministers held on 6-10-2009, the state governments had unanimously expressed the need to have adequate policy initiatives in these areas so as to boost the level of investments in the sector.

### **Gauge Conversion Projects in Tamil Nadu**

561. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gauge conversion work in Tamil Nadu including Mayiladuthurai- Villupuram is not yet completed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this project has incurred huge time and cost overrun and missed several targeted dates of completion;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which said projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (e) Gauge conversion of all existing metre gauge lines have been taken up except Mettupalayam-Udagamandalam metre gauge line (45 Km) which has been declared a Heritage line. Thus, total metre gauge line to be converted is 672.29 Km where gauge conversion works are progressing and would be completed as per availability of resources.

Gauge conversion of Mayiladuthurai-Villupuram rail line (122 Km) has been completed and the section opened for goods traffic on 31.12.2009.

### **Setting up of Airport at Haridwar**

562. SHRI MUKESH BHAIRAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up an airport at Haridwar;

(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) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is an operational airport at Dehradun about 40 Km from Haridwar.

### **Setting up of Weavers Service Centres**

563. SHRI RAMESH RATHOD:  
SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is setting up Weavers Service Centres in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the XI Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(c) whether any preference is being given to the backward areas like Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh and other parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There is a provision under the "Diversified Handloom Development Scheme (DHDS)" for setting up of Weavers' Service Centres. So far no new Weavers' Service Centre has been approved during XI Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d) Setting up of Weavers' Service Centre is decided on need basis.

#### **Bhiwani-Loharu Railway Line**

564. SHRIMATI SHRUTI CHOUDHRY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey for laying of Bhiwani-Loharu railway line has been conducted twice in the past;

(b) if so, the reasons for which the construction work for laying this railway line has not commenced so far; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to commence and complete the construction of this railway line at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) As per the available records, a survey for Loharu-Bhiwani new line project was completed in 2006-07. The proposal could not be taken up earlier. A Survey for Bhiwani-Loharu-Churu has been announced in Railway Budget 2010-11.

[Translation]

#### **Unused Airstrips**

565. SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the airstrips in the country which are lying unused;

(b) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for the development of such airstrips; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There are 29 unused airports of Airports Authority of India (AAI). Details of these airports are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) AAI has plans to upgrade some of its non-operational small airports in the country subject to availability of land from State Government, free of cost and free from all encumbrances, either through its own resources or with participation of the State Governments through signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). In case of North-East States, these airports are proposed to be developed with Government funding.

(c) Details are given in the enclosed statement-II.

#### **Statement I**

Sl.No.	Name of Airport	State
1	2	3
1.	Akola	Maharashtra
2.	Asansol	West Bengal
3.	Aizwal (Tural)	Mizoram
4.	Balurghat	West Bengal
5.	Bilaspur	Chhattisgarh
6.	Chakulia	Jharkhand
7.	Cuddapah	Andhra Pradesh
8.	Deesa (Palanpur)	Gujarat
9.	Donakonda	Andhra Pradesh
10.	Jalgaon	Maharashtra
11.	Jharsuguda	Orissa
12.	Jogbani	Bihar
13.	Kailashahar	Tripura
14.	Kamalpur	Tripura
15.	Khandwa	Madhya Pradesh

1	2	3	1	2	3
16.	Khowai	Tripura	23.	Raxaul	Bihar
17.	Kishangarh	Rajasthan	24.	Rupsi	Assam
18.	Lalitpur	Uttar Pradesh	25.	Satna	Madhya Pradesh
19.	Malda	West Bengal	26.	Shella	Assam
20.	Muzaffarpur	Bihar	27.	Tezu	Assam
21.	Panna	Madhya Pradesh	28.	Vellore	Tamil Nadu
22.	Passighat	Arunachal Pradesh	29.	Warangal	Andhra Pradesh

**Statement II***Redevelopment of Non-Operational Airstrips*

State Airport		Funding	Remarks
1		2	3
1.	Karnataka Mysore	MOU signed on 6/10/2007	Works completed, yet to be-commissioned.
2.	Andhra Pradesh Warangal	(i) MOU signed on 30.3.2007	Land not yet banded over by State Govt.
	Cuddapah	(ii) MOU signed on 30/03/2007	Runway & apron works completed, for ATR72 type of aircraft operation. Pre-fabricated Terminal building, technical block cum control tower and fire station in final stage
3.	Arunachal Pradesh Passighat	NEC funded projects	Airport to be developed by Ministry of Defence as per direction of PMO. A MOU is to be signed between AAI and Ministry of Defence (IAF) for the transfer of airport.
	Tezu		Operationalisation of airport for ATR-42 type of aircraft Operation has been approved by Government of India.
4.	Assam Rupsi	NEC funded projects	Feasibility study carried out by AAI, all facilities need major reconstruction; can be developed into a major airport in phased manner. Phasel can be developed for operation of ATR72 type of aircraft.
5.	Tripura Kailashahar	NEC funded projects	Operationalisation of airport for 20 seater aircraft operation including renovation of Terminal building and apron

	1	2	3
	Kamalpur		Operationalisation of airport for ATR-42 operation including renovation of Terminal building and apron
6.	Maharashtra Jalgaon	MOU signed on 16/7/2009	Planning stage
7.	Orissa Jharsuguda	MOU yet to be signed with State Govt	Initial Planning stage
8.	West Bengal Malda	MOU yet to be signed with State Govt	Approval of MOU awaited from State Govt of West Bengal
9.	Rajasthan Kishangarh	MOU signed on 25/2/2009	Planning stage, additional land required for developing airport for ATR-72 type of aircraft operation, from the State Govt.

[English]

#### **Investment in Oil Blocks in West African Nations**

566. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make investment in developing oil blocks in the West African nations;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken up the matter with African countries including Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation in the recent past;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the details of the deals finalised by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in oil and gas sector are interested to make investment in developing oil blocks in the West African countries based on commercial viability. A high level Indian delegation led by Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas recently visited Sudan, Nigeria, Angola and Uganda during 24th — 28th January, 2010 in pursuit of strengthening ties which will help in hydrocarbon energy

security efforts of India. Meetings were held with various dignitaries/Ministers in these countries to pursue cooperation in hydrocarbon sector. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between SONANGOL, the national oil company of Angola and ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) on 27.01.2010 during the above-mentioned visit wherein both companies agreed to cooperate with each other in exploration and production of oil and gas in Angola, India and third countries. GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) has been interacting with Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) and Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) for participation in Nigerian gas sector opportunities.

#### **Electronic Voting Machines**

567. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:  
SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:

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

(a) whether there is a need of electoral reforms in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the experts have expressed their concern over the tampering of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs); and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) The process of electoral reforms is a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out after ascertaining the views among political parties. Further, it needs a deep and careful study. A number of proposals including the recommendations of the Election Commission are discussed with political parties at an appropriate time as a part of the process of reform of electoral laws. Similarly, the Government have been receiving numerous suggestions from the general public on the subject from time to time and all these will be taken together as and when discussions with political parties are held.

(c) The Election Commission has intimated that some persons claiming to be experts have alleged that Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) can be tampered with.

(d) The Election Commission has satisfaction that its EVMs cannot be tampered with. It has not found any substance in the allegations. Several of the persons who approached the Election Commission were given opportunity to come and demonstrate the alleged tamperability of EVMs used by the Election Commission but no one has been able to demonstrate any tampering with.

#### **Setting up of Fertilizer Industry in Karnataka**

568. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to set up the fertilizer unit in Bagalkot area of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

#### **Withdrawal of Subsidy on Petrol/Diesel**

569. DR. BHOLA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to withdraw subsidy on petrol and diesel;

(b) if so, whether the withdrawal of subsidy may lead to increase in prices of petroleum products,

(c) whether increase in prices of petrol and diesel may to increase the rate of inflation; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to control the rising prices?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) At present, there is no fiscal subsidy on Petrol and Diesel. However, as the retail selling prices of Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG are not being maintained in line with the international, oil prices, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) incur under-recoveries on the sale of these products. These under-recoveries are compensated under a Burden Sharing Mechanism. During the year 2009-10 (April-December 2009), the OMCs have incurred under-recoveries of Rs. 8,364 crore on the sale of Petrol and Diesel.

The Expert Group constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. Kirit Parikh to advise on a Viable and Sustainable System of Pricing of Petroleum Products has recommended, inter-alia that the prices of Petrol and Diesel should be market-determined, both at the refinery gate and at the retail level. The Government has not taken a decision on implementation of the Expert Group's recommendations.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[*English*]

#### **Setting up of New Courts**

570. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:  
DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK:  
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:  
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a large number of courts across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total funds allocated for this purpose during the last three years; and

(d) the cost ratio likely to be shared by the Union Government and State Governments for setting up of new courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (d) The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 has been enacted to enable the State Governments to establish one or more Gram Nyayalayas for every Panchayat at the intermediate level to cater to specified Civil and Criminal cases in rural areas. Under the scheme, over 5000 Gram Nyayalayas are likely to be set up across the country.

The Central Government has decided to provide financial assistance to the States for establishing the Gram Nyayalayas. The Government would bear the non-recurring cost of establishment of Gram Nyayalayas subject to a ceiling of Rs. 18.00 lakhs per Gram Nyayalaya. The Government would also bear 50% of Rs. 6.40 lakhs per annum as recurring cost of one Gram Nyayalaya for the first three years.

The State Governments have been requested to set up Gram Nyayalayas in their respective States. For this purpose, a provision of Rs. 11.00 crore has been made in the budget for the year 2009-10. Out of this, a grant of Rs. 10.79 Crore has been released to the States.

#### **Security Measures in Railways**

571. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

SHRIMATI J. HELEN DAVIDSON:

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

SHRI SUBHASH BAPURAO WANKHEDE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware of inadequate deployment of Police personnel in Mail/Express/Passenger and Goods trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Railway Protection Forces/GRPs and other forces deployed in such trains during the last three years;

(d) the number of Mail/Express/ Passenger and Goods trains where such police personnel are not being deployed; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Railways to deploy police personnel in each train particularly in the Naxal affected areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Railways are aware of inadequate deployment of police personnel in mail/express and goods trains. Out of approximately 10,385 passenger carrying trains, about 3600 important Mail/Express trains are being escorted daily on an average by deploying about 9000 Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police personnel. As regard escorting of Goods Trains, Railway Protection Force personnel are being deployed to escort goods trains carrying vulnerable commodities, in worst affected sections, whenever required, as per availability of manpower.

(e) Concerned State Governments have been requested to provide police escort in each train particularly in Naxal affected areas. However, important trains are being escorted by deploying Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force personnel during night hours in Naxal affected areas as per availability of manpower.

#### **Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline Project**

572. DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether Pakistan has expressed some reservations over supply of gas through Indo-Iran Gas pipeline project;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to resolve the matter; and

(c) the status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) No Madam.

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

(c) India is pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project. Various important issues, viz., pricing of gas, delivery point of gas, project structure, security of supplies, payment of transportation tariff and transit fees for passage of natural gas through Pakistan, etc., are under discussion amongst the participating countries.

Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests and to avoid any problems in the future in the successful operation of the project.

#### **Non-Payment of Subsidy**

573. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE:  
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total subsidy provided by the Government on raw materials imported in the manufacture of fertilizers during each of the last three years and the current year, product-wise;

(b) whether the fertilizer industry is facing a crisis on account of non-payment of subsidy due to them by the Government;

(c) if so, the amount of subsidy and the period from which it is due; and

(d) the measures being taken to resolve the crisis and the period for which the outstanding amount is likely to be paid to the fertilizer companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) :  
(a) Department of Fertilizers does not give subsidy on raw materials imported in the manufacture of fertilizers. The subsidy is provided only on the finished fertilizers.

(b) to (d) The release of subsidy is an ongoing process and there are always some bills in pipeline for payment. The allocation of fertilizer subsidy budget has been increased from 53,580.75 Crores (BE) to Rs. 56,580.75 Crores (RE) in the current financial year. Efforts are also being made to provide more funds to clear the outstanding subsidy dues of the companies.

[Translation]

#### **Supply of Gas through PNG**

574. SHRI SAJJAN VERMA:  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) the names of the cities and metropolitan cities in which gas is being supplied through pipelines in the country, city- wise,. State-wise including Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal;

(b) whether the Government proposes to supply gas through pipeline in Indore and Dewas cities of Madhya Pradesh under this scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Information regarding the State-wise number of cities/towns in the country, including in dhya Pradesh & West Bengal, covered with City Gas Distribution (CGD) network is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Government has authorized Aavantika Gas Limited (AGL) for undertaking CGD distribution in inter alia Indore. Further, Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has selected GAIL Gas Ltd. for development of CGD network in Geographical Area of Dewas.

#### **Statement**

##### *Names of Cities covered with CNG/PNG facilities*

Sl.No.	State	City
1	2	3
1.		Vijayawada
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
3.		Rajahmundry
4.		Duliajan
5.		Diqboy
6.		Tinsukia



1	2	3
7.	Assam	Dibrugarh
8.		Nahar Katia
9.		Moran
10.		Nazaria,
11.		Shivsagar
12.	Delhi	Delhi
13.		Anand city & Near by Village
14.		Bharuch,
15.		Surat
16.		Ankleswar
17.		Vapi
18.		Vaisad
19.		Navsari
20.		Hazira
21.		Sarigam
22.		Nadiad
23.		Khabmbhat
24.		Chandkheda-Motera
25.		Gandhinagar
26.		Pethapur
27.	Gujarat	Halol
28.		Dahej
29.		Uttarsanda
30.		Vavol
31.		Rajkot
32.		Morbi
33.		Surendranagar
34.		Thangadh
35.		Karjan
36.		Palej

1	2	3
37.		Morai
38.		Gundalv
39.		Kheda
40.		Mehsana
41.		Sabarkanth
42.		Vadodara
43.		Ahemdabad
44.	Haryana	Gurgaon
45.		Faridabad
46.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore
47.		Ujjain
48.	Maharashtra	Mumbai
49.		Mira Bhayandar
50.		Thane
51.		Navi Mumbai
52.		Pune
53.	Tripura	Agartala
54.	Uttar Pradesh	Noida
55.		Greater Noida
56.		Kanpur
57.		Bareilly
58.		Aqra
59.		Lucknow
60.		Moradabad
61.	West Bengal	Barkar
62.		Asansol
63.		Neamatpur
64.		Durgapur
65.		Hirapur
66.	Daman & Diu	Daman

**Reports of three Panels regarding Oil Industry**

575. SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:  
 SHRI MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:  
 SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:  
 SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH *alias* LALAN  
 SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has received reports of the three panels in regard to the oil industry from Feb.2006 to Feb 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the issues on which the said three panels have been asked to make suggestions;

(c) the steps taken by the Government on each of the reports;

(d) whether the Government has implemented the suggestions of three panels; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) During the period from February 2006 to February 2010, Government has received the reports of the following panels:

(i) Dr. Rangarajan Committee on Pricing and Taxation of Petroleum Products, on 17-02-2006;

(ii) High Power Committee constituted under the chairmanship of Shri B.K. Chaturvedi on the Financial Position of Oil Companies, on 31-07-2008; and

(iii) Expert Group, constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kirit Parikh, on a Viable and Sustainable System of Pricing of Petroleum Products, on 3-02-2010.

(c) to (e) The Government has taken the following action in acceptance of the recommendations of Dr. Rangarajan Committee:

(i) Pricing of Petrol and Diesel to be determined on Trade Parity basis which is the weighted average of Import Parity and Export Parity prices in the ratio of 80:20.

(ii) Reduction of custom duty on Petrol and Diesel from 10% to 7.5% in June 2006.

(iii) In principle decision to restrict the supply of subsidized PDS Kerosene to BPL families.

The Government has not taken a decision on the implementation of the recommendations made in the Reports of the High Power Committee on the Financial Position of Oil Companies (Chaiurvedi Committee) and the Expert Group on a Viable and Sustainable System of Pricing of Petroleum Products (Parikh Committee).

[English]

**Jute Goods Import**

576. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:  
 SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
 SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the jute goods from various countries particularly from Bangladesh are flooding in Indian market;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Jute Mill Association has requested to impose a ban on the import of jute goods from foreign countries including Bangladesh;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Indian Jute Mills Association has also urged the Government to provide funds for the modernisation of the Jute Mills; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) The Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) has represented to the Government to impose a ban on the import of jute goods. However, the imports of jute goods are a miniscule proportion of domestic production. The imports during the year 2009-10 (till December, 2009) were slightly higher compared to the correspondence period of last year, mainly due to Jute Mills strike which was from December 14, 2009 to February 13, 2010. The Government is not contemplating to impose a ban on the import of jute goods as it would be counter productive for the economy.

(d) and (e) The Government is aware of the technological obsolescence affecting the growth and development of jute textiles industry, and have taken steps to modernize the Jute Industry in consultation with various stakeholders, including the Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA). This includes continuation of the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), and implementation of Acquisition of Machinery and Plant (Capital Subsidy) under the Mini Mission-IV of the Jute Technology Mission (JTM) during the XIth Five Year Plan period.

The Government has enhanced the Cap on Subsidy for under the Acquisition of Machinery and Plant (Capital Subsidy) to Rs. 3.5 crore per mill in respect of existing mills and to Rs. 4 crore per mill in respect of new mills and mills in North Eastern States. This will give an incentive to the mills to modernize, upgrade technology, increase efficiency and thus reduce cost.

#### **Unutilised Railway Land**

577. SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of land lying unutilized in each zone of Railways including Southern Railways; and

(b) the steps taken by the Railways to make use of such land meaningfully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Railways have about 1.13 lakh acres of available vacant land including 5673 acres on Southern Railway. This vacant land includes land earmarked for the Railways own developmental works such as doubling, gauge conversion,

yard remodelling and traffic facility works, setting up of factories, freight corridors, etc. Vacant land not required for Railway's immediate future operational needs is put to alternative usage wherever feasible. Railways have set up a separate authority namely Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) through an amendment of Railway Act, 1989 to undertake development of such vacant railway land.

In addition, Railways plan to utilise its vacant land wherever feasible on Indian Railways including Southern Railway for setting up of various infrastructure and socially inclusive projects, Health Care Facilities, etc. through innovative financing models.

#### **Modernisation of Airports**

578. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:  
SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY:  
SHRI S. SEMMALAI:  
SHRI P. VISWANATHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is undertaking work pertaining to modernization of airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details of airports modernized so far;

(c) the details of airports proposed to be modernized in near future; and

(d) the amount incurred on modernization of airports during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Modernisation/upgradation of airports is a continuous process depending upon the traffic potential, demands from airline operators, commercial viability etc. AAI from time to time, takes initiative in this regard. However, details of various modernisation works taken up by Airports Authority of India (AAI) are given in the enclosed Statements-I, II and III.

(d) An amount of Rs. 6545.92 crores was incurred for development and modernisation of airports during the last three years i.e. 2007-08 to 2009-10 (upto January, 2010).

**Statement-I***Details of works completed*

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in crores)	Progress made upto 31.01.2010	The time by which likely to be completed
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>PATHANKOT</b>					
1.	Development of Civil Enclave including Residential Quarters with land	33.33	33.15	100%	Work completed
<b>SRINAGAR</b>					
1.	Expansion and modification of terminal building complex	101.33	89.95	100%	Work completed
<b>UDAIPUR</b>					
1.	Construction of new terminal building complex	77.44	68.61	100%	Work completed
2.	Extension and strengthening of runway and allied works	44.31	41.85	100%	Work completed
3.	Construction of Control Tower and Technical Block	9.38	9.08	100%	Work completed
<b>VARANASI</b>					
1.	Strengthening of existing runway and provision shoulders	31.43	23.00	100%	Work completed
<b>EASTERN REGION</b>					
<b>BHUBANESWAR</b>					
1.	Extension of Runway	14.75	14.50	100%	Work completed
2.	Expansion of Apron, Strengthening of existing apron and taxiway, Construction of additional taxiway and associated	13.00	14.05	100%	Work completed
<b>GAYA</b>					
1.	Construction of New Terminal Building and allied structure	62.52	60.75	100%	Work completed
<b>COOCH BEHAR</b>					
1.	Construction of new terminal building	12.36	13.39	100%	Work completed

1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>RAIPUR</b>					
1.	Strengthening and extn. of apron	6.85	6.00	100%	Work completed
<b>PORTBLAIR</b>					
1.	Expansion of apron and additional taxiway	34.38	25.87	100%	Work completed
<b>NORTH EASTERN REGION</b>					
<b>AGARTALA</b>					
1.	Expansion of Terminal Complex and AC for entire terminal complex	27.61	24.95	100%	Work completed
2.	Expansion and strengthening of apron	18.66	20.01	100%	Work completed
3.	Strengthening of existing runway	35.03	40.93	100%	Work completed
4.	Construction of new technical building cum control tower	6.00	3.50	100%	Work completed
<b>BAGDOGRA</b>					
1.	Extension of apron	20.70	12.33	100%	Work completed
<b>DIBRUGARH</b>					
1.	Construction of new terminal building i/c land acquisition.	71.71	56.70	100%	Work completed
<b>DIMAPUR</b>					
1.	Resurfacing of runway	10.27	10.11	100%	Work completed
<b>GUWAHATI</b>					
1.	Extension of runway and C/o new apron with link taxiway	45.76	49.81	100%	Work completed
<b>IMPHAL</b>					
1.	Resurfacing of rwy, construction of isolation bay, Extension of apron and link taxiway.	21.00	14.34	100%	Work completed
<b>LILABARI</b>					
1.	Construction of New Terminal Building	18.46	13.50	100%	Work completed
<b>SILCHAR</b>					
1.	Extension of runway, acquisition of land and construction of boundary wall.	41.49	23.86	100%	Work completed

1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>WESTERN REGION</b>					
<b>AHMEDABAD</b>					
1.	Construction of New Departure Block for Domestic Terminal Building at C.A. Ahmedabad.	46.09	46.00	100%	Work completed
2.	Construction of Isolation Bay and Parallel Taxi-Track with rapid exit taxiway at S.V.P. Airport, Ahmedabad	16.05	10.25	100%	Work completed
3.	C/o new arrival block	56.94	30.80	100%	Work completed
4.	C/o New apron	10.96	13.52	100%	Work completed
<b>Aurangaad</b>					
1.	Construction of New Apron and allied works.	99.67	7.55	100%	Work completed
2.	C/o new TB		59.24	100%	Work completed
3.	Extn. of Rwy	25.68	16.20	100%	Work completed
<b>BHOPAL</b>					
1.	Extn. of rwy and land acquisition runway 12 beginning	52.10	33.38	100%	Work completed
<b>BHUJ</b>					
1.	Construction of New Civil Air Terminal	19.51	19.20	100%	Work completed
<b>GONDIA</b>					
1.	Construction of New Passenger lounge, Control Tower, Fire Station, Boundary Wall, Residential Quarters and other	41.754	40.00	100%	Work completed
2.	Extension and strengthening of runway	40.95	44.21	100%	Work completed
<b>INDORE</b>					
1.	Exp. and str. of rwy and C/o isolation bay and twy	79.86	62.97	100%	Work completed
<b>NAGPUR</b>					
1.	Exp. and mod. of Terminal Bldg. for international operations	43.00	40.00	100%	Work Completed
<b>PORBANDAR</b>					
1.	Construction of New Terminal Bldg. and Associated works	10.00	10.00	100%	Work Completed

1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>SOUTHERN REGION</b>					
<b>CALICUT</b>					
1.	Resurfacing of runway and allied works	26.97	27.10	100%	Work completed
2.	Exp. and Modification of ITB i/c electrical packages	89.48	96.00	100%	Work completed
<b>COIMBATORE</b>					
1.	Extension of runway	42.00	17.90	100%	Work completed
2.	Construction of part parallel taxiway and Expansion of apron	41.51	28.00	100%	Work completed
<b>CUDDAPAH</b>					
1.	C/o runway, taxiway, apron	26.12	19.57	100%	Work completed
<b>MADURAI</b>					
1.	Strengthening and Extn. of Rwy and allied works	35.25	27.83	100%	Work completed
<b>MANAGALORE</b>					
1.	C/o New Terminal Building	147.01	88.60	100%	Work completed
2.	C/o Apron		19.92	100%	Work completed
<b>MYSORE</b>					
1.	Development of Mysore Airport (i) Pavement work	69.29	36.23	100%	Work completed
<b>PUDUCHERRY</b>					
1.	Development of Puducherry Airport SH: C/o runway	24.34	20.00	100%	Work completed
<b>TRIUPATI</b>					
1.	Resurfacing and strengthening of runway, taxitrack, apron, isolation bay etc.	17.30	16.41	100%	Work completed
<b>TRICHY</b>					
1.	Ext. of apron, c/o new apron and taxi-track	17.76	17.71	100%	Work completed
2.	C/o New Terminal Building	74.7	72.00	100%	Work completed
3.	Strengthening and extension of rwy	25.94	18.79	100%	Work completed

1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>VIZAG</b>					
1.	C/o new integrated TB	94.94	96.00	100%	Work completed
<b>VIJAYAWADA</b>					
1.	Ext. of rwy	47.87	33.13	100%	Work completed

**Statement-II***Work in Progress*

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in crores)	Progress made upto 31.01.2010	The time by which likely to be completed
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>NORTHERN REGION</b>					
<b>CHANDIGARH</b>					
1.	Construction of new integrated terminal building	77.97	34.18	83%	April-10
<b>LUCKNOW</b>					
1.	Construction of New International Terminal Building	129.38	40.56	55%	June-10
<b>SRINAGAR</b>					
1.	Expansion of apron Ph-II	26.25	15.05	65%	June-10
<b>UDAIPUR</b>					
1.	Construction of apron i/c link taxiway (Ph-II)	7.76	—	—	Work recently awarded and likely to be completed by August, 2010
<b>VARANASI</b>					
1.	Const. of new Integrated Terminal Building including aerobridge	94.11	84.55	91%	March-10
2.	Extension and strengthening at apron and extension of runway	40.00	19.91	98%	February-10
<b>LUDHIANA</b>					
1.	Strengthening/Resurfacing of runway and apron/taxiway	11.68	8.63	99%	February-10



1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>KHAJURAHO</b>					
1.	Construction of new terminal building	75.32			Work recently awarded and likely to be completed by December, 2010
<b>EASTERN REGION</b>					
<b>RANCHI</b>					
1.	Construction of new integrated passenger terminal building	137.79	12.45	36%	September-10
2.	Expansion of apron and construction of isolation bay	12.52	9.98	94%	March-10
3.	Resurfacing of Runway	15.07	4.13	30%	March-10
<b>RAIPUR</b>					
1.	C/o new expandable modular Integrated Terminal Building	135.72	35.92	51%	July-10
<b>NORTH EASTERN REGION</b>					
<b>BARAPANI (SHILONG)</b>					
1.	Construction of new Terminal Building and Expansion of apron	25.62	18.86	93%	March-10
<b>DIBRUGARH</b>					
1.	Strengthening of existing runway and taxiway	14.00	7.18	47%	June-10
<b>DIMAPUR</b>					
1.	Expansion of apron and c/o link taxiway	13.35	7.18	55%	April-10
<b>GUWAHATI</b>					
1.	Construction of isolation aircraft parking stand	13.94	11.24	93%	March-10
2.	C/o B. wall in the newly acquired land for r/w extn. and c/o new apron	8.95	1.75	70%	March-10
3.	Filling of the newly acquired area for Intl. TB (Ph-I)	29.78	17.08	73%	April-10
<b>IMPHAL</b>					
1.	Construction of new apron	11.83	1.92	51%	June-10

1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>PAKYONG</b>					
1.	Construction of new airport at Pakyong, Sikkim. (SH: Earth work in cutting and filling, geogrid reinforced retaining wall, drainage system including box culvert, aerodrom pavement etc.)	309.00	20.12	18%	Jan.-11
<b>WESTERN REGION</b>					
<b>AHMEDABAD</b>					
1.	C/o New International Terminal Building Phase-I	291.00	142.17	86%	March-10
	C/o New International Terminal Building Phase-II		71.58	87%	March-10
<b>BHOPAL</b>					
1.	Construction of new expandable modular terminal building at Raja Bhoj Airport, Bhopal	135.04	58.07	53%	March-10
2.	Construction of New Apron and associated works	63.78	7.60	26%	March-10
<b>GONDIA</b>					
1.	C/o Parallel Taxi way	18.32	15.67	98%	February-10
2.	C/o 2 nos. addl. Hangers	8.00	9.30	98%	March-10
3.	Construction of NIATAM	52.33	15.51	60%	March-10
<b>INDORE</b>					
1.	Construction of New Terminal building	135.60	44.76	53%	May-10
<b>PUNE</b>					
1.	Ext. and Modification of Terminal Building at Pune Airport	96.30	59.84	98%	February-10
<b>SOUTHERN REGION</b>					
<b>COIMBATORE</b>					
1.	Exp. and Modification of TB	78.00	6.15	16%	May-10
<b>MADURAI</b>					
1.	C/o of TB and allied works	128.76	50.29	60%	Mar.-10

1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>MYSORE</b>					
1.	Development of Mysore Airport Building work	69.29	27.41	98%	May-10
<b>RAJAMUNDARY</b>					
1.	C/o of new terminal building including car park	43.29	10.50	38%	Mar-10

**Statement-III***Work in Planning Stage*

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in crore)	The time by which likely to be completed
1	2	3	4
<b>NORTHERN REGION</b>			
<b>JAIPUR</b>			
1.	Extension and strengthening of Runway	81.26	Planning stage
2.	Construction of Integrated Terminal Building at Jaipur	300.00	Planning stage
<b>LEH</b>			
1.	Construction of new terminal building	116.00	Planning stage
<b>JAMMU</b>			
1.	Construction of new terminal building complex including apron, taxi track and other associated civil works and electrical and mechanical installations towards Tawi River side	100.00	Planning stage
2.	Extension of Apron	15.00	Planning stage
<b>VARANASI</b>			
1.	Construction of control tower cum Technical Block	10.00	Planning stage
<b>EASTERN REGION</b>			
<b>BHUBANESWAR</b>			
1.	Construction of new integrated passenger terminal building	145.54	Tender stage
<b>PORTBLAIR</b>			
1.	Construction of new terminal building	350.00	Planning stage

1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>NORTH EASTERN REGION</b>					
<b>AGARTALA</b>					
1.	Construction of New Control Tower			8.00	Planning stage
<b>CHEITHU (KOHIMA)</b>					
1.	Construction of New Airport at Cheithu (Kohima)			—	Planning stage
<b>WESTERN REGION</b>					
<b>AHMEDABAD</b>					
1.	Construction of control tower cum Technical Block			16.15	Planning stage
<b>GOA</b>					
1.	New Intl. Terminal, car park, Ext, of apron and allied works			330.02	Tender stage
<b>RATKOT</b>					
1.	Construction of new terminal building			50.00	Planning stage
<b>SOUTHERN REGION</b>					
<b>COIMBATORE</b>					
1.	Construction of new terminal building			145.00	Planning stage
<b>MANAGALORE</b>					
1.	Extension of runway 24/06			20.00	Planning stage
	Construction of new ATC tower			23.00	Planning stage
<b>PUDUCHERRY</b>					
1.	Construction of new terminal building i/c car park			45.00	Planning stage
<b>TRIUPATI</b>					
1.	Construction of new terminal building			140.00	Planning stage
2.	Extension of runway and strengthening of runway			103.00	Planning stage
<b>VIJAYAWADA</b>					
1.	Expansion of terminal building			56.96	Planning stage

[Translation]

**Services of Air india**

579. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:  
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to improve the services of Air India four task forces have been constituted to give suggestions to the Government to enhance the security on board, at ground and at foreign land and to improve the facilities given to its employees besides improving the ground facilities given to other airlines;

(b) if so, the time by which these four task forces are likely to submit their reports to the Government alongwith the details of the Government's policy regarding implementation of their recommendations;

(c) whether the Air India has taken more aircraft on lease to provide air connectivity to more places;

(d) if so, the number of aircraft taken on lease alongwith the terms and conditions of lease; and

(e) the details of the revenue likely to be earned and expenditure incurred on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No Task Force has recently been constituted. However, in the year, 2000, following a review of the functioning of Air India, four Task Forces on Passenger amenities, Security, Ground Handling Activities and Wage Cuts were constituted.

These Task Forces had submitted their Reports and several of their recommendations have been implemented by the Management.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. Air India presently has 57 aircraft on lease for periods varying from 3 to 10 years. The terms and conditions of the aircraft taken on lease depend upon the age and type of aircraft and other parameters like market conditions at the time of leasing etc.

(e) Once these aircrafts have been integrated into the fleet, no separate details of income and expenditure are maintained for leased aircraft.

#### **Train Accidents in U.P.**

580. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:  
SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in January, 2010 Gorakhdham Express collided with Prayag Raj Express from behind near Panki railway station near Kanpur on Delhi-Howrah railway route while the second accident took place at Bhopal Station near Etawah (UP) when Delhi-Sitamarhi Lichchavi Express collided with Magadh Express and the third when Saryu Express hit a trolley on Allahabad-Faizabad route;

(b) if so, the details of number of people killed/injured in these three accidents alongwith the amount of compensation given to the dependents of deceased;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered into these accidents;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to prevent such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam. On 02.01.2010 at 08.46 hrs., train number 2556 Gorakhdham Express collided in rear of train number 2418 Prayagraj Express which was standing at Panki Home Signal between Bhaupur and Panki stations of Tundla - Kanpur section of Allahabad Division of North Central Railway. The second accident on 02.01.2010 took place at 08.05 hrs. when train number 4006 Delhi - Sitamarhi Lichchavi Express collided in rear of train number 2402 Magadh Express between Sarai Bhopat and Etawah stations of Tundla - Kanpur section of Allahabad Division of North Central Railway. The third incident on 02.01.2010 took place at 08.25 hrs. between Faizabad and Allahabad section when the engine of 4126 Saryu Express struck against a tractor trolley between Vishwanathganj and Mauaima stations of Lucknow Division of Northern Railway.

(b) In the first two accidents, 12 passengers lost their lives and 49 passengers suffered injuries. Compensation is payable only after a claim is filed before the Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) and a decree is awarded by the Tribunal. Till date, the RCT have not given any decree for compensation to be paid by the Railways. In third incident, no person was killed or injured.

(c) to (e) The case of Collision of Gorakhdham Express with Prayagraj Express is being enquired into by Commissioner of Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle. The Final Report of Commissioner of Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle is awaited. Action would be taken against the officials responsible for this accident after receipt of the Report of Commissioner of Railway Safety. The other two accidents are being enquired into by the Departmental Committees. In the case of the Collision

of Lichchavi Express and Magadh Express, the staff prima facie found responsible have placed under suspension and enquiry has been initiated against them.

Following steps are being taken to prevent such accidents in future:

- (i) Timely replacement of over aged signaling assets.
- (ii) Provision of track circuiting of station yards.
- (iii) Provision of Axle Counter for Block Proving.
- (iv) Provision of Light Emitting Diode (LED) signals.
- (v) Provision of interlocking of gate signals.
- (vi) Provision of means of communication to level crossing gates.
- (vii) Pilot project for Train Protection and Warning Device (TPWD) and Anti Collision Device (ACD).
- (viii) Review of Instructions on train running during fog.

#### **Revival of Closed/Sick Steel Plants**

581. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:  
SHRI P.L. PUNIA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the present number of steel plants in the country, State-wise;

(b) the target set for production of steel by the end of current Five Year Plan;

(c) the number of steel plants in working condition and making profit;

(d) whether certain steel plants have been closed and are in sick condition;

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

(f) the efforts being made by the Government for their revival?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) The State-wise distribution of Main and Major steel producer plants and small-to-medium scale steel plants is given in the enclosed statements-I and II respectively.

(b) Crude steel production capacity of the country is estimated to reach 124 million tonnes by the end of the current Five Year Plan.

(c) The number of steel plants in working condition is given in the enclosed statement I and II.

(d) to (f) Steel is a de-regulated sector; therefore, no steel unit is required to furnish such details to the Ministry of Steel. However, in a de-regulated, liberalized economy, decisions related to production are taken essentially by the steel producing units. The Government in such a market economy has the role of a facilitator only—it provides the overall policy environment to promote growth of industry. In order to promote the domestic steel industry, the Government has framed the National Steel Policy, 2005 and constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG), under the chairmanship of Secretary (Steel) in 2007, to monitor and coordinate the issues concerning major steel investments in the country related to infrastructure, raw material supply, environmental clearance and other resource constraints.

#### **Statement I**

##### *State-wise Distribution of Main and Major Steel Producer Plants*

Plant	State
1	2

#### **Main Producers**

##### **1. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) Plants**

Bokaro Steel Ltd.	Jharkhand
Durgapur Steel Plant	West Bengal

1	2
Alloy Steel Plant	West Bengal
IISCO Steel Plant	West Bengal
Rourkela Steel Plant	Orissa
Bhilai Steel Plant	Chhattishgarh
Viswswariya Steel Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh
Salem Steel Plant	Tamil Nadu
<b>2. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd./Vizag Steel Plant</b>	Andhra Pradesh
<b>3. Tata Steel</b>	Jharkhand
<b>Major Producers</b>	
1. Ispat Industries	Maharashtra
2. JSW Steel	Karnataka
3. Essar Steel	Gujarat
4. Jindal Steel & Power	Chhattisgarh

**Source:** Joint Plant Committee (JPC)

### Statement II

#### State-wise Distribution of small/medium scale steel plants (numbers)

State	Electric Arc Furnace	Induction Furnace	Re-rolling
1	2	3	4
Chhattisgarh	2	65	133
Dadra and Nagar Haveli		26	5
Daman and Diu		14	
Goa	1	22	14
Gujarat	4	54	142
Maharashtra	9	74	137
Madhya Pradesh	1	16	44
Total	17	271	475
Chandigarh	1	3	3
Delhi		4	33

1	2	3	4
Haryana	3	34	19
Himachal Pradesh		15	4
Jammu and Kashmir		8	11
Punjab	4	124	375
Rajasthan		31	199
Uttar Pradesh	2	131	176
Uttranchal		28	7
Total	10	378	827
Tamil Nadu		78	119
Pondicherry		27	14
Karnataka		26	23
Kerala	1	42	41
Andhra Pradesh		52	57
Total	1	225	254
Assam		11	9
Bihar		16	13
Jharkhand	3	28	31
Orissa	3	74	29
West Bengal	4	61	73
Meghalaya		10	9
Total	10	200	164
ALL INDIA	38	1074	1720

Source: Joint Plant Committee (JPC)

#### **Drilling Work by ONGC at Oil Wells**

582. SRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL:  
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any

review of the drilling works done by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation at oil wells,

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

(c) the provisions made for the monitoring of drilling work at oil wells, and

(d) the machinery available to implement these provisions appropriately?



THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURALI DEORA): (a) to (d) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas reviews the activities of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) on quarterly basis through Quarterly Performance Review Meetings, which includes drilling performance of ONGC. In addition, as per provision of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC), the drilling performance is reviewed by the Managing Committee (MC), wherein two representatives of the Government are members. Further, the drilling progress and performance is monitored by Director General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) through Daily Progress Report, Well Testing Report etc The MC is appraised about the outcome of drilling.

**Survey for Laying Rail Line from  
Ghanauli to Dehradun**

583. SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to conduct a survey for laying of railway line from Ghanauli to Dehradun via Nalagarh-Baddi-Surajpur-Kalamb-Ponta Sahib to connect Punjab and Uttrakhand via Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Survey for construction of a new Broad Gauge line between Ghanauli and Dehradun via Baddi, Nalagarh, Jagadhari, Surajpur, Kala Amb and Paonta Sahib has been proposed in the Railway Budget 2010-11.

[English]

**Train Accidents**

584. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:  
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:  
DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA:  
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:  
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:  
SHRI P. LINGAM:  
SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR:  
SHRI P. VISWANATHAN:  
SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of accidents, the number of casualties and the compensation paid during each of the last three years and the current year, zone-wise;

(b) the cause of each of such accidents particularly due to fog in recent times;

(c) whether the shortfall in the number of drivers and fatigue of the drivers due to over working have been the main reason for majority of such accidents;

(d) if so, the details of shortage of drivers in each zone and steps being taken to appoint sufficient drivers and other staff in Railways;

(e) the details of various inquiry committees set up in this regard alongwith the findings of each of such committees and the reaction of the Railways thereto; and

(f) the details of action taken against the delinquent officials in each of such accidents alongwith measures initiated by the Railways to avert accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

**Setting up of New Fertilizer Plants**

585. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up new fertilizer plants in public sector, cooperative sector and private sector in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of such projects alongwith the time by which these are likely to be started;

(c) whether the Government has any scheme to enhance the production capacity of the existing fertilizer plants and to review the closed units in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) In view of the increasing gap in demand and supply of urea in the country, the Government is

encouraging companies for setting up of new urea plants within the country. Towards this end, a New Pricing Policy for attracting new investments in urea sector has also been announced by the Government on 4th September, 2008. The decision regarding setting up of a new unit/plant in the country will entirely be dependent upon the assessment of the investor who may be willing to invest in this sector in view of the emerging demand production gap and the attractive investment policy. As regards expansion projects two companies viz. TATA Chemicals Limited, Babrala and INDO -GULF Fertilizers Limited in Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) have made investment in revamp to enhance their production capacity and the said units have shown their intent to double their existing capacity. Policy framework has also been provided to re-start M/S Duncan Limited, a closed plant in Kanpur, (U.P.). However, no definite time limit can be indicated at this stage.

Further, the Government has decided to revive the closed units of erstwhile Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. including closed unit at Gorakhpur (FCIL), which fall under (U.P.), subject to finalization of fully tied up revival proposals. An Empowered Committee of Secretaries constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary (Fertilizers) to look into the various possible options for revival of these closed units including closed unit in the State of Uttar Pradesh has submitted its recommendation to the Government.

#### **Upgradation of Jiradei Railway Station**

586. SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating to upgrade/modernize Jiradei station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Railways in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) Works comprising face lifting of station building and improvement to circulating area at Jiradei

railway station have been taken up.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

#### **Introduction of Superfast Train between Mirzapur and New Delhi**

587. SHRI BAL KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal to start a superfast train to link Mirzapur and New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways propose to provide a halt to Rajdhani Express at Mirzapur; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

#### **Gauge Conversion in East Central Railway**

588. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of gauge conversion works from Sakri to Jhanjharpur, Jhanjharpur to Nirmali and Jhanjharpur to Laukaha under Hazipur division of East Central Railway;

(b) whether the said projects are running as per schedule;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Railway to expedite the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Earthwork and

work on major bridges between Sakri- Nirmali-Jhanjharpur is in progress. The work of important bridge over river Kamala Balan has also been taken up.

(b) to (d) The target for conversion of this project has been fixed as March, 2012 and work is progressing accordingly.

[English]

### **Replacement of Old and Outdated Aircraft**

589. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:

SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of aircraft purchased by the Government during the last three years;

(b) whether most of the aircrafts available with the Government are outdated and needs replacement;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any policy to replace all its old and outdated aircrafts with new ones; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) National Aviation Company of India Limited (Air India) has purchased 24, 15, 27 aircraft during the last three

financial years viz. 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (upto 15.02.2010) respectively.

(b) and (c) The average age of existing Air India owned fleet is 5.6 years, which also includes 3 B747-400 aircraft of 14 years vintage and 22 A320 aircraft of 18 years vintage.

(d) and (e) With a view to replace the old aircraft, Government had approved proposal for purchase of new 50 aircrafts by erstwhile Air India, 43 aircrafts by erstwhile Indian Airlines and 18 aircrafts by Air India Express. Air India has drawn a schedule for progressively phasing out of its old aircrafts alongwith the new inductions.

### **Pending Gauge Conversion Work**

590. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pending gauge conversion work as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether any time frame has been fixed for the completion of these projects;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Railways to expedite the work of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Statewise details of gauge conversion projects with targets wherever fixed, are as under:

Sl. No.	State	Name of the Project	Length (in Km)	Target wherever fixed
1	2	3	4	5
1.	North East Region	Lumding-Silchar including alignment between Migrendisa-Ditlockchera and extension from Badarpur to Bhariagram	367	March, 2012
2.	North East Region	Katakhal-Bairabhi	84	March, 2012
3.	North East Region	Lumding-Dibrugarh with linked fingers, Haibargaon-Mairabari and Senchoa Jn.-Silghat Town	735	March, 2012

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Andhra Pradesh	Dharmavaram-Pakala	227	Nearing completion
5.	Bihar	Jayanagar-Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj	268	Jayanagar-Darbhanga-Sitamarhi completed. Sitamarhi-Baigania 2010-11
6.	Bihar	Mansi-Saharsa and Saharsa-Dauram Madhepura-Purnia	142	Mansi-Saharsa-Dauram-Madhepura completed
7.	Bihar	Sakri-Laukaha Bazar-Nimali and Saharsa-Forbesganj	206.06	Sakri-Laukha Bazar is targeted for March' 2012.
8.	Gujarat	Bharuch-Sarni-Dahej	62.36	2010-11
9.	Gujarat	Bhildi-Viramgam	157	Viramgam-Mehsana-Patan completed.
10.	Gujarat	Bhuj-Naliya with extrn. to Vayor	125	Not fixed
11.	Gujarat	Pratapnagar-Chhota Udepur	99.27	2010-11
12.	Gujarat	Rajkot-Veraval, Wansjalila to Jetalsar with new line from Veraval to Somnath	281	March, 2010
13.	Gujarat	Rajpipla-Ankeshwar	62.89	Not fixed
14.	Gujarat	Surendranagar-Bhavnagar, Dhola-Mahuva and extrn. to Pipavav	387	Completed except Dhrangadhra Surendranagar which is targeted for March' 10.
15.	Jharkhand	Ranchi-Lohardaga with extension to Tori	111	Ranchi-Lohardaga completed.
16.	Karnataka	Kolar-Chikballapur	96.5	Chintamani-Chikballapur targeted for 2010-11.
17.	Karnataka	Mysore-Chamarajanagar (Ph-I) with extrn. to Mettupalayam	148	Mysore-Chamarajanagar gauge completed.
18.	Karnataka	Bangalore-Hubli-Birur-Shimoga (Shimoga-Talguppa)	630	2009-10 for Shimoga-Anandpuram and 2010-11 for Anandpuram Talguppa. Balance completed.
19.	Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra	Chhindwara-Nagpur	149.52	Not fixed
20.	Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra	Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangi	285	Gondia-Balaghat and Balaghat-Katangi completed.
21.	Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra	Ratlam-Mhow-Khandwa-Akola	472.64	Not fixed
22.	Maharashtra	Miraj-Latur	374	March, 2010

1	2	3	4	5
23.	North East Region, Assam	Rangia-Murkongselek alongwith linked fingers	510.33	March, 2013.
24.	Orissa	Rupsa-Bangripasi	90	2009-10
25.	Orissa, Andhra Pradesh	Naupada-Gunupur	90	Nearing completion
26.	Rajasthan	Jaipur-Ringus-Churu and Sikar-Loharu	320.04	Not fixed
27.	Rajasthan	Sadulpur-Bikaner and Ratangarh-Degana	394.35	Sadulpur-Ratangarh-Degana completed. Ratangarh-Bikaner 2010-11.
28.	Rajasthan	Sriganganagar-Sarupsar	116	Not fixed
29.	Rajasthan	Suratpura-Hanumangarh-Sriganganagar	240.95	Not fixed
30.	Rajasthan, Gujarat	Bhildi-Samdari (Viramgam-Jodhpur)	223	Completed.
31.	Rajasthan, Gujarat	Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur	299.2	Not fixed
32.	Rajasthan, Haryana	Ajmer-Phulera-Ringus-Rewari	294.97	Rewari-Phulera completed. Balance nearing completion.
33.	Tamil Nadu	Madurai-Bodinayakanur	90.41	Not fixed
34.	Tamil Nadu	Manamadurai-Virudhnagar	66.55	Not fixed
35.	Tamil Nadu	Mayiladuturai-Karaikudi and Tiruturaipundi-Agastiyampalli	224	Not fixed
36.	Tamil Nadu	Thanjavur-Villupuram	192	Completed
37.	Tamil Nadu	Tiruchchirappali-Nagore-Karaikkal with extr. Nagapattinam-Tiruthiraipundi	243	Trichy-Nagore completed
38.	Tamil Nadu	Villupuram-Katpadi	161	Nearing completion
39.	Tamil Nadu, Kerala	Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat and Pollachi-Coimbatore	224.88	Dindigul-Palani – March, 2011.
40.	Tamil Nadu, Kerala	Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur and Tenkasi-Virudhnagar	357	Virudhnagar-Tenkasi completed. Quilon-Punalur completed. Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur 2010-11.
41.	Uttar Pradesh	Mathura-Achnera	35	2010-11
42.	Uttar Pradesh	Aunrihar-Jaunpur	50.6	2010-11
43.	Uttar Pradesh	Gonda-Bahraich as Ph I of Gonda-Bahraich-Sitapur-Lucknow	60	Not fixed

1	2	3	4	5
44.	Uttar Pradesh	Gonda-Gorakhpur Loop with Anand nagar Nautanwa	260	Gorakhpur-Anandnagar-Nautanwa completed.
45.	Uttar Pradesh, Bihar	Kaptanganj-Thawe-Siwan-Chhapra	233.5	Thawe-Siwan completed. Kaptanganj-Thawe 2010-11.
46.	Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh	Bhojipura-Pilibhit-Tanakpur	101.79	Not fixed
47.	Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura-Bareilly and Bareilly-Lalkuan	545	Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura completed.
48.	West Bengal	Bardhaman-Katwa	51.52	Bardhaman-Balgaona – 2010-11.
49.	West Bengal	Bankura-Damodar River Project Gauge Convesion, Bowaichandi-Khanna NL, Rainagar-Chanchai NL and Bankura-Mukutmanipur NL	196	Bankura-Damodar river line completed.
50.	West Bengal, Assam Bongaigaon – Branch lines.	New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-New	419.48	Completed except Fakiragram-Dhubri which is targeted March, 2010.
51.	West Bengal, Bihar	Aluabari Road-Siliguri	76	2010-11

(d) To expedite completion of gauge conversion projects, a number of initiatives have been taken to generate additional resources through non-budgetary measures like Public-Private Partnership, funding by State Governments and other beneficiaries Besides, meetings with State Officials are held from time to time to sort out security and other related issues. Contract conditions have been modified to bring in efficiency in contract management and field units further empowered.

#### **Jute Mills**

591. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Jute Mills in the country are on the verge of collapse due to obsolete technology which has effected the growth and development of textile industry;

(b) if so, the details of other factors which are responsible for the poor state of affairs of textile industry;

(c) whether the Government has initiated any action plan for the modernisation and development of textile

industry/Jute Mills;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the amount of allocations made and the expenditure incurred on modernisation/ development/ upgradation of technology/jute mills during each of the last three years and the current year;

(f) whether the Government has any plan to equip the Jute Mills with state of the art technology; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Madam.

(c) to (g) The Government is aware of the technology obsolescence affecting the growth and development of jute textiles industry, and have taken steps to modernize the Jute Industry in consultation with various stakeholders. This includes implementation of Acquisition of Machinery and Plant (Capital Subsidy) under the Mini Mission-IV of

the Jute Technology Mission (JTM) during the XIth Five Year Plan period.

The Government has enhanced the Cap on Subsidy under the Acquisition of Machinery and Plant (Capital Subsidy) to Rs. 3.5 crore per mill in respect of existing mills and to Rs. 4 crore per mill in respect of new mills and mills in North Eastern States. This will give an incentive to the mills to modernize, upgrade technology, increase efficiency and thus reduce cost. The details of the amount of allocations made and the expenditure incurred on modernization/development/upgradation of technology/jute mills during each of the last three years and the current year is as under:-

*Scheme for Acquisition of Machinery and Plant (Capital subsidy)*

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Release	Expenditure Incurred
2006-07	—	—
2007-08	8.00	5.86
2008-09	20.00	7.46
2009-10	15.00	6.52*

#The scheme started in 2007-08

\*Till January, 2010

[Translation]

**Security Arrangements at Railway Stations**

592. PROF. RAMSHANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether special security measures are being taken at the major railway stations in the country in view of the threats from terrorists;

(b) if so, whether it is being contemplated to deploy any other force or agency in addition to Railway Protection Force for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether keeping in view the conduct of Commonwealth Games additional security measures are being taken at Agra Railway station also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Policing on Railways is the duty of the State Police which they discharge through Government Railway Police. However, the RPF Act, 1957 and the Railways Act 1989 have been amended in the year 2003 to enable the Railways, through the Railway Protection Force, to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways.

The following measures have been taken for security of passengers:

1. Important trains are being escorted by RPF/ GRP.
2. Integrated Security scheme consisting of CCTV Surveillance system, access control system, personal and baggage screening system and Bomb detection and disposal system has been finalized for important stations and the same is under implementation.
3. Dog Squads in Divisions and Zones are being augmented.
4. Commando Training is being imparted to selected RPF staff.
5. Steps have been taken to enhance the quality and content of the training of RPF.
6. Under modernization scheme, security gadgets are being procured and the weaponry being upgraded for enhancing the striking capability of RPF.
7. Regular coordination meetings are held with State Police.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Local Police and Government Railway Police have to make additional arrangements at Agra Station in view of the conduct of Commonwealth Games. Necessary assistance will be provided to police by Railway Protection Force also.

**Sale of Urea and DAP at Higher Prices**

593. SHRI DATTA RAGHOBARI MEGHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints that the dealers are charging more for urea and DAP fertilizers than their fixed prices;

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

(c) whether the Government has issued any instructions to ensure availability of urea and DAP fertilizer to farmers on time and to check the black-marketing of these products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) Under clause 21 of the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO), 1985, it is mandatory to print the maximum retail price on the bags of all kinds of fertilizers, whether

under statutory price control or out of the purview of the statutory price control. No person shall charge higher than the price printed on the bag. Any person violating this mandatory provision of FCO is held liable to be proceeded against for administrative/punitive measures under the provisions of FCO and Essential Commodities Act. The State Governments are the enforcement agencies and are adequately empowered to take appropriate action against the offender who indulge in any kind of malpractices.

Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. All other fertilizers viz. DAP, MOP, SSP and NPK etc. are decontrolled/de-canalized since 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply. Union Government monitors availability of fertilisers at State level. State Governments are responsible for distribution of fertilizers within the State. The requirement, availability and sales of Urea and DAP during the current year i.e. 2009-10 (April' 09 to January' 10) is given in enclosed statement. As can be seen, the availability of these fertilizers is adequate.

**Statement**

*Cumulative availability of Urea & DAP during the year 09-10 (April, 09 to January 10)*

2009-10 STATE	UREA			DAP		
	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	2490.00	2163.94	2144.10	925.00	831.95	828.03
Karnataka	1216.00	1203.66	1181.75	730.00	704.82	700.74
Kerala	151.20	144.16	139.15	32.75	27.49	27.46
Tamil Nadu	970.00	867.47	863.72	386.00	263.60	263.48
Gujarat	1705.00	1603.36	1591.39	749.00	688.67	665.49
Madhya Pradesh	1507.41	1497.63	1480.32	848.32	914.14	903.85
Chhattisgarh	495.00	454.92	450.29	169.50	202.63	202.56
Maharashtra	2204.00	2020.21	2005.67	1095.90	1228.04	1210.45
Rajasthan	1403.00	1222.70	1211.02	628.00	581.72	572.45



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Haryana	1810.00	1563.15	1560.69	684.00	647.29	647.17
Punjab	2350.00	2114.60	2108.01	800.00	786.30	785.56
Himachal Pradesh	60.00	48.68	44.96	0.00	2.65	2.65
Jammu & Kashmir	116.86	64.31	62.35	73.79	40.35	39.49
Uttar Pradesh	4740.00	4467.22	4427.60	1580.00	1526.24	1520.42
Uttarakhand	183.00	195.63	194.02	36.00	37.23	36.89
Bihar	1660.00	1446.43	1436.14	430.00	379.75	377.84
Jharkhand	200.00	145.26	141.30	115.00	76.66	76.66
Orissa	485.00	417.60	394.69	188.05	209.88	200.04
West Bengal	1022.77	890.57	851.41	424.50	423.89	416.11
Assam	212.40	189.25	184.24	28.20	22.32	22.31
All India	25102.84	22796.54	22545.33	9962.48	9604.17	9508.22

[English]

**Policy for Cotton and Silk**

594. SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY:  
SHRI MANOHAR TIRKEY:  
SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a proactive cotton policy and level playing field to textile industry in order to compete with other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to ban cotton and silk exports;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Government of India has constituted a working Group to formulate a National Fiber Policy. The Ministry of Textile is the nodal Ministry and Secretary (Textiles) is the Chairperson of the said Working Group. The Terms of Reference, *inter-alia*, laid down the emphasis on self sufficiency in the fiber not only to meet its own demand for internal consumption, but also for exports of fiber as also of the value added finished products. It also lays down the issue of promoting all fibers (which also include cotton fiber).

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise in view of above.

(e) As per Cotton Balance Sheet drawn by the Cotton Advisory Board (CAB), during cotton season 2008-09, total demand of cotton in the country is 229 lakh bales against the total production of 290 lakh bales. Since here is sufficient stock of cotton in the country, question of banning cotton export does not arise at present. As regards silk, the country is getting good earning from export of silk to the tune of 691.06 U.S.\$ (during 2008-09), therefore, the Government has no plans to ban the export of silk at present.

[*Translation*]

### **Charging of Higher Prices by Drug Companies**

595. SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:  
SHRI BAIDYANATH PRASAD MAHATO:  
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:  
SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA:

Will the Minister CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drug companies are charging prices of drugs more than prescribed price from the common consumers in the country;

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

(c) the total amount overcharged by each such company during the last three years and the current year;

(d) whether the Government has taken any action against such erring companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes or revises price of Scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995). No one can sell any Scheduled drugs/formulations at a price higher than the price fixed by the NPPA. A number of drug companies have been found to be selling medicines at a higher price to the consumers. In such cases, NPPA initiates action against the companies for overcharging as per the provisions of the DPCO' 1995 and the Essential Commodities Act. 1955.

As a part of its price monitoring activity, NPPA also regularly examines the movement in prices of non-Scheduled formulations. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum is noticed, the concerned manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions, action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest.

(c) The details of companies penalized for overcharging are available on the website of NPPA at nppaindia@nic.in. The details of total amount overcharged during the last three years and the current year (upto 31st Jan 2010) is as under:

Sl.No.	Year	No of cases	Overcharged amount involved along with interest (Rs. in Crore)
1.	2006-07	67	38.01
2.	2007-08	118	820.31
3.	2008-09	135	435.62
4.	2009-10 (upto Jan. 10)	84	152.84

(d) and (e) Based on detection of overcharging cases since its inception and till 31st January, 2010, NPPA has issued demand notices in 739 number of cases involving an amount of Rs. 2147 Crore (overcharging along with interest) for selling the medicines at higher than the prices fixed under DPCO 1995. Of this, Rs. 190.96 crore has been realized till 31st January, 2010 leaving a balance of Rs. 1956.04 crore to be realized. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 1868.38 crore is under litigation & pending in various courts and Rs. 37.30 crore is pending for recovery with Collectors of various States.

Based on the regular monitoring of prices of non-Scheduled formulations, NPPA has fixed prices in case of 27 non-scheduled formulation packs under paragraph 10(b) in public interest and the companies have reduced price voluntarily in case of 64 formulation packs. Thus, in all, prices of 91 packs of non-Scheduled drugs have been reduced as a result of the intervention of NPPA.

[*English*]

### **Replacement of Old Railway Tracks**

596. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have proposed to replace old railway tracks to avert accidents and ensure safety of passengers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and proposed expenditure likely to be incurred in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Track renewal which includes renewal of track components, i.e., rail, sleeper etc. is a continuous activity being taken up every year on Indian Railways, as and when track becomes due for renewal on age-cum-condition basis. 3500 kms of track have been targeted for renewal in the current year with revised budget allotment of Rs. 4293 crores.

#### **De-merger of Air India and Indian Airlines**

597. SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture concluded that the merger of Air India and Indian Airlines was an incorrect decision;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating a de-merger of Air India and Indian Airlines following the recommendations of the Committee;

(d) if so, the modalities and form of the proposed de-merger;

(e) whether there is any proposal under consideration to impose a mandatory salary/wage cut on the employees of NACIL; and

(f) the ratio of administrative expenses to operational expenses incurred by Air India and Indian Airlines respectively for the Financial Years 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 in comparison to private airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) As part of its turnaround plan, NACIL has projected proposals for savings on account of staff costs.

(f) The ratio of administrative expenses to operational expenses incurred by erstwhile Air India, Indian Airlines and NACIL is as under:—

Year	AI	IC	NACIL
2004-05	4.4	5.7	—
2005-06	4.0	5.0	—
2006-07	3.5	4.6	—
2007-08	—	—	4.0
2008-09	—	—	4.3

Since the ratio of administrative expenses to operational expenses in respect of private airlines is not maintained by the Government, it is not possible to furnish the comparative figure.

#### **Expert Committee**

598. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:  
SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Expert Committee has been set up by the Railways to oversee completion of rail projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has finalized strict time-line for completion of these projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the status of various rail projects (viz. new lines, doubling, gauge conversions etc.) on the East Coast Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Objectives of the Expert Committee set up by Ministry of Railways include reviewing progress of ongoing activities undertaken by the Railways. The Committee has held a number of meetings and a review of the progress of ongoing projects has been taken up.

(e) A Statement is enclosed.

**Statement**

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Latest Anticipated Cost	Actual Expenditure incurred upto 31/03/2009	Budget Outlay provided during 2009-10	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5	6

**NEW LINE**

1.	Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh (56 kms)	170.00	85.31	30.00	In the first phase, work for Lanjigarh-Bhawanipatna (31 Kms) has been taken up, where earthwork and bridgework are in progress. The work is likely to be completed in 2010-11.
2.	Khurda Road-Bolangir (289 kms)	700.00	77.74	28.07	On this project, earthwork and bridgework have been taken up in Phase I from Khurda Road to Begunia (36 Kms).
3.	Haridaspur-Paradeep (82 kms)	594.34	136.63	0.00	The work is being executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). 1146.39 out of 1653.69 acres of land has been acquired. Earthwork and minor bridgework has been taken up. Work on major bridges over rivers Luna and Mahanadi has also been taken up.
4.	Angul-Sukinda Road (98.7 kms)	344.00	5.99	75	The work is to be executed by RVNL through the formation of an SPV. Final Location survey (FLS) has been completed. 470.3 out of 619.23 hectares of land has been acquired.
5.	Talcher-Bimlagarh (154 kms)	810.78	27.98	10.00	FLS has been completed. Land acquisition has been taken up. Earthwork, bridge works taken up.

**GAUGE CONVERSION**

1.	Naupada-Gunupur (90 kms)	168.88	149.08	14.00	Earthwork, bridgework, ballasting and track-linking are in progress. The project is likely to be completed during 2009-10.
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**DOUBLING**

1.	Rajathgarh-Barang (20 kms)	242.87	166.36	75.00	The work is being executed by RVNL through Asian Development Bank (ADB)
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1	2	3	4	5	6
					funding. Earthwork and bridgework including the bridge over river Mahanadi have been taken up. The work is likely to be completed during 2010-11.
2.	Sambalpur-Rengali (22.7 kms)	106.54	83.41	10.00	Sambalpur to Sarla, Sasan to Sarla completed. Sasan to Rengali is likely to be completed in 2010-11.
3.	Jharsuguda-Rengali (25.6 kms)	150	30.45	35.00	Earthwork and bridgework have been taken up. The project is likely to be completed during 2010-11.
4.	Cuttack-Barang (12 kms)	178.98	104.75	55.00	The work is being executed by RVNL through ADB funding. Earthwork and bridgework, etc. including Kuakhai Bridge have been taken up. The project is likely to be completed during 2010-11.
5.	Khurda Road-Barang 3rd line (35 kms)	207.00	72.14	65.00	The work is being executed by RVNL through ADB funding. Earthwork and bridgework, etc. have been taken up. The project is likely to be completed in March, 2011.
6.	Sambalpur-Titlagarh (182 kms)	474.25	3.3	3.0	The work is being executed by RVNL through ADB funding. FLS has been completed. Necessary planning has been taken up.
7.	Raipur-Titlagarh (203 kms)	614.35	0.00	3.20	The work is being executed by RVNL through ADB funding. Necessary planning has been taken up.
8.	Bimlagarh-Dumitra (18.3 kms)	73.77	0.16	50.00	Detailed Estimate has been sanctioned. Tendering for works has been taken up. The project is likely to be completed during 2010-11.
9.	Banspani-Joruli (9 kms)	76.22		4.00	Detailed Estimate has been sanctioned. Tendering for works has been taken up.
10.	Vizianagram-Kottavalasa 3rd line (34.7 km)	194.89	9.24	35.00	Earthwork, bridge work taken up.
11.	Kottavalasa-Simhachalam North 4th Line (16.69 km)	94.73	19.51	32.00	Earthwork, bridge work taken up.
12.	Banspani-Daitari-Tomka- Jakapura (180 km)	1142.6	0	1.0	New work included in 2009-10. Work has been entrusted to RVNL for execution. Land acquisition taken up.

The ongoing projects will be completed in the coming years as per the availability of resources.

### **Railway Tickets through Post Offices**

599. SHRI. M.K. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the proposal as proposed in the last railway budget about identifying the Post Offices across the country to issue railway tickets;

(b) the number of such post offices identified across the country, both in urban areas and rural areas separately, State-wise;

(c) whether the mobile ticketing vans have been introduced;

(d) if so, the revenue generated from such mobile units;

(e) whether there is any proposal to expand this facility to other cities/towns; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Modalities with Department of Posts are yet to be finalised.

(c) Yes, Madam. One each has been introduced in Delhi and Kolkata.

(d) Total earning of Rs. 5,26,686/- at Kolkata during the period from 16.1.2010 to 16.2.2010, and Rs. 2,47,347/- at Delhi during the period from 12.1.2010 to 16.2.2010.

(e) and (f) The facility is planned to be expanded by inducting e-ticket based mobile vans for issuing reservation tickets in Government Medical College, Hospital, High Courts, District Courts, University Campuses, IT Hubs, IITs and IIMs.

### **Handloom Weaver Association**

600. DR. SANJAY SINGH:  
SHRI S. ALAGIRI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Handloom Weavers Association has complained against the step-motherly attitude of the Government for not helping the weavers;

(b) if so, whether the Government is not providing necessary assistance to the weavers community whose three crore families are being affected;

(c) whether the Government is helping only powerloom sector at the cost of handloom sector; and

(d) if not, the amount of assistance provided by the Government for handloom and powerloom sector separately during each of the last three years and the current year so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) No, Madam. The Government of India has not received complaint from Handloom Weavers Association towards the step-motherly attitude of the Government, for not helping the weavers. The Government of India is implementing various schemes for the development and welfare of the weavers both in handloom as well as powerloom sectors.

(d) Amount of assistance provided by the Government under various developmental and welfare schemes for handloom and powerloom sectors separately during last three years and current year is as under:—

(Rs. in Crore)		
Year	Amount released by Handloom Sector	Amount released by Powerloom Sector
2006-07	195.67	63.53
2007-08	292.58	54.51
2008-09	324.44	43.08
2009-10 (till January, 10)	267.17	30.61
Total	1079.86	191.73

[Translation]

### **Textile Mills in MP**

601. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile mills functioning in cooperative, public and private sector in Madhya Pradesh, at present;

(b) the present status of such mills and the details of financial assistance provided to run these mills; and

(c) the number of workers engaged in these mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The details of the functioning textile mills in co-operative, public and private sector in Madhya Pradesh is given below:

Sl.No.	State	No. of Mills	Workers
1.	Public Sector	2	624
2.	Co-Operative Sector	3	1636
3.	Private	53	25584
Total Mills		58	27844

The Government does not provide any financial assistance to run the textile mills in the private sector. Both the mills in Public Sector have been fully modernized with the cost of Rs. 50.64 crores.

[English]

#### **Stoppage of Trains at Aluavari Railway Station**

602. SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of trains which run from Guwahati to South Indian States passes through Uttar Dinajpur District (West Bengal);

(b) whether there is no stoppage of any of these trains at Aluavari, West Bengal;

(c) if so, whether the Railways are thinking to give a new stoppage at Aluavari (Islampur);

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes,

Madam. The following south bound trains passing through Aluabari Road station (in Uttar Dinajpur District of West Bengal), do not have a scheduled stoppage thereat:—

1. 5629/5630 Chennai Egmore – Guwahati Express
2. 5929/5930 Chennai Egmore – Dibrugarh Town Express
3. 5901/5902 Yesvantpur – Dibrugarh Express
4. 2507/2508 Ernakulam – Guwahati Express
5. 2509/2510 Bangalore – Guwahati Express
6. 2513/2514 Secunderabad – Guwahati Express
7. 2515/2516 Thiruvanthapuram – Guwahati Express

(c) to (e) No, Madam. At present, eight pairs of Mail/Express trains and two pairs of Passenger trains stop at Aluabari Road. All the South bound trains listed above have a scheduled stoppage at Kishanganj, 30 kms away. Stoppage of south bound trains at Aluabari Road station is not feasible at present.

#### **Increase in Subsidy on Fertilizers**

603. SHRI B. MAHTAB:

SHRI FRANCISO COSME SARDINHA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of subsidy provided by the Government on fertilizers during 2009-2010 and subsidy proposed for 2010-2011;

(b) whether the Government has increased or proposes to increase the subsidy on fertilizers during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) BE 2009-10 in respect of fertilizer subsidy was Rs. 53580.75 crores (Gross) which has been enhanced to Rs. 56580.75 crores (Gross).

Proposals for requirement of fertilizer subsidy for 2010-11 and additional allocation in current year, will be presented along with General Budget 2010-11.

#### **Land Acquisition for Angamali-Sabari Rail Line**

604. SHRI K.P. DHANAPALAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of land acquisition work for Angamali-Sabari Rail line; and

(b) the time by the which Angamaly- Sabari Rail line is likely to be completed and become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Out of a total of 516.42 hectare land required for the project, railway has already submitted requisition for 470.86 hectare of land to the State Government. However, only 7.83 hectare of land has been handed over to the railway till now, as the acquisition proceedings have been delayed on account of representation by the local people and court cases.

(b) The time for completion of the project can be assessed only after acquisition of land by the State Government.

[*Translation*]

#### **Complaints regarding NMDFC**

605. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints from various States especially from Maharashtra have been received that the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) is not sanctioning loans to the deserving poor persons from Minorities on some pretext or the other;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) to (c) National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) releases funds to the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) for onward lending

to the eligible beneficiaries belonging to minority communities in a State, if the SCAs/State Governments meet conditions like availability of guarantee of State Government, equity contribution of State Government, timely repayment of loans and satisfactory utilization of funds disbursed in the past etc. Complaints have been received from those States, including Maharashtra, which have not received adequate funds from NMDFC on account of non-fulfillment of conditions. Such States are regularly advised to remove the impediments for enabling release of funds by NMDFC to the SCAs for carrying out lending activities.

[*English*]

#### **Urban Haats for Promotion of Handicrafts**

606. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:  
SHRI S. ALAGIRI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Union Government to encourage the marketing of handicrafts in the country;

(b) the total number of Urban Haats sanctioned by the Government and become operational at present, State-wise and district-wise;

(c) the details of Urban Haats which are yet to be operationalised; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to see that these Haats become operationalised at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The steps taken by the Government to encourage the Marketing of Handicrafts in the country include: implementation of Marketing Support and Services Scheme. Under the domestic component, the scheme envisages organization of various marketing events viz. (Craft Bazaars, Exhibitions and Sourcing Shows etc.

Besides the scheme also envisages setting up of Urban Haat; Emporia; Marketing Hubs in Metro; Sourcing Hub in Clusters and providing Warehousing facility in important locations to augment infrastructural support.

(b) and (c) The total number of Urban Haats sanctioned by the Government so far is 36. The number



of Urban Haats already operational at present, State-wise and location-wise and also the Urban Haats which are yet to be operationalised is as per the Statement enclosed.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to make the Urban Haats operational at the earliest, include: monitoring the progress made at various stages by the implementing agency; periodic site visit/inspection by the officers of field offices to assess the progress of the work etc.;

**Statement**

Sl.No.	State	Operational	Yet to be operational
1	2	3	4
1.	Assam		Guwahati
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Tirupati	—
3.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	—
4.	Delhi (UT)	(i) Pitampura (ii) Dilli Haat Part-II	—
5.	Gujarat	(i) Ahmedabad (ii) Bhuj	—
6.	Haryana	Karnal	—
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	(i) Srinagar (ii) Jammu	
8.	Jharkhand	—	(i) Ranchi (ii) Hazaribagh
9.	Karnataka	Mysore	Mangalore
10.	Maharashtra	Mumbai	Pune
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Gohar Mahal	Indore
12.	Nagaland	—	Dimapur
13.	Orissa	(i) Bhubneswar (ii) Konark (iii) Puri	—
14.	Rajasthan	(i) Jodhpur (ii) Jaipur	Ajmer
15.	Tamil Nadu	—	(i) Chennai (ii) Kanyakumari

1	2	3	4
16. Tripura	—		Agartala
17. Uttarakhand	—		Dehradun
18. Uttar Pradesh	Agra		(i) Varanasi
			(ii) Rampur
			(iii) Bareilly
			(iv) Jhansi
			(v) Meerut
19. West Bengal	—		Durgapur
Total	18		18

[Translation]

#### **Profit Earned by Oil Companies**

607. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:  
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether oil subsidy was provided out of the profit earned by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and Indian Oil Corporation from the oil fields allocated to them before the private sector was allowed to enter in the petroleum sector in the year 1990;

(b) if so, the factual details thereof;

(c) the approximate profit earned per barrel crude by each of such companies during the last three years;

(d) the number of oil fields allocated to these companies before and after 1990; and

(e) the percentage of area out of the allocated oil fields from where commercial production has been started by each of the companies post 1990?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Under the burden sharing mechanism introduced in October 2003, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) meets a part of the under-recoveries of the Public Sector Oil Marketing

Companies (OMCs) on the sale of Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG. For the first three quarters of 2009-10, ONGC has contributed Rs. 6,556 crore on account of the under-recoveries.

Indian Oil Corporation does not produce any crude oil nor does it provide any subsidy to other oil companies.

(c) The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has earned post tax margin of Rs.566 per barrel in 2006-07, Rs.570 per barrel in 2007-08 and Rs.558 per barrel in 2008-09 on crude from the blocks awarded to it on nomination basis.

(d) and (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### **Crime in Kerala Bound Trains**

608. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware of the continuous robberies taking place in Kerala Bound Express trains;

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

(c) the action taken by the Railways in this regard;

(d) the total number of cases registered in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(e) the quantum of loss occurred therefrom and the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Two incidents of robbery were reported in Kerala bound trains during the year 2009 over Indian Railways. Brief details of the incidents are as under:—

- (i) On 01.06.2009, an incident of robbery was reported in train no. 2626 Kerala Exp. between Koshikalan and Bhuteswar stations over Agra division of N.C. Railway. GRP/Mathura registered a case vide crime no. 52/2009 dated 01.06.2009 u/s 392 Indian Penal Code.
- (ii) On 18.06.2009, an incident of robbery was reported in train no. 6338 Ernakulam — Okha Exp. Between Panvel and Bhiwandi stations. Government Railway Police/Panvel registered a case vide crime no. 15/2009 dated 19.06.2009 u/s 392, 34 Indian Penal Code.

(c) to (e) It is pertinent to mention that maintenance of law and order is a State subject and powers to investigate in IPC crimes are vested with Police. Prevention and detection of crime is the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments. Concerned Government Railway Police (GRP) have registered the cases for investigation.

However, to provide better security to the traveling passengers in trains and passenger areas, Railway is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways by deploying Railway Protection Force staff to escort important trains in addition to train escorted by Government Railway Police (GRP). The concerned State Governments have been requested to take effective steps to control such incidents, and regular coordination is maintained with the State Governments.

06 such cases were registered during the last 3 years. The quantum of loss occurred therefore and action taken by police are given as under:—

Year	No. of cases registered	Quantum of loss occurred	Action taken
2007	4	Rs. 1,37,850 and one bag	Cases have been registered by concerned GRP
2008	Nil	—	—
2009	02	Rs. 18,600/-	Cases have been registered by concerned GRP
2010	Nil	—	—

#### **Apparel Parks for Kerala**

609. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the apparel parks announced for the State of Kerala;

(b) whether any proposal is pending with the Union Government for setting up of new apparel parks;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the funds allotted for setting up of apparel parks in Kerala during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The apparel park project at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala sanctioned under the Apparel Park for Exports Scheme (APES) is complete.

(b) and (c) The APES was discontinued in July, 2005. However, assistance to the projects sanctioned under the APES, where work had started before 31.07.2005, continued as per the provisions of the scheme.

(d) Assistance under the APES is provided on reimbursement basis. Assistance under the APES to the apparel park project at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala during the last three years and the current year is as under:—

(In Crore Rupees)

2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
4.44	4.42	0.78	0.00

*[Translation]***Railway Line from Gujraula to Etawah**

610. SHRI DEVENDRA NAGPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal of laying a rail line from Gajraula to Etawah and Mainpuri via Sambhal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said railway line is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Survey for a new Broad Gauge line between Gajraula and Mainpuri via Sambhal, Budaun and Etah has been taken up.

**Increase in Prices of Medicines**

611. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any permission has been sought by the Pharmaceutical companies from the Government to increase the price of any medicine during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of such medicines alongwith the permission given to increase the price; and

(c) the details of medicines which prices have been reduced or have come down during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):

(a) to (c) The price fixation/ revision in respect of the Scheduled drugs/formulation is a continuous process. As per the provisions of DPCO, 1995, Pharma companies submit price revision applications to NPPA from time to time for revision/ fixation of prices of formulations manufactured by them and accordingly the prices are fixed/revised, both upward and downward. The details of prices of medicines fixed/revised by NPPA from time to time may be seen in the website of NPPA at [nppaindia@nic.in](mailto:nppaindia@nic.in). The details of the prices fixed/revised for the formulations/medicines by NPPA during the last three years and the current year upto 15.2.2010 is as under:

Particulars	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (upto 15th Feb., 10)
Total No. of Packs Approved	1020	2012	1577	1822
Price increased	131	78	190	184
Price Decreases	340	422	89	450
Price fixed for first time	522	1429	1256	1154
No change in prices	27	83	42	34

So far as non-scheduled formulations/medicines are concerned (drugs out of price control), companies are shortlisted as per the prescribed criteria in public interest. Wherever any abnormal price increase is noticed, the manufacturer is impressed upon in such cases to bring down the price voluntarily within 10% limit failing which, if justified, action is initiated under para 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995. This is an ongoing process.

Based on monitoring of prices of non scheduled formulations, NPPA has fixed prices in case of 27 formulation packs under para 10 (b) and companies have reduced price voluntarily in case of 64 formulation packs. Thus in all, prices of 91 packs of non scheduled drugs have got reduced as a result of the intervention of NPPA since its inception.

*[English]***Shortage of Fertilizers**

612. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA:

SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM :

SHRI MAHESHWAR HAZARI:

SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA:

SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

SHRI HEMANAND BISWAL:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the production, demand and supply of various fertilizers in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, Fertilizer-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether there is a shortage of fertilizers in various States and the farmers are facing hardships and suffering losses due to non-availability and delay in supply of fertilizers;

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

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to provide the fertilizers as per demands/requests of the State Governments and to increase the production and availability of various fertilizers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) :

(a) to (c) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. All other fertilizers viz. DAP, MOP, SSP and NPK etc. are decontrolled/de-canalized since 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply. Union Government monitors availability of fertilisers at State level. State Governments are responsible for distribution of fertilizers within the State.

The State-wise cumulative requirement (demand), and supply (availability) of major fertilizers namely Urea, Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP) and Complex (NPK) fertilizers during the year 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (upto April'09 to January'10) are given in the enclosed Statement-I to IV. As can be seen, the availability of Urea, DAP and MOP fertilizer has been adequate during the period. However, there is some tightness in availability of NPK fertilizers during 2008-09 and 2009-10 because of limited production and also as these can not be imported. The production figures of Urea, DAP and Complex fertilizers for the year 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (upto April'09 to January'10) are given in the enclosed Statement-V to VII.

(d) The steps taken to increase the production and smooth distribution of fertilizers are as under:

- (i) The movement of fertilizers is being monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system ([www.urvarak.co.in](http://www.urvarak.co.in)) also called as Fertiliser Monitoring System (FMS);
- (ii) Department of Fertilizers operates Buffer Stock of Urea, DAP and MOP through State Institutional Agencies/fertilizer companies in major fertilizer consuming States to the tune of 6.25 LMT, 3.50 LMT and 1.00 LMT respectively;
- (iii) The gap between requirement and indigenous production of fertilizers is met through imports; and
- (iv) New pricing policy for attracting investment in urea sector has been announced on 4th September, 2008. Further, fertilizer sector has been given highest priority in allocation of gas, for debottlenecking, expansion and revival projects in the country. As a result, it is expected that urea production may increase to 21.70 million tonnes during 2010-11 against estimated production of 20.00 million tonnes during the current year.

**Statement-I****State-wise Requirement and Availability of Urea, DAP and MOP**

Qty in ( LMTs)

**2006-07**

Product Name of State	UREA		DAP		MOP	
	Requirement	Availability	Requirement	Availability	Requirement	Availability
Andhra Pradesh	27.00	24.52	6.69	6.15	5.21	3.90
Karnataka	11.20	11.55	5.00	5.25	3.90	3.14
Kerala	1.46	1.33	0.17	0.23	1.40	1.13
Tamil Nadu	10.00	9.59	3.85	3.98	4.85	3.48
Gujarat	15.00	15.22	5.75	5.79	1.65	1.46
Madhya Pradesh	12.10	13.89	6.20	5.76	0.50	0.75
Chhattisgarh	4.90	5.93	1.38	1.59	0.52	0.67
Maharashtra	19.00	20.70	6.25	7.06	3.00	2.48
Rajasthan	13.20	12.80	5.60	4.30	0.22	0.07
Haryana	17.50	18.04	5.60	5.04	0.40	0.32
Punjab	25.00	26.16	7.90	7.60	0.90	0.52
Himachal Pradesh	0.58	0.54	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.05
Jammu and Kashmir	1.42	1.15	0.71	0.55	0.21	0.10
Uttar Pradesh	50.00	53.50	14.50	14.42	2.30	1.34
Uttarakhand	1.65	2.17	0.32	0.24	0.12	0.06
Bihar	17.50	16.32	4.50	3.29	2.50	1.04
Jharkhand	1.74	1.63	1.10	0.71	0.07	0.01
Orissa	4.70	4.44	0.98	1.16	0.92	0.85
West Bengal	12.00	12.28	4.10	3.99	3.58	2.78
Assam	3.08	2.67	0.51	0.27	0.82	0.59
All India	249.55	254.79	81.31	77.57	33.27	24.82

**Statement-II***State-wise Requirement and Availability of Urea, DAP and MOP*

(LMT)

**2007-08**

Product Name of State	UREA		DAP		MOP	
	Requirement	Availability	Requirement	Availability	Requirement	Availability
Andhra Pradesh	27.50	26.84	8.24	7.16	5.55	4.52
Karnataka	12.80	13.63	5.80	4.54	4.00	3.70
Kerala	1.40	1.44	0.28	0.18	1.40	1.19
Tamil Nadu	9.85	9.68	4.25	3.35	4.90	4.85
Gujarat	17.25	18.37	5.80	6.76	1.70	1.82
Madhya Pradesh	13.75	14.76	7.50	6.82	1.10	0.76
Chhattisgarh	5.90	6.17	1.70	1.38	0.74	0.69
Maharashtra	21.20	23.05	7.05	6.45	3.05	3.46
Rajasthan	14.70	13.83	6.05	5.51	0.23	0.23
Haryana	18.75	19.30	5.85	6.80	0.50	0.34
Punjab	25.00	26.97	8.00	9.14	0.95	0.58
Uttar Pradesh	55.00	54.37	15.50	14.89	3.00	1.27
Uttarakhand	2.30	2.42	0.32	0.23	0.18	0.05
Himachal Pradesh	0.61	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.05
Jammu and Kashmir	1.40	1.19	0.84	0.33	0.28	0.07
Bihar	20.00	19.40	4.25	3.30	2.05	1.19
Jharkhand	2.10	1.67	0.90	0.75	0.13	0.08
Orissa	5.50	5.19	1.25	1.79	1.20	1.05
West Bengal	12.95	12.45	4.55	3.80	4.00	2.76
Assam	2.30	1.99	0.70	0.08	0.85	0.40
All India	271.70	274.26	89.21	83.40	36.13	29.28

**Statement-III***Cumulative Requirement and Availability of Fertilizers during the year 2008-09*

Qty. in LMTs

**2008-09**

State	Urea		DAP		MOP		Complex	
	Requirement	Availability	Requirement	Availability	Requirement	Availability	Requirement	Availability
Andhra Pradesh	27.50	27.84	8.50	9.98	5.85	6.27	20.50	16.50
Karnataka	13.50	12.88	6.05	8.12	4.55	5.14	11.17	8.44
Kerala	1.49	1.68	0.31	0.24	1.33	1.53	1.72	1.85
Tamil Nadu	10.37	11.28	4.31	3.85	4.84	5.95	3.62	3.55
Gujarat	18.65	18.69	7.10	8.24	1.90	2.26	4.39	4.92
Madhya Pradesh	15.75	13.83	8.25	8.31	1.20	1.17	4.35	2.20
Chhattisgarh	5.40	5.23	1.75	2.31	0.77	0.95	1.31	1.23
Maharashtra	23.25	22.84	8.60	10.19	3.70	5.17	15.65	10.40
Rajasthan	15.10	13.21	5.60	5.90	0.33	0.32	1.42	0.67
Haryana	19.90	17.59	6.00	6.69	0.46	0.47	0.67	0.31
Punjab	25.50	26.28	8.10	8.82	0.95	0.98	1.01	0.59
Himachal Pradesh	0.65	0.66	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.06	0.44	0.40
Jammu and Kashmir	1.35	1.28	0.80	0.59	0.33	0.14	0.00	0.01
Uttar Pradesh	55.00	55.74	15.50	15.12	2.50	2.79	10.50	7.44
Uttarakhand	2.30	2.22	0.35	0.31	0.18	0.08	0.45	0.51
Bihar	21.25	18.33	4.25	4.12	1.90	2.28	3.60	2.59
Jharkhand	2.00	1.57	1.05	0.80	0.13	0.16	0.40	0.35
Orissa	5.50	4.74	2.00	1.89	1.35	1.53	2.88	2.66
West Bengal	13.00	11.94	4.86	4.03	4.15	4.80	7.49	7.29
Assam	2.40	2.30	1.03	0.14	1.06	1.08	0.30	0.06
All India	281.34	270.88	94.83	99.78	37.86	43.34	92.32	72.26

\$Excludes 10.4 LMT of urea extra sold in March, 2008 (March, 08 requirement 10.36 LMT, the sales was 22.76 LMT)

Note: DOF started monitoring of complex fertiliser w.e.f. Kharif, 2008.



**Statement-IV***Cumulative Requirement and Availability of Fertilizers during the year 2009-10 (April'09 to January'10)*

Qty. in ('000) MTs

**2009-10**

State	Urea		DAP		MOP		Complex	
	Requirement	Availability	Requirement	Availability	Requirement	Availability	Requirement	Availability
Andhra Pradesh	2490.00	2163.94	925.00	831.95	560.00	544.82	1940.00	1604.51
Karnataka	1216.00	1203.66	730.00	704.82	452.00	551.00	995.00	860.79
Kerala	151.20	144.46	32.75	27.49	142.00	146.34	167.25	185.96
Tamil Nadu	970.00	867.47	386.00	263.60	496.00	458.74	332.00	529.26
Gujarat	1705.00	1603.36	749.00	688.67	202.00	219.65	415.00	360.27
Madhya Pradesh	1507.41	1497.63	848.32	914.14	119.46	131.03	354.56	204.88
Chhattisgarh	495.00	454.92	169.50	202.63	78.40	72.40	129.55	80.78
Maharashtra	2204.00	2020.21	1095.90	1228.04	470.70	607.21	1235.00	867.32
Rajasthan	1403.00	1222.70	628.00	581.72	32.00	49.65	130.00	77.16
Haryana	1810.00	1563.15	684.00	647.29	47.00	73.20	43.00	36.87
Punjab	2350.00	2114.69	800.00	786.30	87.00	97.26	55.00	52.02
Himachal Pradesh	60.00	48.68	0.00	2.65	5.50	5.24	45.00	30.50
Jammu and Kashmir	116.86	64.31	73.79	40.35	22.84	15.47	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	4740.00	4467.22	1580.00	1526.24	275.00	303.76	750.00	688.46
Uttarakhand	183.00	195.63	36.00	37.23	12.50	3.46	45.00	29.40
Bihar	1660.00	1446.43	430.00	379.75	195.00	200.10	300.00	224.62
Jharkhand	200.00	145.26	115.00	76.66	15.00	12.02	50.00	59.65
Orissa	485.00	417.60	188.05	209.88	150.93	125.01	258.72	205.49
West Bengal	1022.77	890.57	424.50	423.89	359.00	439.92	680.80	708.71
Assam	212.40	189.25	28.20	22.32	102.20	83.89	5.50	6.47
All India	25102.84	22796.54	9962.48	9604.17	3852.66	4156.75	7972.44	6836.72

**Statement-V**

*Plant-wise annual installed capacity and production of urea for the years 2006-2007 to 2008-09 and during the current year 2009-10 (April-January, 2010)*

('000' MT)

Name of Plants	Installed Capacity as on 1.4.2006	Production			
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (April, 09 January, 09)
		QTY	QTY	QTY	QTY
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Public Sector:</b>					
NFL: Nangal-II	478.5	481.5	478.7	514.5	404.4
NFL: Bhatinda	511.5	511.4	511.4	537.5	464.3
NFL: Panipat	511.5	508.7	511.6	488.3	427.9
NFL: Vijaipur	864.6	874.5	899.9	865.9	764.9
NFL: Vijaipur Expn.	864.6	974.9	866.6	937.9	806.1
Total (NFL):	3230.7	3351.0	3268.2	3344.1	2867.6
BVFCL: Namrup-II	240.0	60.5	77.6	60.7	59.6
BVFCL: Namrup-III	315.0	246.9	251.7	128.5	186.8
Total (BVFCL):	555.0	307.4	329.3	189.2	246.4
RCF: Trombay-V	330.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	243.0
RCF: Thal	1706.8	1861.0	1832.3	1903.3	1483.1
Total (RCF):	2036.8	1861.0	1832.3	1903.3	1726.1
MFL: Chennai	486.8	473.3	440.5	405.7	354.7
Total Public Sector:	6309.3	5992.7	5870.3	5842.3	5194.8
<b>Coop. Sector:</b>					
IFFCO: Kalol	544.5	559.9	544.5	559.8	517.5
IFFCO: Phulpur	551.1	573.8	629.9	662.7	600.7

1	2	3	4	5	6
IFFCO: Phulpur Expn.	864.6	882.8	924.3	840.6	830.8
IFFCO: Aonla	864.6	885.3	875.7	986.8	829.9
IFFCO: Aonla Expn.	864.6	880.5	989.3	1018.1	830.8
Total (IFFCO):	3689.4	3782.3	3963.7	4068.0	3609.7
KRIBHCO: Hazira	1729.2	1714.5	1739.7	1743.2	1490.7
Total Coop. Sector	5418.6	5496.8	5703.4	5811.2	5100.4
Total (Pub+Coop.)	11727.9	11489.5	11573.7	11653.5	10295.2
<b>Private Sector:</b>					
GSFC: Vadodara	370.6	253.6	240.8	236.3	245.1
SFC: Kota	379.0	361.1	380.9	395.5	314.3
DIL: Kanpur	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
ZIL: Goa	399.3	402.5	395.4	412.4	370.8
SPIC: Tuticorin	620.0	645.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
MCF: Mangalore	380.0	370.1	379.6	379.3	344.5
GNFC: Bharuch	636.0	626.2	670.3	592.3	582.9
IGF: Jagdishpur	864.6	1027.8	880.3	1068.6	907.3
NFCL: Kakinada-I	597.3	726.9	757.2	768.9	622.7
NFCL: Kakinada-II	597.3	597.2	597.2	609.1	583.8
CFCL: Gadepan-I	864.6	973.6	1004.4	909.8	858.9
CFCL: Gadepan-II	864.6	952.0	995.5	1008.3	838.1
TCL: Babrala	864.6	1010.7	1069.7	1023.8	1062.9
KSFL: Shahjhanpur	864.6	872.1	913.2	864.3	799.6
Total Private Sector:	8302.5	8819.3	8284.5	8268.6	7530.9
Total (Pub.+Coop.+Pvt.):	20030.4	20308.8	19858.2	19922.1	17826.1

**Statement-VI**

*Plant-wise installed capacity and production of DAP for the years 2006-2007 to 2008-09 and during the current year 2009-10 (April-January, 2010)*

('000' MT)

Name of Plants	Annual Installed Capacity	Production			
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (April, 09 January, 09)
<b>Coop. Sector:</b>					
IFFCO: Kandla	1200.0	804.3	438.3	214.7	722.7
IFFCO: Paradeep	1500.0	418.0	593.2	436.5	337.1
Total Co-op Sector	2700.0	1222.3	1031.5	651.2	1059.8
<b>Private Sector</b>					
GSFC: Vadodara	165.0	14.2	87.9	43.5	0.0
ZIL: Goa	330.0	198.2	212.5	205.0	300.8
SPIC: Tuticorin	475.0	286.4	71.5	0.0	0.0
MCF: Mangalore	180.0	203.9	211.4	158.3	159.0
TCL: Haldia	675.0	452.1	237.6	147.8	183.5
GSFC: Sikka-I	588.0	845.3	780.6	630.5	819.7
GSFC: Sikka-II	396.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total (Sikka-I and II)	984.0	845.3	780.6	630.5	819.7
CFL: Kakinada	670.0	616.1	567.9	518.2	462.5
Hindalco Indus: Dahej	400.0	190.9	131.2	168.6	140.8
PPL: Paradeep	720.0	822.4	879.8	470.2	612.7
Total Private Sector	4599.0	3629.5	3180.4	2342.1	2679.0
Total (Co-op+Pvt.)	7299.0	4851.8	4211.9	2993.3	3738.8

Production of GSFC: Sikka-I and II are combined

**Statement-VII**

*Product-wise annual installed capacity and production of Complex Fertilizers*

('000' MTs)

Product Name	Installed Capacity	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (April, 09 January, 09)
		QTY	QTY	QTY	QTY
1	2	3	4	5	6
20:20	1146.0	2493.7	1480.9	2542.6	2908.7
15:15:15	300.0	482.9	468.2	471.0	412.8

1	2	3	4	5	6
20:8:20.8	361.0	35.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
17:17:17	840.0	57.1	35.2	0.0	0.0
10:26:26	675.4	1476.5	1970.3	2328.0	1776.8
12:32:16	860.0	1597.0	989.4	882.0	581.8
14:35:14	200.0	402.0	61.0	169.3	614.2
19:19:19	240.0	305.7	249.6	32.1	0.0
28:28	200.0	368.1	391.1	207.1	243.9
16:20	170.0	183.8	153.4	158.4	186.3
23:23	230.0	62.4	51.5	57.9	82.2
Total (Compl.):	5222.4	7464.5	5850.6	6848.4	6806.7

#### **Jiribam-Tupul Railway Line**

613. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work progress in Jiribam-Tupul railway line is very slow;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which the said Railway line is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Railways have any proposal to extend this line upto Imphal and Moreh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The progress of Jiribam-Tupul rail line has been slow due to adverse law and order conditions in the area, difficult hilly terrain, inaccessible approach roads and difficulties in making available necessary land by the State Government.

(c) to (e) It has already been decided to extend Jiribam-Tupul rail line upto Imphal. The completion of Jiribam-Tupul is targeted for March, 2014 and Tupul-Imphal for March, 2016. There is no proposal for extension of line beyond Imphal at present.

#### **Change in the Name of High Court**

614. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is considering any proposal to change the names of some High Courts following new nomenclatures of the cities where they are located;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) The proposals of change of names of the 'Bombay High Court' as the 'Mumbai High Court', the 'Calcutta High Court' as the 'Kolkata High Court', the 'Gauhati High Court' as the 'Guwahati High Court' and the 'Madras High Court' as the 'Chennai High Court' is under consideration of the Government.

#### **Auction of Oil and Gas Exploration Blocks under NELP**

615. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is planning for auction of the oil and gas exploration blocks under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) to increase the production of crude oil and natural gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new exploration blocks include Surat region and rest of Gujarat;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the awarding of such blocks to companies would have any effect on ecology of the areas; and

(f) if so, the action plan for the maintenance of the ecological balance at these places?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) The eighth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII) was launched on 9.4.2009. 70 blocks (24 deepwater blocks, 28 shallow water blocks, 18 onland blocks) were offered under NELP-VIII. Bids were opened on 12.10.2009. 76 bids have been received for 36 blocks.

(c) and (d) 2 shallow water blocks in Gujarat-Kutch region and 8 onland (Type-S) blocks in Cambat Basin of Gujarat were offered under NELP-VIII.

(e) and (f) No, Madam, Blocks are awarded after obtaining necessary clearances from Ministry of Environment and Forests and operator carries out

Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study before starting Exploration and Production (E&P) activities in the awarded blocks.

#### **Construction of ROB/RUB in Karnataka**

616. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received from the State Government of Karnataka for constructions of rail over/under bridges in the State;

(b) whether these proposals are pending for clearance;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) A Statement is attached.

#### **Statement**

Sl. No.	Details of Proposal Received from the State Government of Karnataka	Agency	Status of clearance of proposal and the time by which proposals are likely to be completed
1	2	3	4

#### **SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAYS**

1	Construction of new ROB 1 × 26.33m, PSC I girder between Mugada and Londa station at SH 34 Chainage 38.145.	KRDCL	General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) was received on 13.10.2008, which had been returned with observation on 18.11.2008. Centage charge and compliance of the same awaited from KRDCL
2	Construction of new ROB 1 × 25.65m PSC-I girder between DWR-MGD station at SH 34 change 5.520	KRDCL	
3	Construction of new ROB 1 × 25.68 m PSC I girder between MGD-LD station at SH 34 change 22.150.	KRDCL	
4	Proposed construction of RUB in Lieu of LC No. 40 near Tumkur.	TUDA	GAD has been approved in principle on 07.12.2009. Letter written to State Government to Remit Estimate charges.TUDA is yet to deposit the same.

1	2	3	4
5.	Construction of ROB across Bellary-Rayadurga Railway line	BUDA	Feasibility report awaited from Division.
6.	Proposed construction of ROB in Lieu of LC No. 271/E2 @ Rly Km 448/4-5 on SBC-UBL section.	KRDCL	GAD has been received on 12.02.2010 and processed for feasibility report from Division.
7.	Proposed construction of RUB in lieu of LC No. 261 at Km 423/1-2 between Yelvigi and Kalas.	KSHAI	GAD is under scrutiny. It may take about three month, if found technically suitable.
8.	ROB @ Ch. 33+835.990@ Rly Km 182/000-100 on HPT-BAY section.	KSHAI	GAD has been returned with observation on 18.11.08. Centage charges and compliance are awaited from KSHAI.
9.	Construction of ROB @ road Ch 23.140 near Tiptur Rly (Tumkur-ASK section) crossing.	KRDCC	Proposal received on 08.12.08. KRDCC was advised to conduct site feasibility with division and submit GAD with centage charges. The same is awaited from KRDCC.
10.	Construction of ROB @ road Ch 36.550 near Dubba Rly crossing in Tumkur-ASK section.	KRDCC	
11.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 326/15-327/02x2000 clear span 2x2000 with PSC girder DVG to HRR Urban Development Authority.	DUDA	GAD has been approved. CAO/CON/is the executing agency. DUDA has been requested to deposit the balance centage charges and estimate cost, which is awaited.
12.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 13/300-400 in lieu of LC no. 11, CSDR-Ynk.	BBMP	The proposal has been sanctioned in works programme 2009-10.
13.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 343/000-100 in lieu of LC no. 134 KJM Yard.	BBMP	The proposal has been sanctioned in works programme 2000-01.
14.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 4/500-600 in lieu of LC no. 5 SBC-MYS.	BBMP	The proposal has been sanctioned in works programme 2006-07.
15.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 3/800-900 in lieu of LC no. 4 SBC-MYS.	BBMP	The proposal has been sanctioned in works programme 2006-07.
16.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 348/300-400 in lieu of LC no. 138 SBC-JTJ.	BBMP	The proposal has been sanctioned in works programme 2009-10.
17.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 212/600-700 in lieu of LC no. 142 YPR-BYPL.	BBMP	The proposal has been sanctioned in works programme 2006-07.

1	2	3	4
18.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 345/800-900 in lieu of LC no. 136/B SBC-JTJ.	BBMP	The proposal has been sanctioned in works programme 2000-01.
19.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 15/700-800 in lieu of LC no. 11 YNK-YPR.	BBMP	The proposal has been sanctioned in works programme 2009-10.
20.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 337/300-400 in lieu of LC no. 133 SBC-JTJ.	BBMP	The proposal has been sanctioned in works programme 2009-10.
21.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 192/600-700 in lieu of LC no. 131 BYPL-YPR.	BBMP	The proposal has been proposed in Works Programme 2010-11.
22.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 13/300-400 in lieu of LC no. 10 YNK-YPR.	BBMP	The proposal has been proposed in Works Programme 2010-11.
23.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 5/800-900 in lieu of LC no. 6 Yalahanka-Chanasandra.	BBMP	Level crossing do not qualify on cost sharing. BBMP has yet not submitted the GAD and centage changes.
24.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 4/700-800 in lieu of LC no. 5 Yalahanka-Chanasandra.	BBMP	
25.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 6/800-900 in lieu of LC no. 6 SPC-MYS.	BBMP	
26.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 4/100-200 in lieu of LC no. 2 SBC-YPR.	BBMP	
27.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 211/900-212/000 in lieu of LC no. 140 YPR-BYPL.	BBMP	
28.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 214/400-500 in lieu of LC no. 140/A BYPL-YPR.	BBMP	
29.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 203/100-200 in lieu of LC no. 136 YPR-SA.	BBMP	
30.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km Anjaneya Swamy Temple at Srirampuram SBC-MWM.	BBMP	GAD has been approved and proposal under process of sanction
31.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 2/500-600 between BYPL-CSDR station.	BBMP	GAD returned with observation. Reply awaited from BBMP



1	2	3	4
32.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 341/400-500 at KJM.	BBMP	GAD returned with observation. Reply awaited from BBMP
33.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km MES circle near YNK Rly. Station.	BBMP	There is no Level crossing at this location. Proposal is to be taken on Deposit terms Concept plan and GAD have yet to be submitted by BBMP
34.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 12/700-800 near KGI Old Town.	BBMP	
35.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 2/800-900 between SBC-NHY Station.	BBMP	
36.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 2/800-900 at MWM Rly. Station.	BBMP	
37.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 3/100-200 at between SBC-YPR Station.	BBMP	
38.	Proposed construction of ROB at YPR Rly. Station.	BBMP	
39.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 339/500-600 between Whitefield-KJM station.	BBMP	
40.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 1/88-2/000 at Binny Mill.	BBMP	
41.	Proposed construction of ROB at Fountain Circle near City Rly. Station, i.e. near SBC station city.	BBMP	
42.	Proposed construction of ROB at Okalipuram near City Railway Station i.e. near SBC station city.	BBMP	
43.	Proposed construction of ROB at Km 11/0-200 Channasandra-Yalahanka.	BBMP	

**South Central Railway**

44.	Proposed construction of ROB/RUB in lieu of 4 level crossing nos. 43, 43A, and 41 on Vikkrabad -Parli section and 218 on Guntkal-Wadi section.	State Government	Proposal of RUB in lieu of level crossing no. 43 and 43 A has been proposed in Works Programme 2010-11. However, in case of LC No. 41 and 218 the State Government has not submitted the
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1	2	3	4
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complete under taking closure of LC and other documents hence, the proposal has not been considered.

### Southern Railway

45. Proposed construction of ROB at LC No. 293A km 882/800-900 between Ullal and Mangalore Station.	State Government	The proposal has been proposed in Works Programme 2010-11.
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### Vacant Posts in Railways

617. SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of vacancies in various categories in Railways during the last three years and current year, Zone-wise;

(b) the action taken to fill up these vacancies;

(c) whether there is no fresh recruitment of workmen in proportionate to the expansion of Railways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Details of Railway-wise and Zone-wise vacancies for the last three years including the current year are as follows:—

Zone	Vacancies as on 01.04.07	Vacancies as on 01.04.08	Vacancies as on 01.04.09
1	2	3	4
Central	12496	11841	11314
Eastern	12799	13955	12864
East Central	14765	16567	17231
East Coast	8210	9626	9797
Northern	16434	17010	19219
North Central	8905	9523	9131
North Eastern	3433	4941	5799
Northeast Frontier	9072	11185	8957

1	2	3	4
North Western	8560	8474	7301
Southern	7130	7845	7949
South Central	10403	11743	10614
South Eastern	12264	12414	11645
South East Central	9615	8685	9959
South Western	8050	8745	8616
Western	15810	9253	11001
West Central	7643	8189	8416
Total	165589	169996	169813

(b) to (d) Any large organization like the Railway will have vacancies at any point of time. Arising and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. Vacancies arise due to normal retirement, voluntary retirements, deaths, promotions etc. Vacancies are filled in primarily through open market recruitments, promotions and compassionate ground appointments, which are done through Railway Recruitment Boards or by the Zonal Railways themselves. Other vacancies in the promotional grade are however filled through departmental promotions. The policy of the railway administration is to fill up available vacant posts promptly as per the laid down procedure. Requisite indents are placed for filling up vacancies including those against new posts, created for new/expanding activities.

### Incident of Pilots Dozing off during Flight

618. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been cases of pilots dozing off in the cockpit during Air India flights;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government against such pilots and the preventive measures taken to avoid such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Madam. There was no confirmed incident of pilot sleeping/ dozing during the flight in the recent past. However, the report that the pilots of Air India's flight IC 612 Jaipur-Mumbai flight on 4/6/2008 had slept during flight was investigated but was inconclusive. Government while recognizing the effect of fatigue on performance has prescribed flight time, flight duty time and rest requirements for the aircraft. Preventive measures were suggested to avoid recurrence of such incidents. Based on those an Air Safety Circular 2 of 2009 has been issued.

[Translation]

### **Food Testing Laboratories**

619. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of food testing laboratories set up in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether these laboratories are up to the level of international norms of the industry;

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to upgrade these laboratories;

(d) the number of laboratories likely to be upgraded/ modernized in Bihar; and

(e) the total amount sanctioned and spent for the purpose during the last three years till date and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHA): (a) and (b) As per the study got conducted by the Ministry of

Food Processing Industries 312 food testing laboratories are functioning in Public and Private sector in the country. State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement. The study observed that only few laboratories are fully equipped to cater to the domestic regulatory testing and export testing needs of the industry.

(c) and (d) Although MFPI does not set up food testing laboratories on its own, it provides financial assistance for setting up/up-gradation of food testing laboratories under its Plan Scheme to various stakeholders such as Central/State Government organizations IITs, Universities, private sector organizations. The schemes operated by MFPI are not State specific. At the moment there is no proposal to set up food testing laboratories pending for the state of Bihar. The proposals received from States and other stakeholders for setting up/up-gradation of food testing laboratories are considered as per guidelines of this Ministry. During the 11th Plan, MFPI has a target to set up/upgrade 74 food testing labs in the country.

(e) An amount of Rs. 18.70 crore was spent during the last three years for setting up/upgradation of food testing laboratories. During the current year an amount of Rs.5.48 crore has been spent so far.

### **Statement**

#### *State-wise number of food testing laboratories in the country*

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Food Testing Laboratories
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19
2.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1
3.	Assam	4
4.	Bihar	3
5.	Delhi	27
6.	Goa	1
7.	Gujarat	19
8.	Haryana	10
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6

1	2	3
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5
11.	Jharkhand	2
12.	Karnataka	21
13.	Kerala	15
14.	Madhya Pradesh	13
15.	Maharashtra	47
16.	Manipur	3
17.	Meghalaya	1
18.	Nagaland	1
19.	Orrisa	4
20.	Pondichery	1
21.	Punjab	7
22.	Rajasthan	16
23.	Tamil Nadu	30
24.	Tripura	1
25.	Uttar Pradesh	31
26.	West Bengal	19
27.	Chandigarh	5
Total		312

[English]

#### Setting up of Airport at Andal

620. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a large deposit of coal under the proposed airport site at Andal in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the go-ahead for the said airport was halted due to finding of coal there;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) As per the regional exploration done by the Geological Survey of India in the area about 1400 million tonnes of coal reserves are present in Andal area, located in Raniganj coalfields in West Bengal. The proposed airport project area falls in the southeast part of the Raniganj Coalfield and covers a part of ECL leasehold area.

(c) to (e) Government of India have accorded 'in-principle' approval of setting up of domestic Greenfield airport at Andal-Faridpur blocks of Bardhaman District in West Bengal subject to the Government of West Bengal addressing the concern of Coal India Limited in the year 2008. Government of West Bengal had informed that the issues raised by the Coal India Limited were discussed at length and the issues were satisfactorily resolved on the basis of realignment of the boundaries of the project, without disturbing the alignment of the airport itself.

#### Catering Policy in Railways

621. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:  
SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:  
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering several modalities to bring changes in its catering policy as promised in Budget Speech for 2009-2010;

(b) if so, whether steps being taken to simplify the licensing systems for vendors in a bid to avoid monopoly of the big players and encourage the small players; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The catering policy of Railway is under review.

#### Maintenance of Railway Stations

622. SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether maintenance of stations and trains in Karnataka is not upto the mark;

(b) if so, the details of surprise inspections carried out by senior officers during the last six months in railway stations and the results thereof;

(c) the details of remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the time by which such shortcomings are likely to be rectified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) All Railway stations in State of Karnataka and trains passing/terminating/originating to/from Karnataka State are maintained as per schedule. Regular inspections of stations and trains are carried out by Railway officials at different levels periodically. Any deficiency noticed is rectified accordingly.

#### **Overcharging by Drug Companies**

623. SHRI PURNMASI RAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) has detected 655 cases of overcharging by drug companies in non-scheduled drugs and raised demands involving Rs. 1,994.16 crore as on 31 March, 2009;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to recover the dues from the drug companies; and

(c) the measures taken by the NPPA to strictly monitor the prices of the non-scheduled formulations in order to check unwarranted increase in the prices of drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) As intimated by the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA), no case of overcharging by the drug companies in non-scheduled drugs has been detected by them. However, based on detection of overcharging in respect of scheduled formulations, till 31st January, 2010, NPPA has issued demand notices in 739 number of cases involving Rs. 2147 Crore (overcharged amount alongwith interest) for selling the scheduled medicines at higher price than the prices fixed under the

Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. Of this, Rs. 190.96 crore has been recovered till 31st January, 2010 leaving a balance of Rs. 1956.04 crore yet to be realized. Of this an amount of Rs. 1868.38 crore is under litigation and pending in courts and Rs. 37.30 crore is pending for recovery with Collectors of various States.

(c) As a part of its price monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-scheduled formulations. Wherever a price increase of more than 10% per annum is noticed, the concerned manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed criteria Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995, action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of formulation in public interest. Based on the monitoring of prices of non-scheduled formulations, NPPA has fixed prices in case of 27 non-scheduled formulation packs under paragraph 10(b) and the companies have reduced price voluntarily in case of 64 formulation packs. Thus, in all, prices of 91 packs of non-scheduled drugs have got reduced as a result of the intervention of NPPA.

*[Translation]*

#### **Development of Jabalpur Airport**

624. SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh had allotted free of cost land for development of Jabalpur Airport;

(b) if so, whether development works like terminal building, night landing facilities have been completed after allotment of land; and

(c) if not, the time by which the said work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) State Government of Madhya Pradesh has not handed over the 214 of acres land to Airports Authority of India (AAI) so far for, expansion of runway and other facilities at Jabalpur airport.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]***Bird-hit Incidents**

625. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), Delhi has not enough manpower to scare away birds from its runway resulting in large number of bird-hit accidents every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of bird-hit incidents at IGIA during the last two years and the loss suffered as a result thereof; and

(d) the preventive measures the Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) At present, there is no shortage of manpower to scare away birds at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport.

(c) During the year 2008 and 2009, 67 bird-hit incidents each were reported. The Government does not maintain any records regarding losses suffered by individual airlines due to bird-hit incidents.

(d) Airfield Environment Management Committees have been constituted at all airports having scheduled flights operations to identify sources of bird attraction and take the necessary steps for prevention of bird strikes. The major steps taken to reduce bird-hits are as under:—

- (i) A high power National Bird Control Committee (NBCC) has been set up by Government to monitor and adopt policy decision for bird strikes prevention.
- (ii) Grass cutting and checking water logging inside the airport.
- (iii) Scaring and shooting of birds.
- (iv) Wire meshing of hangars.
- (v) Garbage dumping in covered bins and early removal thereof.

(vi) Regular joint inspection of areas around airport.

(vii) Establishment of modern abattoirs.

**Training for Porters**

626. SHRI JAYWANT GANGARAM AWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to impart training to Delhi based porters in good manners for the Commonwealth Games;

(b) if so, the details of the training programme; and

(c) the details of the porters selected for the crash programme with particulars of the lecture programme and practical training envisaged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) A training programme was held at Delhi, New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin stations for 50 licensed porters for 15 days for 02 hrs daily. The training started on 5th January, 2010. The second batch of 50 porters is being imparted training from 21st February, 2010. The training is being given in house, by a pool of selected Commercial Inspectors.

Initially 8th class pass porters have been selected for training. However, all the licensed porters would be invited to attend the training programme. The licensed porters are being educated on basic courtesy, spoken English, basic knowledge about the facilities available at the station, places of tourist interest in Delhi with facilities available, and venues of Commonwealth Games.

**Railway Line in Karnataka**

627. SHRI ADAGOORU H. VISHWANATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to conduct a survey for construction of railway line between Kushala Nagara to Hassan railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Madam. However, a survey for new line between Krishnarajanagar and Kushalnagar new line was conducted during 2009-10. As per survey report, cost of construction of 58.60 Km long new line has been assessed as Rs. 275.32 crore. In view of huge throwforward of ongoing projects, this proposal could not be considered for the present.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### **Setting up of Oil Refinery in Barmer**

628. SHRI ARJUN MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to set up oil refinery in Banner district of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a possibility of availability of crude oil even in Bikaner in addition to Barmer district of Rajasthan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Consequent on de-licensing of refinery sector since June, 1998, a refinery can be set up anywhere in India by a Private or Public Sector Enterprise depending on its commercial viability. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is in consultation with the Government of Rajasthan (GoR) on the feasibility of setting up a refinery at Barmer. For this purpose GoR has set up a high level Committee on the 19th August, 2009 for the preparation of a report on the status of oil and gas sector in Rajasthan in the context of future prospects and benefits for the State.

(c) and (d) There are 4 exploration blocks under Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, which partly fall in Bikaner district. So far, 800 Line Kilometers (LKM) of 2D & 1858 Square Kilometers (SKM) of 3D seismic data have been acquired and 4 exploratory wells have been drilled in these blocks. No oil/gas discovery has been made.

[English]

### **Deregulation of Petroleum Prices**

629. SHRI M.B. RAJESH:  
SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT:  
SHRI RAJAIAH SIRICILLA:  
SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government is considering to deregulate the consumer sale prices of petrol and diesel in the country by keeping them out of the Government control;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had any study regarding the impact of deregulation on petroleum products prices and as well as on the economy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) The Expert Group constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. Kirit Parikh to advise on a Viable and Sustainable System of Pricing of Petroleum Products has recommended, inter-alia that the prices of Petrol and Diesel should be market-determined, both at the refinery gate and at the retail level. The Government has not taken a decision on implementation of the Expert Group's recommendations.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### **Road Over Bridge at Belisa**

630. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.89 dated 19.11.2009 and state:

(a) the amount sanctioned for the construction of railway over bridge on railway level crossing at Belisa in Azamgarh district;

(b) the quantum of work undertaken under various heads so far alongwith the amount spent so far; and

(c) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) This ROB is sanctioned in Railway Works Programme as "ROB in lieu of level crossing No.29A between Sarai Rani and Azamgarh. Sanctioned Amount:

Total	Rs. 9,24,12,635
Railway share	Rs. 4,31,00,148
State share	Rs. 4,93,12,487

(b) At present work is in progress in approaches, being done by the State Govt. Work on Railway portion is yet to start. The tender for railway portion is under finalization.

(c) The work is targeted for completion by March 2011.

[English]

#### **Infrastructure at Rajkot Airport**

631. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of expansion of infrastructure facilities at Rajkot Airport in Gujarat;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up new airport in Gujarat;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government would consider expanding infrastructural facilities and providing more air connectivity with different countries of the world in view of tourist influx in Rajkot, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) have a plan to construct a new terminal building for handling 250 passengers and construction of an apron and taxiway at Rajkot airport.

(b) and (c) State Government of Gujarat has proposed to establish new Greenfield airport near Rajkot and Ahmedabad (Dholera). AAI has been assigned the responsibility of preparing Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Dholera project.

The proposed site for construction of new Greenfield airport at Rajkot was found feasible. The State Government has been requested to plot the proposed area in Survey of India 1:50000 map for further examination.

(d) and (e) AAI have extensive development plan for Rajkot airport which includes expansion of runway and construction of new terminal building. Railway Authorities were approached for the lease acquisition of land for the purpose of runway extension for the operation of Airbus A-320 type of aircraft without load penalty. Railway Authorities have informed that the proposal will cost about Rs. 35 crores for the relocation of staff quarters on the proposed land besides the lease cost of the land. The State Highway passing through the runway extended central line needs to be diverted. The State Government has already been requested for the same. Provision of more connectivity with different countries of the world may be considered after the expansion and development of this airport and commitment of airline operators as per their commercial judgement.

#### **Role of Private Players in Railways**

632. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:  
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways and considering to open various aspects in the railways for private players;

(b) if so, the details of the areas proposed to be opened for private players;

(c) whether the Railways have been facing a paucity of funds;

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

(e) the measures taken by the Railways in this regard?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Certain areas such as development of world-class stations, establishment of super specialty hospitals/medical colleges, setting up of manufacturing units for rolling stock, setting up of perishable cargo centres and infrastructure projects for port connectivity through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) and several activities in catering/tourism and hospitality area have been identified for possible execution through public-private partnership/Joint Venture/Special Purpose Vehicle route.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) As per Vision 2020 Document of Ministry of Railways, capacity augmentation and modernization of railways would require around Rs. 14,00,000 crore over the next 10 years. Requirement of funds on this scale cannot be met by internal generation alone. A judicious mix of internal generation, prudent borrowing, PPP initiatives and budgetary support is needed.

(e) Planning and resource mobilisation is a continuous and ongoing exercise in which all avenues of resources are tapped. Some of the measures already taken to mobilise resources include: borrowing through Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC), licensing of private operators to enter rail-borne container business, Wagon Investment Schemes and partnership with State Governments and private sector bodies through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode, for rail Infrastructure projects.

#### **Installation of Landing System at IGI Airport**

633. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sophisticated and state-of-art landing system has been installed at Delhi Airport recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the amount spent thereon;

(c) whether the landing system is not functioning properly; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) State-of-art Instrument Landing System have been put into operation at runways 29 and 11 at IGI airport, Delhi.

(b) AAI has provided ground complement of CAT IIIB Instrument Landing System (ILS) at new runway 29/11 along with 2nd Surface Movement Radar (SMR) and augmentation of Advance Surface Movement Guidance and Control System (ASMGCS) at an expenditure of Rs. 20.47 crores.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Doesn't arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Rehabilitation of Bhopal Gas Victims**

634. SHRI BHOOPENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any action plan of 982.75 crore rupees for medical, social, economic and environmental rehabilitation of Bhopal gas victims; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh had submitted a Memorandum on a new Plan of Action for the relief and rehabilitation of Bhopal Gas Victims with an outlay of Rs.982.75 crore to the Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted to oversee matters related to Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster in its meeting held on 11th June,2008. As directed by the GoM, the Plan of Action was referred to the Planning Commission on 1st August,2008 for comments. The Planning Commission had sought clarifications on certain aspects of the Plan of Action on 13.3.2009, which were duly replied on 9th October, 2009 after receipt of reply from the Government of Madhya Pradesh. The matter is since under consultation with Planning Commission and the latest observations of Planning Commission received on 30th December,2009 are awaiting comments of Government of Madhya Pradesh.

*[English]***Fire at IOC Depot at Jaipur**

635. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert committee probing the Indian Oil Depot fuel fire in Jaipur in October, 2009 has concluded it as 'human error';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proper safety procedure are not adopted by the various fuel depots; in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government proposes to conduct safety audits of oil installations and ensure compliance of recommendations of the Oil Industry Safety Directorate; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) An Independent Inquiry Committee under the chairmanship of Shri M.B. Lal, Technical Member (P&NG), Appellate Tribunal for Electricity and Ex-Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has determined that the immediate cause of the fire accident was non-observance of the normal safe procedure which involves sequence of valve operation in the line up activity.

(c) and (d) Various fuel depots of oil companies have adopted all safety procedures stipulated in Oil Industry Safety Directorate(OISD) standards.

(e) and (f) OISD is carrying out safety audits and inspections and monitors the recommendations for compliance. Further, in order to take preventive steps so that such incidents do not occur in future, the Ministry had convened a meeting on 3.11.2009, to review the safety and security at oil and gas installations in the country, which was attended by the Chief Executive Officers of all public and major private oil companies having installations in the country. It was, inter-alia, decided that all oil and gas installations and transportation systems in the country will carry out self safety audit

conforming to statutory norms and risk assessment, including Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) standards by 31.12.2009 and all oil and gas installations will have their safety audit done on quarterly basis. Further, all major as well as minor incidents in any such installations/ setups in the country including that of private companies will be reported to OISD.

**Railway Projects, Rajasthan**

636. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any request from the State Government of Rajasthan for the sanctioning of funds for pending and new railway projects in the state included in the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Chief Minister, Government of Rajasthan had requested for allocation of funds to the ongoing projects. The funds are being allocated as per the availability of resources keeping in view the progress of projects. During 2009-10, an outlay of Rs. 777.44 crore has been provided for the ongoing projects falling fully/partly in the State of Rajasthan.

**Land Acquisition by GAIL India Ltd.**

637. SHRI P. BALRAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAIL India Ltd. is facing land acquisition problem in some States;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) GAIL is facing problems relating to land acquisition for construction of its facilities, as also in acquiring Right of Use (RoU) for laying gas pipelines below the land surface.

(b) Very often landowners demand compensation for laying gas pipelines in their land, which is far beyond what is provided in Petroleum and Minerals Pipeline (Acquisition of Right of Use) Act, 1962, and obstruct the progress of pipeline laying work. The problem is more severe in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh.

As regards permanent land acquisition for construction of GAIL's facilities, the procedure is cumbersome and GAIL face delays in the same. Further, there are delays because of court cases. GAIL has been facing these problems inter alia in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, etc.

(c) The Ministry takes up the matter with the concerned State Government or organizations, whenever GAIL requests for intervention.

#### **Production of Natural Gas by ONGC**

638. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation is projecting a shortfall of one million tonnes in its output, targeted at 25.76 million tonnes this fiscal year;

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

(c) the steps being taken to meet such shortfall in future?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) The details of ONGC's target for the current year i.e. 2009-10 and actual crude oil and natural gas production from April'09 to January'10 is as under:—

#### *Oil and Natural Gas production for the year 2009-10*

	MOU Target	Actual production from April 2009 to January, 2010
Crude Oil (in MMT)	25.764	20.769*
Gas (in BCM)	22.25	19.241*

\*provisional figure

These figures are exclusive of production from fields being operated through JVs.

In ONGC, most of the producing fields are old and presently major producing fields of ONGC have crossed their plateau period of production and entered the natural decline phase (a natural process in the production life of oil fields).

However, ONGC may be marginally short in achieving crude oil target for the year 2009-10 mainly due to following reasons:

1. New wells under Heera Redevelopment Plan (HSC and HJ wells) could be put on production in Nov'09 and Feb' 10 respectively;
2. Less inputs in terms of side track wells in Mumbai High;
3. Less than envisaged gain from new side-tracked wells from Mumbai High and Vasai East field;
4. Decline in base production in Assam Asset and increase in water cut in major matured fields of Ankleshwar and Ahmedabad Assets;
5. Less than envisaged gain from ongoing Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) Schemes in Assam Asset and Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) Schemes in Mehsana Asset.

(c) ONGC is implementing proven new technologies under Improved Oil Recovery (IOR)/Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) projects such as various well techniques like drilling of horizontal and multilateral wells by side-track in old wells, work over, hydro-fracturing, acidisation etc. to augment oil production.

#### **Open Skies Regime with ASEAN**

639. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) is expected to firm up an open skies regime with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued to country in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Monthly Season Tickets**

640. SHRI E. G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have proposed to issue free monthly season tickets for Madrasa students;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to extend the scheme to all school/college students of Below Poverty Line;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The facility of free Monthly Season Tickets (MSTs) in second class has been extended to students attending Madrasa, High Madrasa and Senior Madrasa for commuting daily between the stations serving their place of residence and Madrasa. These MSTs are issued directly from the station on production of the prescribed certificates from the head of concerned Madrasas recognized by Ministry of Education, Government of India or the Education Department of the concerned State Government or affiliated to a recognized university.

(c) and (d) The facility of free monthly season tickets in second class is already admissible to all girls upto graduation and all boys upto 12th standard for travelling between place of school/college and place of residence.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Opening of LPG Agencies**

641. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to open LPG agencies at all Indian Oil Corporation petrol/diesel pumps across the country including Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) No, Madam. At present, there is no proposal for setting up of LPG agencies at the Retail Outlets of Indian Oil Corporation Limited across the country including Gujarat.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Merger of Airlines**

642. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:  
SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is merging some airlines in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details worked out so far; and

(c) the aims and objectives of such merger of airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There is no such proposal with the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **7 Point Action Plan**

643. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have worked out 7-point action plan for safe rail travel in coordination with Home Affairs Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these special arrangements are likely to be made and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) A co-ordination meeting with the State Home Secretaries, officials of Ministry of Home Affairs, Intelligence Bureau and Railways was held on 20.1.2010 at Rail Bhavan, New Delhi in which 7-point joint resolution was discussed and agreed to. The resolution includes holding of regular

co-ordination meetings, sharing of intelligence, tackling investigation of crimes on railways, etc. which has been sent to State Governments for implementation.

[Translation]

#### **Shortage of Technical Staff at IGI**

644. SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether flight operations at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) are getting delayed due to the frequent failure of system owing to acute shortage of technical staff;

(b) if so, the number of times the system failed at the said airport during the last three years and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for early recruitment of the technical staff at the IGIA and to provide better amenities to the air passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Madam. However, flights were delayed on account of automation system display failure on 14.01.2010 from 1733 1ST to 1930 1ST. On 26.01.2010 from 0030 to 0200 hours, two monitoring positions in Tower and two standby positions in ACC display units also failed, but there was no flight delay. There has also been no system failure due to shortage of technical staff.

(c) Airports Authority of India is in the process of filling up 164 vacancies of Junior Executives (Electronics). In 2008, 83 junior Executive (Electronics) were recruited and further selection for 87 posts of Manager (Electronics) has also been made.

[English]

#### **Supreme Court Benches in Metros**

645. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:  
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:  
SHRI S. R. JEYADURAI:  
SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:  
SHRI SHARAD YADAV:  
SHRI R. THAMARASELVAN:

SHRI GANESH SINGH:  
SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER:  
SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO:  
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:  
SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:  
SHRI JOSE K. MANI:  
SHRI ADAGOORU H. VISHWANATH:  
SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY:  
SHRI M. VENUGOPALA REDDY:  
SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:

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

(a) whether the Law Commission has suggested to set up four benches of the Supreme Court in the metros and a Federal Court in Delhi exclusively for constitutional issues to reduce the huge backlog of cases;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) The Law Commission of India, in its 229th Report, has recommended as under:

- (1) A Constitution Bench be set up at Delhi to deal with constitutional and other allied issues.
- (2) Four Cassation Benches be set up in the Northern region/zone at Delhi, the Southern region/zone at Chennai/Hyderabad, the Eastern region/zone at Kolkata and the Western region/zone at Mumbai to deal with all appellate work arising out of the orders/judgments of the High Courts of the particular region.

(c) The above recommendations are under examination in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Ld. Attorney General for India.

#### **Hike in Prices of Natural Gas**

646. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's move to strike administrative prices of gas with changeover to market

pricing has been opposed to by the Ministries of Power and Fertilizer;

(b) if so, whether this decision will have an adverse impact on cost of generation from the existing gas based plants with a bearing on consumer tariff;

(c) if so, whether the Ministry considered the views of the Power and Fertilizer Ministries' proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) The price of gas under the Administered Price Mechanism (APM) was last revised on adhoc basis in 2005. The National Oil Companies, viz., ONGC and OIL, have reported a loss on account of their gas production, which leads to lack of investment for Exploration and Production activities. Views of the concerned Ministries, Departments and Planning Commission have been sought on the proposal to revise the APM price. The issue would be decided after taking all the views into consideration.

The actual impact on cost of generation from the existing gas-based plants, as also on Government subsidy in case of fertilizers sector, can be assessed once the decision with regard to increase in APM prices of natural gas is taken. As regards Government subsidy in fertilizers sector, additional inflow to the Government on account of the price increase by way of royalty, VAT, corporate tax, dividend and dividend distribution tax would also have to be considered.

#### **Coach Manufacturing Units**

647. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:  
SHRI SUBHASH BAPURAO WANKHEDE:  
SHRI RAMESH RATHOD:  
SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated annual requirement of coaches in Railways in the next three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of coach manufacturing units under Railways and outside Railways in the country;

(c) the capacity of all coach manufacturing units, unit-wise;

(d) the envisaged annual production capacity of coach making units; and

(e) the total estimated investment on coach manufacturing proposed for the next financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Estimated approximate requirement of coaches in Railways is 4538 per year including mainline coaches, EMU, MEMU and DEMU.

(b) There are two coach manufacturing units under Ministry of Railways, viz., Integral Coach Factory, Perambur (ICF) and Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala (RCF). The two other units, viz., M/s. BEML Limited and M/s. Jessops are not under Ministry of Railways.

(c) and (d) The capacity of ICF and RCF is 1000 coaches per annum each which is being enhanced to 1500 coaches per annum each. The other two units are in private and public sectors have produced varying number of coaches depending upon their business plan.

(e) The total estimated investment on coach manufacturing facilities proposed during the next financial year is Rs. 151 crores.

#### **Railway Projects in Maharashtra**

648. DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new railway lines laid and gauge conversion of tracks in Maharashtra during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the projects are running as per schedule; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Details of railway projects completed in Maharashtra during the last three years are as under:—

**2006-07**

Latur-Osmanabad (80 km.) Gauge Conversion

Kinwat-Mudkhed (117 km.) Gauge Conversion

**2007-08**

Akola-Purna (210 km.) Gauge Conversion

Osmanabad-Kurduwadi (72 km.) Gauge Conversion.

**2008-09**

Puntamba-Shirdi (17.8 km.) New Line.

(b) and (c) The projects are being executed as per the availability of resources.

#### Action Against Satyam Computers

649. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Satyam Computers have face punitive action in United States for the violation of regulations of the United States Security Exchange Commission;

(b) if so, the impact of this action on the share holders of the company; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The successor in interest to the Satyam Computer Services Ltd. (SCSL) brought to the notice of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) that Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) of the United States of America, vide its letter dated September 17, 2009 offered it the opportunity to make a Wells Submission to a notice from the Commission for action against the company.

(b) and (c) Chairman, SEBI has drawn the attention of Chairman, SEC, USA, to the various steps taken by the Government of India and Enforcement Agencies in India including SEBI regarding action against the wrongdoers and simultaneously for protecting the company and its investors. SEC has also been requested by SEBI to keep in mind the interest of both the Indian and American investors in the company.

*[Translation]*

#### Train Service to SC/ST Dominated Areas

650. SHRI SAJJAN VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to extend the train service to the SC/ST dominated areas on no profit-no loss basis as announced in the Railway Budget (2009-10);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the places in the country including Madhya Pradesh where survey for laying of the railway lines has been completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Socially desirable projects have been taken up to provide rail connectivity, and thereby train services, in backward areas. Most of the ongoing new line projects are on socio-economic considerations. In the Railway Budget 2010-11, it has been proposed to process socially desirable new line projects in various parts of the country.

(c) A Statement is enclosed.

#### Statement

*Details of places including Madhya Pradesh where survey for laying new line has been completed in last three years i.e. 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 is as under*

Sl.No.	Name of the Survey
1	2
1.	Bhadrachallam-Bavannapalem
2.	Donakonda-Bitragunta
3.	Manuguru-Ramagendam
4.	Nadikudi-Sri Kalahasti
5.	Jadcherla-Nandyal New Line
6.	Ongole-Donakonda
7.	Jaggayyerpeta-Malacherru and Vishnupuram-Janpahad

1	2
8.	Rayadurg-Tumkur via Kalyandurg
9.	Dangri-Dhola
10.	Kokrajhar-Gelephu-(Bhutan)
11.	Pathsala-Nanglam (Bhutan)
12.	Rangia-Sandrupjjongkhar via Darranga (Bhutan)
13.	Jiribam-Imphal
14.	Naganimora-Amguri
15.	Murkongselek-Pasighat
16.	Dauram Madhepura to Pratapnagar via Singheshwar
17.	Ara-Bhabua Road
18.	Araria-Supaul
19.	Bihariganj-Kursela via Rupauli, Dhamdaha
20.	Darbhanga-Muzaffarpur
21.	Muzaffarpur-Janakpur via Katra, Orai
22.	Sitamarhi-Nirmali (Bhuttai-Sonbarsa-Sursand-Mittanrod-Charaut-Bassopatti-Jaynagar-Ladania-Laukoha-Laukchi-Nirmali)
23.	Masrakh-Rewaghat via Taraiya and Amnour
24.	Kishangarh-Jalalgarh
25.	Nawadah-Giridih via Satgawan
26.	Gaya to Daltonganj via Rafiganj
27.	Jogbani-Biratnagar(Nepal)
28.	Bhavnagar-Mahua
29.	Harij-Mahsana-Radhanpur
30.	Modasa-Shamlaj
31.	Ningala-Gadhad-Babra-Khijadia Jn.
32.	Porbandar-Porbandar Port
33.	Bhavnagar-Tarapore

1	2
34.	Bhattu Kalan-Jakhal via Fatehabad and Ratia
35.	Loharu-Bhiwani
36.	Una-Hoshiarpur
37.	Bhanupali-Bilaspur-Beri
38.	Jammu to Poonch via Akhnur, Rajaori, Bajalta
39.	Hansdiha to Godda
40.	Kandra-Namkom
41.	Bagalkot-Kudachi
42.	Gunji-Kulem
43.	Ranjitpura-Yeshwantnagar
44.	Thalassery-Mysore via Kodagu
45.	Nanjangud-Nilambur via Sultan Bathery
46.	Kayankulum-Kottakare via Adoor
47.	Sabarimala-Chenganur
48.	Katangi-Tirodi
49.	Damoh to Kundalpur
50.	Rewa-Mirzapur
51.	Chinchwad-Roha
52.	Wardha-Nandedl via Pusad and Yavatmal
53.	Wadsa-Amrohi-Gadchiroli
54.	Shirpur-Mhow
55.	Manmad-Indore via Malegaon & Dhule
56.	Extensionof Rupsa-Bangriposi to Gurumahisha
57.	Buramara-Chakulia
58.	Anandpur Sahib via GarhShankar
59.	Khemkaran-Firozpur
60.	Rama Mandi-Maur Mandi via Talwandi Sabo
61.	Ajmer-Kota
62.	Bilara-Bar



1	2
63.	Phalodi-Nagaur
64.	Pushkar-Merta road
65.	Rewari-Bhiwadi
66.	Tonk-Deoli
67.	Anupgarh to Kolayat via Khajuwala
68.	Anupgarh-Khajuwala-Jaisalmer-Ramgarh
69.	Ujjain-Jhalawar-Ramganjmandi
70.	Bari Sadari-Nimach
71.	Dindigul-Kumuli (lower camp)
72.	Jolarpettai-Hossur via Krishnagiri
73.	Madurai-Karaikkudi via Melur, Tiruppattur
74.	Morappur-Dharmapuri via Mukkanur
75.	Needmangalam-Pattukottai via Mannargudi, Madukkur
76.	Thanjavur to Ariyalur via Tirumanur and Valampuri
77.	Tiruvannamalai-Jolarpettai
78.	Erode to Satyamanglam
79.	Mailaduturai-Tirakkaidaiyar-Taramgambadi-Tirunallar-Karaikal
80.	Satyamangalam-Mettur
81.	Attipattu-Puttur (including Periyapalayan-Tiruval)
82.	Chennai-Cuddalore via Mahabalipuram and Pondicherry
83.	Erode-Palani via Dharapura
84.	Nagapattinam-Tiruturaipundi
85.	Kollengode-Trichur
86.	Aligarh-Kasganj

1	2
87.	Deoria-Kushinagar
88.	Barhaj Bazar to Faizabad via Dohrighat
89.	Khurja-Raya new line via Mat, Surir, Bajna
90.	Lalganj-Bachhrawan via Gurubakshganj
91.	Sambhal Hatim Sarai-Gajraula
92.	Meerut-Panipat
93.	Nepalganj Road(India)- Nepalganj(Nepal)
94.	Muzaffarnagar to Roorkee
95.	Tanakpur-Bageshwar
96.	Muzaffarnagar to Haridwar via Roorkee
97.	Budge Budge-Namkhana-Frazerganj
98.	Budge Budge-Pujali
99.	Jaynagar to Jamtala
100.	Park Circus to Dhamakhali
101.	Prantik-Siuri
102.	Gunjaria to Gazole via Ithar, Raiganj
103.	Mekhliganj and Haldibari and extension from Mekhliganj to Chanderabhangra
104.	Amta-Bongaon
105.	Champadanga-Tarakeswar
106.	Digha-Jaleswar
107.	Jhargram-Purulia
108.	Banarhat-Samtse (Bhutan)
109.	Hasimara, Phuentsholing (Bhutan)
110.	Buniyadpur-Kaliyaganj
111.	Barsoi-Chanchal
112.	New Jalpaiguri-Kakrabitta (Nepal)
113.	Sivok-Rangpo

*[English]***Closure of Fertilizer Plants**

651. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:  
 SHRI N. S. V. CHITTHAN:  
 SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:  
 SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of fertilizer plants in various parts of the country are closed from the last several years;

(b) if so, the details of these plants and the reasons for the same;

(c) whether the Government has taken any decision on the report of the Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECOS) constituted to evaluate investment options for the revival of closed PSUs sick units;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Five Units of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) and three Units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) in the Public sector are lying closed. Following are the Unit-wise details:

**(i) FCIL**

Name of unit	Date of commissioning	Date of shutdown	Date of Government decision to close down
Sindri	1979	March, 2002	5.9.2002
Gorakhpur	1969	1990	18.7.2002
Talcher	1980	1.4.1999	18.7.2002
Ramagundam	1980	1.4.1999	18.7.2002
Korba	New Commissioner	Not applicable	30.7.2002

**(ii) HFCL**

Name of unit	Date of commissioning	Date of shutdown	Date of Government decision to close down
Barauni	1976	1999	5.9.2002
Durgapur	1974	1997	5.9.2002
Haldia	Never commissioned	Not applicable	18.7.2002

The closed-units of HFCL and FCIL had been consistently incurring losses due to a variety of reasons including obsolete technology, design and equipment deficiencies, power shortages, problems in industrial relations, surplus manpower and resource constraints. The non-availability of natural gas further limited the ability of the units to undergo modernisation and improve energy efficiencies which were low at 15 to 21 Gcal/MT of Urea. The above factors combined with sharp increase in price of naphtha and FO/LSHS made the cost of production of urea from these units economically unviable, resulting in closure of the units.

In addition, two urea units in the private sector viz. Duncan Industries Ltd, (DIL) Kanpur and Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Limited (SPIC), Tuticorin are currently closed due to financial constraints as reported by the companies. Further, the urea unit of Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore (FACT), Cochin is also not in operation as it is uneconomical to operate under the urea subsidy regime.

(c) to (e) The Government has decided to explore the feasibility of revival of these closed public sector fertilizer units subject to assured availability of natural gas, to meet the emerging demand production gap of urea in the country. The Government has constituted an Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECOS) with the mandate to evaluate all investment options for revival of the closed units of FCIL/HFCL and to make suitable recommendations for consideration of the Government. The Government has also decided 'in-principle' to consider waiver of all pending liabilities of HFCL/FCIL against Government of India Loan and interest subject to availability of a fully tied up revival proposal for the closed units. Further, the revival of Barauni unit of HFCL is

being undertaken by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) viz. M/s Urvarak Videsh Ltd, promoted by two fertilizer PSUs viz. M/s National Fertilizers Ltd. and M/s Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. and M/s KRIBHCO, a fertilizer cooperative.

ECOS has considered various possible investment options for revival of each of the closed units and finalised its recommendations regarding the suitable options. The recommendations of ECOS are under consideration of the Government.

### **Power Failures at Airports**

652. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:  
SHRI P. VISWANATHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the recent past several incidents pertaining to power failure at airports runways has taken place;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for such power failure;

(d) whether the alternative arrangements available at the airports for such incidents were also not working;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to stop recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Madam. However, there was a power failure for 19 minutes from 1938 IST to 1953 IST on 11.02.2010 at Mumbai airport due to accidental damaging of the Circuit Cable of both the Edge Lights of main runway.

(d) and (e) Alternate sources of power (Commercial sources/Generator/UPS) were working properly.

(f) Mumbai International Airport Limited has been advised:

(i) To incorporate a procedure to check the serviceability of both the circuits in coordination with ATC/Apron.

(ii) Procedure to be designed to ensure monitoring of continued serviceability of the standby circuit when not in use.

(iii) Designing of Standard safe. operating procedure for construction work in the Vicinity of Runway, defining Do's and Don'ts for preventing accidental damaging of power cables.

(iv) Immediate Safety inspection to be carried out by MIAL safety team consisting officers from safety and engineering.

[Translation]

### **Airports under Private Sector**

653. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:  
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up some airports in private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the enormous growth in air passengers, which has put pressure on airport infrastructure, Government had pronounced a policy for greenfield airports in April, 2008 to encourage infusion of greater investment in airport sector.

So far, Government of India has given 'in-principle' approval for setting up of new Greenfield airports for public use at Navi Mumbai and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra; Mopa in Goa; Bijapur, Simoga, Hassan and Gulbarga in Karnataka; Kannur in Kerala; Durgapur in West Bengal; Paladi/Jaipur in Rajasthan and Datia/Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh.

### **Losses due to Hovering of Aircraft**

654. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:  
SHRI RAMESH BAIS:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) planes hover for very long before landing at airports while the private and foreign airlines get early clearance for landing;

(b) if so, whether owing to delayed landing these planes have exhausted much fuel and NACIL has incurred a loss of approximately 300 crores; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At some of the airports during peak hours, all aircrafts have to wait in the air due to congestion. The waiting time depends upon the air traffic at that time. The ATC does not discriminate between airlines in providing air traffic services to flights.

(b) and (c) The estimated fuel cost for the holding delay is about Rs.36 crore per annum.

#### **Facilities to Foreign Tourists**

655. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to offer special facilities to attract foreign tourists; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Government has taken several steps to promote tourism to the country. These include liberalizing the Marketing Development Assistance Scheme for service providers promoting India, organizing Road Shows in important tourist generating markets overseas, arranging familiarisation tours to India for international travel trade and media representatives to keep them updated on safety/security conditions in the country, media campaigns in the print, electronic, online and outdoor media and a "Visit India 2009" scheme, in collaboration with all stakeholders including airlines, hotels, tour operators,

State Governments for incentivising travel to India. The scheme has been extended up to 31st March 2010. Recently Government of India has decided to introduce Visa-on Arrival scheme for tourists from five countries viz. Singapore, Finland, New Zealand, Luxembourg and Japan on a pilot basis for a period of one year.

[English]

#### **Development of Airports in Himachal Pradesh**

656. SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP:  
SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for development of airports in Hill States including Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds earmarked for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which the development plan for these airports is likely to be executed and completed?

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

(b) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) An amount of Rs. 105.83 crores has been earmarked in the Revised Estimates 2009-10 and Rs. 203.52 in the Budget Estimates 2010-11 for development of airports at Hill Stations including Himachal Pradesh.

(d) Details of time line are given in the enclosed Statement.

#### **Statement**

Sl. No.	State	Airport	Name of Work/Project	Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Strengthening and extension of runway, construction of apron for AB-320 type of aircraft and construction of temporary terminal building with provision of Ground lighting facilities.	Completed

1	2	3	4	5
			Construction of new terminal building to handle 150 passengers at a time.	Completed
2.		Pantnagar	Runway extension and associated works.	Completed
			Provision of ground lighting facilities.	Completed
			Construction of fire station Cat-IV and emergency medical centre	Completed
			Provision of DVOR	Work in progress
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar	Expn. and modification of terminal building	Completed
			Expn. of apron	PDC June 2010
			Development of cargo complex	Drawing stage
4.		Leh	Construction of civil apron	Completed
			Construction of new terminal building	Transfer of land/NCC from IAF awaited
5.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Construction of a new fire station	Work in progress
			Provision of Ground Lighting Facilities	Completed
			Works relating to restoration of basic strip and prevention of soil erosion etc.	Planning stage
6.		Kullu	Construction of new terminal building	Completed
			Construction of a new apron and link taxiways	Completed
			Construction of new Fire station Cat IV and Emergency medical centre	Completed
			Provision of Ground lighting facilities	Completed
			Resurfacing and strengthening of runway	Completed
			Extn. of runway	Planning stage
7.		Kangra	Extension of runway by 600 ft.	Completed
			Construction of new apron	Completed
			Construction of New Terminal Building	Completed
			Construction of a new fire station	Completed
			Provision of Ground lighting facilities	Completed
8.	Manipur	Imphal	Expansion of apron (for 3 AB-321+1 AB300+3 ATR type of acft) along with link taxiway	PDC June, 2010

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Meghalaya	Barapani	Construction of new terminal building  Apron expansion  Construction of fire station	Work in progress. PDC April, 2010. Drawing issued and scope of work in process of approval. AAVES accorded
10.		Tura	Upgradation of the Airport for ATR opns.	Planning Stage
11	Mizoram	Aizawl (Lengpui)	Provision of ILS	Completed
12	Sikkim	Pekyong	Development of a New Green Airfield	PDC January, 2012
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	Tezu	Upgradation of Airport for ATR opns.	Planning Stage
14.		Itanagar	Development of a New Green Airfield	Planning stage
15.	West Bengal	Bagdogra	Expansion of Apron	Completed

**Revival of IDPL***[Translation]*

657. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:  
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision on the revival package for the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the IDPL has revamped its operations by launching new products and also trading in 50 other products and started making operating profits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The revival plan of IDPL is under consideration.

(c) and (d) IDPL has diversified its activities into other areas like supply of surgical items, veterinary, ayush and homeopathy products during 2009-10. It has re-launched trade sales on 21.12.2009 to keep pace with the fast changing pharma market. Apart from this, it has also launched a few OTC products.

**Strike by Lawyers**

658. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that various High Courts witness frequent closures as a result of strikes by the advocates;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Prices of Imported Urea**

659. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:  
SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of the imported urea have gone up by more than thirty percent during the last one year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the comparative analysis of prices of imported urea with the average cost of the urea produced locally from gas-based and naphtha-based plants of the country; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to control the prices of urea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) No Madam. The weighted average C and F price of urea imported during the current year (upto January 2010) is Rs. 13225 per MT as against the weighted average C&F price of Rs. 24076 per MT during the year 2008-09.

(c) The average provisional concession rate for the year 2008-09 for gas-based and naphtha-based plants are Rs. 11334 per MT and Rs. 25196 per MT as against the weighted average C&F price of Rs. 24076 per MT for urea imported through STEs and Rs. 10687 per MT for urea imported from Sur, Oman under long term Urea Off Take Agreement.

(d) Government is always encouraging production of urea in the country to achieve self-sufficiency. The Government has announced a new policy on 4th September 2008 to attract new investments. The policy is based on Import Parity Price (IPP) benchmark with suitable floor and ceiling prices aiming to revamp, expansion, revival of existing urea units and setting up of Greenfield projects. The policy aims to substantially bridge the gap between consumption and domestic production of urea in next five years subject to confirmed and adequate availability of gas at reasonable prices.

#### **Implementation of Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak Yojana**

660. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:  
SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN:  
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

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

(a) whether the Government had launched Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Yojana in the country to provide LPG connections in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of distributors appointed by the oil marketing companies in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh for this purpose district-wise State-wise and oil company-wise; and

(d) the number of LPG connections given in rural areas including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar since the launch of the Yojana?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. A new scheme of rural LPG distributor namely, Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak Yojana (RGGLVY) for small size LPG distribution agencies has been launched on 16.10.2009. Salient features of the scheme are:—

- (i) The LPG agencies under the RGGLVY will be of small size requiring lesser finance/ infrastructure.
- (ii) The distributor himself will manage the agency with the help of his/her family member and one or two employees.
- (iii) Age limit for the distributor to be between 21 and 45 years.
- (iv) All agencies under this scheme to be in the joint name of husband and wife. In case of applicants who are single the 'spouse' will automatically become a partner after the marriage.
- (v) Reservation for SC/ST categories has also been provided for.
- (vi) The selection of the distributor would be by draw of lots from amongst all candidates who have secured more than 80% marks on the criteria of financial capability and education qualifications.

Advertisements inviting applications for distributors under the scheme have been released in 8 States where the reach of LPG is very low namely, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal covering 1215 locations in the 1st phase of implementation of this scheme.

(c) No LPG distributor has been appointed as yet in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

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

[*Translation*]

#### **Allotment of CNG Filling Stations**

661. DR. RAMSHANKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government is contemplating to allot more CNG filling stations in Agra City; and

(b) If so, the time by which approval is likely to be granted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) The requirement of CNG stations in a Geographical Area (GA) is decided by the authorized entity for that GA on the basis of commercial considerations. M/s Green Gas Limited (GGL), a Joint Venture Company of GAIL (India) Ltd. and Indian Oil Corporation, is the authorized entity to undertake City Gas Distribution Network in Agra. It is in the process of opening up new CNG stations in Agra city.

[*English*]

#### **Effects of Global Crisis**

662. SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY:  
SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers lost their jobs since advent of the global economic crisis in Textile Sector;

(b) the measures taken by the Government for the social security of these workers;

(c) whether there is any measure contemplated to ensure that no retrenchment take place in the textile units which are obtaining bail-out packages;

(d) if so, whether any assessment has been made regarding the impact of global slowdown of handloom sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof indicating the increase/decrease of exports in handloom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The textile industry and trade associations have voiced apprehensions about loss of jobs in the textiles and clothing industry in the wake of global economic slowdown. However, no specific or definite number of job loss attributed to the global economic crisis has been reported so far.

(c) to (e) Government has taken several focused financial and fiscal measures for the textiles industry including the hand looms sector to counter the negative fallout of global economic crisis. Some of the important measures taken by the Government are as follows:

- (i) extension of the DEPB Scheme upto 31st December, 2009.
- (ii) Restoration of DEPB rates for synthetic textiles items such as polyester viscose yarn, polyester yarn, viscose yarn, polyester filament yarn, etc;
- (iii) Increase of Duty Drawback rates on knitted fabrics and on specified categories of yarn;
- (iv) Providing pre and shipment credit assistance in rupees as well as in dollars;
- (v) Reduction in import duties of raw materials;
- (vi) Reduction in interest rates on export finance;
- (vii) The fiscal stimulus of Rs. 1,86,000 crores; etc.

Statutory provisions and other measures are already in place to prevent workers from retrenchment, though these are not directly related to the bailout packages. These include the following:—

- (i) Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 puts restriction on lay-offs and retrenchment and provides protection to the workmen in case of lay-off, retrenchment and closure of establishments.
- (ii) The Government is implementing the Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojna through the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) which provides unemployment allowance for upto one year to those insured employees who have



put in five years of service and have been rendered jobless due to retrenchment, closure of factories or permanent disability due to non-employment injury.

### **Rail Hubs**

663. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken any steps to create rail hubs with adequate warehousing facilities and accelerate the containerisation programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) A number of steps have been taken to create rail hubs with adequate warehousing facilities and accelerate the containerisation programme;

Ministry of Railways have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Central Warehousing Corporation to create warehousing facilities near rail heads at 23 locations.

Container Corporation of India Ltd (CONCOR) a public sector undertaking under Ministry of Railways has developed a network of Inland Container Depots (ICDs) and Domestic Container Terminals throughout the country with warehousing and inter modal transfer facility.

Under a new policy announced in 2006, private operators have been permitted to enter into rail borne container business. As on date, 16 operators including Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) have taken license under this policy. These operators have also developed some ICDs with warehousing facilities.

[Translation]

### **Sale of Spurious and Sub-standard Fertilizers**

664. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the spurious and sub-standard fertilizers are being sold in the country of under branded names;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government is making efforts to make available better quality of fertilizers in different States; and

(d) if so, the details of work done so far in this regard State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) The sale, manufacturing etc. of fertilizers are regulated under the provisions of Fertiliser (Control) Order, (FCO) 1985, an order under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The specifications of various fertilizers have been laid down in Schedule of FCO, 1985. The Order prohibits manufacture and sale of fertilizers, which are not of prescribed standard.

The inspection of quality is a continuous process. There are 68 fertiliser quality control laboratories in the country to test the quality of fertilizers including the four laboratories of the Government of India namely Central Fertiliser Quality Control and Training Institute at Faridabad and three regional laboratories at Bomaby, Kalyani and Chennai. The State Governments are the enforcement agencies and are adequately empowered to take appropriate action against the offenders in terms of provisions contained in FCO, 1985 including for violation, if any in the quality of fertilizers.

[English]

### **Cost over run in Railway Projects**

665. SHRI S. S. RAMASUBBU:  
SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge number of Railway projects which are running behind schedule have accumulated cost over run of Rs. 43,000 crore;

(b) if so, the details of these projects, State-wise;

(c) whether the Railways have fixed any target for the early completion of these projects or any such projects which are identified for execution;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the identified cost over run projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (e) Railways have a huge throwforward of ongoing projects requiring about Rs. 80,000 cr. as on 01.04.2009, under new lines, gauge conversions and doublings projects across the country. Due to limited availability of resources, projects take long time in completion. The targets for the projects are generally fixed on yearly basis based on the availability of resources and progress and, many of the projects get completed in phases. The main reasons for delay have been paucity of funds, delay in land acquisition and forestry clearance, failure of contracts and contractors, adverse law and order conditions and other market forces affecting the progress. Ongoing projects undergo cost escalation on account of delays as above and change in the standard of construction and technology, scope of work, inflation, etc. No fixed time frame for completion of all the projects is feasible in such a scenario.

#### **Trade Delegation from Japan**

666. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 181 on November 19, 2009 and state:

(a) whether a high level trade delegation from Japan representing Bunka Fashion College, Tokyo visited India for high level talks in the area of fashion designing; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and decision with regard to the collaboration between the two countries taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Madam. However, the Chairman of International Foundation of Fashion Technology Institute (IFFTI), who is also the Executive Director of the Board Bunka GAKUN, Japan made a courtesy call on Director General, National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT). NIFT is a founder member of IFFTI. No trade delegation has ever visited NIFT from Bunka Fashion College in the recent past.

#### **Financial Packages to Airlines**

667. SHRI K. P. DHANAPALAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many airlines have incurred losses due to heavy fog in Delhi and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any decision to provide financial packages to some airlines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Details of Losses incurred by airlines due to fog in Delhi and other parts of the country are being collected from airlines.

(c) and (d) A Group of Ministers (GoMs) on the Civil Aviation Sector has been constituted to consider the present problems of Civil Aviation sector, including the financial situation of the airlines and possible remedial measures. In the first three meetings of the GOM, the financial position of NACIL has been discussed and an equity infusion of Rs. 800 crore has been recommended.

#### **Reservation Quota**

668. DR. KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that touts in connivance with some Railway personnel are able to corner confirmed tickets, especially during peak seasons on long route destination/prestigious trains such as Shatabadi/Rajdhani;

(b) whether the Railways have undertaken any special drive to check this menace;

(c) whether at times recommendation for Member of Parliament (MPs) for confirmation of Wait-listed (W/L) tickets are not honoured; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Some cases of touts/anti-social elements cornering confirmed tickets, with or without the connivance of railway officials, do come to notice. To prevent such activities, intensive checks are conducted by Commercial and Vigilance

Departments at reservation offices, stations and in trains. Surveillance and monitoring at reservation offices is also stepped up during peak rush periods. Touts so apprehended are taken up as per provisions of law. During the current year 2009-10 (upto January, 2010), 51192 checks were conducted against activities of touts/anti-social elements and 2085 touts were prosecuted. Railway staff, if found conniving with touts are taken up under Discipline and Appeal Rules. In order to bridge the gap between demand-supply of reserved accommodation, special trains are run, new trains introduced and the load of existing trains augmented. In addition, the public is educated through various media to desist from purchasing tickets from unauthorized persons.

(c) and (d) In order to meet the urgent travel requirements of High Official Requisitions holders, Member of Parliament (MPs), MLAs, VIPs and other emergent demands, a limited number of berths/seats have been earmarked as Emergency Quota in all important trains in different classes. Preference in this quota is given for self travel of high dignitaries. Thereafter, other requests received from various quarters are considered and the unutilised quota is released taking into account the factors like status of passengers travelling, nature of urgency like travelling on Government duty, bereavement in the family, sickness, etc. While the requests forwarded by MPs are generally complied with, but at times, it is not feasible to accommodate all such requests when the demand exceeds the availability.

#### **Chemicals in Underground Water around Union Carbide Factory**

669. SHRI B. MAHTAB : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge quantities of chemicals in underground water around the Union Carbide Factory of Bhopal have been found;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to protect the people living near the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that as per available official records, no

information is available regarding huge quantities of chemicals in underground water in soil of the Union Carbide Factory, Bhopal. However a study on remediation and removal of toxic waste from the Union Carbide Factory site, Bhopal has been entrusted to National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur and National Geographical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad. The report from these two agencies is awaited.

11.02 hrs.

#### **PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Madam, on behalf of my colleague Shri S.S. Palanimanickam I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Thirteenth Finance Commission, 2010-2015 (December, 2009) (Volume-I – Report and Volume-II: Annexes) together with an Explanatory Memorandum showing action taken thereon, under article 281 of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1718/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Economic Survey 2009-2010 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1712/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): Madam, on behalf of my colleague Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Public Enterprises Survey, 2008-2009 (Volumes I to III) (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1713/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) pertaining to the execution of the

provisions of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 for the period from 1st January, 2008 to 31st December, 2008.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 1714/15/10*]

- (3) A copy of the Competition Commission of India (Number of Additional, Joint, Deputy or Assistant Director-General, other officers and employees, their manner of appointment, qualification, salary, allowances and other terms and conditions of service) second Amendment Rules, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in the Notification No. G.S.R. 934(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2009 under sub-section (3) of Section 63 of the Competition Act, 2002.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 1715/15/10*]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 1716/15/10*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, S.A.S. Nagar, for the year 2008-2009, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 1717/15/10*]

11.04 hrs.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Madam, with your permission I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Tuesday, the 2nd of March, 2010 will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. General Discussion on Budget (Railways) for 2010-11.
3. Discussion and Voting on:—
  - (a) Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 2010-11;
  - (b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2009-10;
  - (c) Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2007-08.
4. Introduction, consideration and passing of the related Appropriation Bills.

11.05 hrs.

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

### Price rise

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now discussion on price rise under Rule 193. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): Madam Speaker, the discussion on price rise is beginning today after long drawn attrition. We wanted the discussion on it under adjournment motion, but it was disallowed, however, the request to suspend the Question Hour was admitted. So, I initiate the discussion with your permission.

Madam Speaker, the discussion on price rise is taking place for the ninth time during the last five years. In May 2004, when U.P.A. formed the Government, the discussion on price rise was held in December 2004 and this discussion has consistently been taking place ever since i.e. during the years 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008. The discussion on price rise took place thrice during the year 2006. I have with me all the dates. The discussion on price rise took place on 9.12.2004 on 16.08.2005, then thrice in a year i.e. on 22.5.2006, 27.7.2006 and 30.11.2006. Then the discussion ensued on 15 May 2007, 16.04.2008 and after constitution of 15th Lok Sabha discussion on this issue was held on 3 August 2009 and it is the ninth time the discussion is taking place on this issue.

Madam Speaker, these are only the data of discussion that took place under structured 193. Besides, the issue has been raised through calling attention Motion, Special Mention, which I have not included in this data. I am referring to only the discussions which have taken place under Rule 193, but what has been the outcome of those discussions. The disease worsened further with the treatment.

Madam, I have brought yesterday's figures with me. The hon. Members continued to warn the Government after every six months. The Members expressed their concern on price rise from time to time, nevertheless the prices continued to rise. I would like to draw your attention towards the market-rates prevailing yesterday. That day hon. Mulayam Singh Yadav was asking us not to relate price rise in percent such as prices has increased by 20 percent to 10 percent as no one would understand it. Rather, it would be better to quote the price of individual commodity. I have brought these figures in crystal clear terms. Through you, I would like to place them before the House. Wheat flour Rs. 20 per kg, Rice. Rs. 25 per kg, pulses like Toor Dal Rs. 90 per kg, Moong Chilka Rs. 85 per kg, Moong sabut

Rs. 87 per kg. Moong dhuli Rs. 90 per kg, Urad dal Rs. 84 per kg. Mustard oil Rs. 87 per kg. Tea leaves Rs. 270 per kg, sugar Rs. 42 per kg, salt Rs. 12 per kg, Turmeric Rs. 140 per kg, Red Chillies Rs. 205 per kg., Corriander Rs. 200 per kg, Cumin Rs. 200 per kg. Onion Rs. 20 per kg, Peas Rs. 20 per kg.; Beans Rs. 40 per kg, Lady finger Rs. 30 per kg, Bottle Gourd Rs. 40 per kg; Brinjal Rs. 30 per kg and Ginger Rs. 80 per kg.

Madam Speaker, all the commodities enumerated by me are purely those which are consumed by the poor only. I have quoted the price of all basic commodities like wheat flour, rice, pulses, spices, tea leaves sugar, oil and vegetables. These commodities do not decorate the dining table of the rich. These do not include milk, fruit, butter. These prices are of those commodities which the poor should at least be provided to satisfy their hunger. It is their right to get these commodities. They have the right to have atleast two square meals per day of either roti or rice, pulses or a vegetable and tea with sugar at least twice a day. One need wheat flour, rice, pulses, spices, lentil or vegetable to cook meal. I have not quoted the price of desi ghee. Twice a day tea prepared with tea leaves and sugar is what is their requirement. That tea would be black, without milk, but that is also not affordable. These prices indicate that the poor cannot afford two square meals, pulses or vegetable or black tea with sugar twice a day. If these could be afforded at this price I may be corrected.

Madam Speaker, I was pained to hear the Address of H.E. President. The Address did refer to the pressure on prices, however, in a preceding sentence. The Government boasted of its efforts to keep food security free of any crisis. The crisis is looming large on the poor across the country. There is food crisis in the country and the Government is patting its back for sustaining the pressure of food crisis.

Madam Speaker, it is said that before starting any treatment it is mandatory to make proper diagnosis. Right diagnosis can determine the line of treatment, however, what kind of treatment or a solution could be offered by a Government which cannot make assessment of food security crisis? Four reasons of pressure on prices have been attributed to decline in domestic production, inevitable increases in prices of rice, pulses and oil as a result of their increased prices internationally, higher procurement price to farmers and increase in rural

income. All these enumerated reasons are baseless, far from truth. I will explain, how these are far from truth.

The first reason is attributed to decline in production. I quote from the statement of the hon. Minister of Agriculture that he made in Economic Editor's Conference during the year 2008-09.

[English]

"As you know, the year 2008-2009 was a very good year for agriculture with an all-time high production of 233.38 million tones of food grains ..."

[Translation]

The Minister of Agriculture had praised himself by saying this in the year 2008-09. While addressing at Economic Editor's Conference he had stated that the country had achieved a record production of foodgrains. 233.38 i.e. about 234 million ton foodgrains were produced in the country. This is what was stated by the Minister of Agriculture himself in the laid Economic Editor's conference. So far as the year 2009-10 is concerned, P.I.B. has just we released these figures. This is the press release of P.I.B. which says by giving a second advance estimate that 216.85 i.e. about 217 million ton foodgrains are estimated to be produced this year. I would like to ask you that if 233 million ton is a record production, then 216 million ton is just a little less than the normal production. If 233 million ton is all time high, then 217 million is a little less than the normal.

Madam Speaker, I would like to tell you that there was 40 million ton less production of foodgrains in our time. You want to cash your harde of responsibility in the garb of drought. Everytime attribute it to drought. Madam Speaker, we had faced no less than four natural calamities. We had faced cyclone in Orissa, earthquake in Gujarat, devastating floods and extreme drought. At a result there was 40 million ton less production of foodgrains at that time. Even then, we did not let the prices increase by even a single rupee in the market. What did we do to deal with situation? We got the sales of godowns unlocked. We launched food for work programme. We told the State Governments that we would provide free foodgrains to them and they should launch food for work programme, but they should ensure that the people do not starve to death. We got the gates of godowns unlocked. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad East): I would like to request hon'ble Sharad Ji not to play with the sentiments of about 90 crore people... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Take your seat. Let him speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shrimati Sushma Swaraj.

...*(Interruptions)\**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: We had provided foodgrains at cheaper rates to all those who were engaged in manufacturing flour, maida and sooji from wheat and introduced a new Annapurna Yojana apart from Antyodaya under which the quota of foodgrains was increased from 10 kg. to 35 kg. per family and the prices were fixed Rs. 2 and Rs. 3 per kg. respectively. So, we too were in power for 6 years but the discussion over price-rise was held only once during that tenure. I have come here with data. Sonia Ji had given a notice on 27.4.2000. She herself was the Leader of Opposition at that time. But there was not even a single time when such a situation warranted under which she had to say after giving a notice that she wanted discussion to be held on price rise. It was a notice dated 27.4.2000 over which discussion was held and that, too was not on prices foodgrains, but on hike in prices of diesel and petrol. So a discussion as held on it. But discussion on price rise once in six years and nine times in five years really gives a comparative picture. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): The facts are not correct.

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\*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Why? Because decrease prices and increase quota. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): You have no other issue. You have only one issue.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Fear the almighty God! fear the poor!. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shahnawaz Ji, take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Crores of people are dying. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Let your leader speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam, I would like to say that at least we should deliberate on this issue seriously as we can because it is a serious and sensitive issue. Perhaps by doing so, we will show sympathy to

those poor. But the way we are discussing the issue, we are not showing sympathy towards them. That is why I seek your protection that this discussion should be conducted peacefully as well as seriously. It does not matter whether there will be any relief to them or not from the reflection of seriousness in the House as is expected in this discussion, but it is sure that they will get a relief at least in the sense that their pains and sufferings have been reflected upon here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I was just saying that it was our management to decrease prices and increase quota. That is why no discussion was held over price rise, but their management lies in increasing prices and decreasing quota. Consequently discussions on this issue were held nine times. ...*(Interruptions)* I showed you by giving this data that the first reason, as was stated that the prices are rising due to decline in domestic production, is not a fact.

The second reason as you stated is that the prices of pulse, rice and oil increased in international market due to which inflation soared.

Madam Speaker, I have come here by taking the data of future trades, America. I have taken out these data from Internet. In international market quantity is determined in terms of bushel while the price are fixed in currency of dollar. I have converted bushel in kilogram and dollars in rupees to help my countrymen understand all this. Dollar's rate was Rs. 46.2 yesterday and with the same rate I converted it. I show you international market rate. The rate of wheat was Rs. 11 per kg. in December, 2008 and it was reduced to Rs. 8.51 per kg. in February, 2010. ...*(Interruptions)* Rice was at Rs. 14.50 in January, 2008, Rs. 14.45 in February, 2010, it did not increase but reduced by Rs. 0.14. Maize was at Rs. 12.16 in June, 2008, and Rs. 6.71 in February, 2010. Soyabean oil was at Rs. 69.00 in February 2008 and Rs. 37.00 in February, 2010. These are the international market rates which I have put before you. So, to say that. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: You keep quiet. Do not interrupt.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Do not interrupt. Do not take like this. Take your seat and keep quiet.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Sit down please.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam Speaker, the second reason for the fall in prices in the International market is also not true. The third reason as stated was that increased support prices was given to the farmers. Now, what increased support price was given? In the year 2007-08, support price was Rs. 8.50 per kilo and in 2008-09 Rs. 10 per kilo and in the year 2009-10 Rs. 10.80 per kilo. Sharad Bhau, these are the figures, i.e. Rs. 850 per quintal, then Rs. 1000 per quintal and then Rs. 1080 per quintal. But what was the price for consumers. When support price was Rs. 8.50 per kilo, flour was sold at Rs. 15 per kilo, when support price was Rs. 10, flour was sold at Rs. 17 per kilo, and when support price was Rs. 10.80 per kilo, flour was sold at Rs. 20 per kilo. They are saying that prices increased due to support price. If commodities were sold at Rs. 1.50 or Rs. 2 more than the support price, then I would have accepted the logic that the farmers were given Rs. 8.50 and therefore it had to be sold at Rs. 11. But there is no relations whatsoever between the support price given to the farmers and the selling price of commodities in the market.

Madam Speaker, I want to say that the framers of our Constitution established a welfare state and welfare state implied buying at a higher price from farmers and feeding the consumers at a lower price and give subsidy for the difference. This is what a welfare state is all about but we do not give remunerative prices to the farmers and make the consumer suffer and pay high prices for food and they are saying that inflation has increased due to support price given to the farmers.

Sharad Bhau, as far as the question of farmers is concerned you give them by one hand the take by the other. You have increased the support price for farmers from Rs. 8.50 to Rs. 10.80 and then, just four days earlier, the price of urea was increased by twenty five rupees per bag and took back what you had given them ... (Interruptions) Every item and every implement bought by the farmers is expensive. He sells one thing and buys the rest. If he produces wheat then sells wheat. He produces rice and sells rice but he has to buy all other items such as pulses, tea, sugar etc. There is no connection between the support price for farmers and the burden on consumers, therefore, your logic is also not correct that the prices have increased because the support price for farmers has increased.

The fourth reason which you have mentioned is that the income of the poor has increased because the rural development programmes are being implemented in full swing. I do not want to discuss the Rural Development Programmes in detail because it will be a digression, but I can say this much ... a voice came from the rear side that NREGA has not been even started properly. ... (Interruptions) Labourers cheated by NREGA are suffering in two ways. One due to inflation and the other due to corruption. What increase in the income of the poor you are talking about? I say that if NREGA runs properly for the full period, and there is no pilferage of even one paisa, and 100 days of work is to be generated at 100 rupees per day per person wage, the labourer gets employment for 100 days and a wage of Rs. 100 per day, then it becomes Rs. 10,000 per year, i.e. Rs. 850 per month. And you are landing yourself for this petty Rs. 850 per month and saying that the income of the poor has increased. He will get the income of Rs. 850 and that too when he gets employment for 100 days and wage of Rs. 100 per day. Now the situation is such that job cards have been made but neither 100 days of employment nor wages of 100 rupees one being provided. You are saying in the Presidential Address that ... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You all sit down.

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): They do not get more than 30 rupees per day. ... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Why are you standing? You sit down.

...(Interruptions)



MADAM SPEAKER: You all sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please keep quiet. Maintain silence please.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam Speaker, the four reasons for increase in prices which have been enumerated in the President's Address such as decrease in domestic production, the increase in International prices, better support prices to farmers and the increase in the income of the poor are improper, baseless and untrue. What are the reasons for inflation? There are four reasons which I will tell you. Those are wheat-scam, rice-scam, pulses-scam, sugar-scam and therefore we do not call it inflation but the mega scam of inflation. ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam Speaker, I have used the scam word with total responsibility. I want to put before you the figures for each and every scam. As far as the question of scam relating to import of wheat is concerned you gave the support-price of Rs. 8.50 for wheat. Sharad Bhau, I want your attention. You gave a support price of Rs. 8.50 but you imported wheat in the same year at Rs. 14.82 per kilogram, i.e. Rs. 850 for our farmers Rs. 1482 for the farmers of other countries, and thus you gave Rs. 632 per quintal more to the farmers abroad. The wheat which you brought was such red wheat which was refused even by the animals. The roti made from this wheat made one think that it was made from jaggery. He started eating it with great joy and the very next moment he spat it out. He asked his wife what kind of a roti it was, then she said that she made it from the wheat she got. This wheat was imported at the rate of Rs. 14.82 per kilogram. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Sushmaji is saying.

...(Interruptions)

*[Translation]*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Tufani Saroj ji, you please sit down. Please let her speak.

...(Interruptions)

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I would like to say to my colleagues in opposition that it reflects their mindset so they should keep mum. The poor know that who is playing trick with them.

Madam Speaker, red wheat was imported at the rate of fourteen rupees eighty two paise per kilogram and that did not attend here. Sharad Bhau is present here. Next year also, there was a proposal to import ten lakh metric ton wheat at the rate of 19 rupees per kilogram, but the country witnessed such a big farmers' agitation that they were forced to cancel the said decision, otherwise import of wheat was again proposed at the rate of 19 rupees per kilogram. This is one aspect of the scam. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I would like to dwell upon the second aspect of this scam. The second aspect of this is that in the year 2007-08, it was stated that there was a ban on export of wheat.

*[English]*

Ostensibly it was banned.

*[Translation]*

But a question was asked under RTI. An individual enquired whether any export of wheat had taken place

during the said years, then it was replied that wheat was exported in the year 2007-08 as well as in the year 2008-09. Similarly, it was exported in the year 2009-2010 also. You will be surprised to know the rate at which wheat was exported. You import wheat at the rate of 14 rupees 82 paise, then a proposal is made for importing wheat at the rate of 19 rupees per kilogram, but in the year 2007 it was exported at the rate of 10 rupees and one paise. Similarly, in the year 2008-2009, wheat was exported at the rate of 13 rupees and two paise. In the year 2009-2010 when wheat flour was selling at the rate of twenty rupees per kilogram, wheat was exported at the rate of 12 rupees and 51 paise per kilogram. You are saying that there is no scam. If it is not a scam then what else is it? Your own consumer, the Indian people are purchasing the wheat flour at twenty rupees per kilogram from the market and the Government of India, despite a ban on it, exported it at the rate of 12 rupees and 51 paise per kilogram in the year 2009-2010. If it is not a scam then what is it?

Madam Speaker, I had stated that after wheat, there was a scam in paddy also. Now, I will tell the House about the scam in export of paddy. There are two types of rice—basmati and non-basmati. It was decided that non-basmati rice would not be exported in the year 2007-2008 as prices in the domestic market were soaring. Madam Speaker, by fooling the common man, non-basmati rice was exported by falsely declaring it basmati. This was the first scam.

Now the second scam: in the guise of assistance to African countries, export of non-basmati rice was also opened and it was not done through government companies but through private traders. I am strained to say that the rice did not ever reach the people for whom it was intended as assistance. Instead, it was diverted to other destinations from the ship on the sea itself, it was taken to other places. Your own country people were dying from starvation, you took away the food from the mouths of your own people and did not deliver either to the people to whom you offered it as help. Instead, traded for profit. Is it not a scam?

The third scam was in pulses. ...(*Interruptions*) Madam Speaker, the pulse scam is a tragic one. The prices of pulses were sky-rocketing in the domestic market. The prices of pulses crossed Rs. 30, 35, 40, 42, 50 rupees per kilogram and right now I have told you yesterday's price of the pulses, it is 90 rupees per

kilogram. Pulses were imported, exemptions were granted for import but, it pains me to say, the pulses so imported remained doubled at the ports. The traders were ready to pay demurrage there but they were not willing to bring pulses into the market as the prices of the pulses were expected to rise further and they planned to bring pulses from there only when they would be able to earn three-four tiny profit out of it. I am pained more by the fact that state agencies such as STC, PIC, NAC, MMTC and NAFED were involved in this crime. At that time a story appeared in "Headlines Today". One of their investigative teams reached Kolkata port and they showed us visuals of sacks full of pulses lying at Central Warehousing Corporation while people were calling out for mercy to be shown towards them as they were not getting any pulses to consume. Pulses are the only source of protein for the poor, but the imported pulses were kept at the ports waiting for the prices to rise so that they could bring it into the market. This was the scam in pulses.

Madam Speaker, the fourth scam is related to sugar. The entire business of sugar is controlled by the Government. He is smiling but you can see the pain of the poor. Let him smile, you see the sad faces of the poor. Had he not smiled, the sugar prices would not have gone up? Madam Speaker, the government grants the license to set up sugar factories, the Government fixes the price of sugarcane the Government not only fixes the price but also purchases the sugar which it takes as levy and the Government formulates the import-export policy with regard to the sugar. Nobody knows these things better than hon'ble Sharad Bhau, he is the owner of the sugar empire, he is a sugar baron of the country. I would like to ask hon'ble Sharad Bhau whether he is aware that production cycle of sugar is of three years. In the year 2006-2007, the country witnessed a record production of 28.3 million metric ton of sugar.

There was a record production of sugar and prices of sugar came down, but sugarcane farmers did not get adequate benefit. Consequently, the sugarcane farmers might grow other crops next year. In fact, there was abundance of sugar and in that situation any visionary Minister of Agriculture would decide to secure buffer stock of sugar because in case of a shortage of sugar in future, that buffer stock would meet the demand. But buffer stock was not created and the cap on the export of sugar was lifted. Export was done in such a huge quantum that there was shortage of sugar in the country.

When the people of the country were affected adversely by price rise of sugar, the same companies were allowed to import on OGL. When export was done, they were given export assistance from treasury for export and transportation and handling charges were also paid by the Government. When there was crisis in the country, import of sugar was ordered. I would like to tell you that exemption on import duty was given again under OGL in order to make duty free import. This was told to sugar mill-owners, private businessmen and state agencies.

Madam Speaker, I would like to tell you that at a single point of time both export and import of sugar were being made in the country. There was a peculiar situation at Kandla port at a point of time when two ships were harboured there together. One was for importing sugar and another was for exporting the same commodity. Madam, you will be surprised to know that the sugar being sold was at the rate of Rs. 12.5 and the sugar being purchased was at the rate of Rs. 36 per kg. If these figures are wrong, Sharad Bhau can respond. Import and export of sugar were being made at the same point of time. Do you know what was its impact? The effect of this was that 33 sugar mills listed in Stock Exchange and whose dividend is calculated quarterly, earned profit of Rs. 30 crore from October to December, 2008. Can you guess the profit earned between October to December, 2009? There was increase in profit from Rs. 30 crore to 901 crore. If profit is calculated, the same will rise upto 2900 per cent. In simple words, their profit increased hundred less to three thousand per cent. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I would like to tell you that even if taste to sugar for me and for you is bitter and the poor cannot afford to buy sugar for tea, some sugar mills owners have certainly earned huge profit and have amassed money for their generations to come. I do not know about the amount of share and the persons involved in earning profit, I have not investigated the same, but I want to tell that this should be investigated.

I have presented four scams before you and these four commodities are the ones which have disappeared from the plate of the poor. I have brought before you the scams related to flour, pulse, rice and sugar. Through you, I want to make a demand that a Joint Parliamentary Committee should be constituted to investigate these four

scams to find out the reasons why frequent import and export were allowed. They will say that it is a dialogue or drama. I want to tell you that in a film someone asked Dharmendra about his work, he told, I do manipulation in export and import of items'. In fact, price rise has taken place due to export and import made by the country. The Government makes import in case there is profit in this side and makes export in the case there is profit on the other side. My demand is this that malpractices in export and import should be investigated. Through you, I want to demand that a JPC should be constituted to investigate the four scams put forth by me. The Committee should bring forth the reasons for price rise and should establish whether these four reasons are behind price rise or not.

Madam, now I would expose the scam in food security. It was mentioned in the address of Her Excellency, the President that we can secure food security only when we would make continuous effort to increase agricultural production. Further, it was mentioned in the address that our Government is committed to enact Food Security Legislation. I want to ask as to why do they get wrong things mentioned in the President's Address? I have the copy of the last year's President's Address. It is a nine month old matter of June. It is mentioned in the address—"My Government proposes to enact new legislation like National Food Security Act". Today they are talking about commitment, however, it was proposed at that time. It is mentioned here - "propose that it will provide statutory base for such structure wherein it includes food security for all. Each family living below poverty line, both in rural and urban areas, shall have legal right to get 25-kilogram wheat and rice per month at the rate of Rs. 3 per kilogram. This legislation will be made applicable on Public Distribution System to make extensive and adequate reform in the said system". This is last year's Address. They have got it mentioned in Presidential Address that they would enact a legislation wherein there will be a provision to provide 25 kilogram wheat or rice per month. Today, a period of nine month has passed, but what has happened? What should have been done is that they should have referred the development made in this regard, whether the draft of legislation has been finalized, it is being introduced in this session or they should have got it passed earlier but they have not got this done and have talked about only commitment. It means in English.

[*English*]

We are committed.

[*Translation*]

in Hindi it means—‘Ham Kritsankalp hain’. How are they committed? I want to tell the Government that there are four grounds to ensure food security and they are neglecting these four grounds. How will they ensure food security? They may ask about these four grounds. The first ground is real data of poverty. We should find out the number of the poor in the country. The second ground is good production. It means production should be increased. Third ground is adequate storage. Our warehouses should remain full. The fourth ground is effective distribution. Unless these four grounds are strengthened, food security cannot be ensured. Now, I am telling about the strength given to these four grounds by the Government which has caused the shaking of these four grounds. As far as the number of the poor is concerned, four committees and agencies have been set up to determine the number of the poor on the basis of the census 2004-05. Four agencies have submitted different reports and the census of 2004-05 was made the basis. First data have been submitted by the Commission, as per its report 25.7 per cent people of the country are living below the poverty line. Thereafter, another commission—National Commission for Entrepreneurs in un-organized sector was constituted Basudeb da, didn’t they do that? As per its data 77 per cent people lived below poverty line. Therefore, they constituted the Suresh Tendulkar Committee. Suresh Tendulkar Committee assessed the rural poverty and urban poverty separately and gave the total figure of 37.2 per cent. According to the Committee, 37.2 per cent people were below poverty line in the country. Then Ministry of Rural Development jumped into the fray. It constituted N.C. Saxena Committee to provide poverty statistics since it claimed that this Ministry had to run the programme of poverty alleviation. The Committee calculated the poverty figure of rural India as 50 per cent. Till date they have not been able to decide the criterion of assessing poverty, and which of these figures would be acceptable. This way the first pillar has been shaken. Now the new criterion for estimating poverty is the quantum of calories consumed by the poor. Madam Speaker, I would like to ask them what is the point in calculating the calories of an emaciated person. His face and not his stomach is the mirror of his poverty. His

house greets his poverty. Poverty peeps out of his rags. There is no need to calculate his calories.

Last year, President’s Address mentioned that the BPL figures would be estimated through the Gram Sabha or an Urban Agency. It was said that the Gram Sabha would identify the poor in the respective villages and Urban Agency in its jurisdiction so that objections could be registered in case of an anomaly. I would like to ask if a single meeting of Gram Sabha has been convened to decide the figure of poverty, if any Urban Body has given the figure of poverty? When they do not know the number of people for whom they have to provide food security, how would they handle it? When a husband asks his wife to prepare food for his friends coming in the evening the first question she would ask is how many people would come? If he says 10 and instead 25 people turn up then embarrassment is bound to follow. Because she can serve this meal to 15 or 16 people against 10 listed Quets but how can she serve a meal of 10 to 25? It is sheer common sense that if food security is to be decided then first the number of persons should be decided. What is the number of the poor people? However, this Government has been able to ascertain neither the number of the poor nor the criterion to ascertain poverty, so the first pillar is shaken.

I referred to increased production as the second pillar. Sharad Bhau, when would there be increased production? It is when the cultivable land would be increased, the area under cultivation would be more. It is as simple as that. However, the statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture state that the area under foodgrains cultivation has declined by 8 per cent this year. I have the report of the Standing Committee with me. Based on the facts provided by them, the Standing Committee has observed and I quote:

[*English*]

“The Committee observes that the area under foodgrains has declined by 8 per cent from 680.99 lakh hectares in 2008-09 to 626.47 hectares in 2009-10”.

[*Translation*]

The area under foodgrains cultivation has declined from 680 lakh hectares to 626 lakh hectares. They are attributing it to lesser production during 2009-10. It is

quite natural if foodgrains are grown in lesser area the production would be less and vice-versa. If the land is decreasing because it is being diverted for non-productive purposes like S.E.Z. etc. then how would the production which is the second pillar increase. H.E. President was made to announce in her Address this time that agricultural productivity needs to be enhanced to ensure food security. Not merely production, but productivity is required. How this productivity will improve? When the unirrigated land would be irrigated, made cultivable, more land would be utilized for cultivation, only then production and productivity would increase. Production and productivity are directly proportional to each other. Higher the land utilized for agriculture, higher would be the production. However, the reverse is happening. The farmland is shrinking and agriculture is declining. As far as augmenting agricultural productivity is concerned, We have not progressed even an inch. If agricultural productivity is to be augmented they should follow the model of the Government of Gujarat. Madam, through the House, I would like to tell you the economy of Gujarat was never based on agriculture, however, the State has achieved the agricultural growth rate of 9.6 per cent. It is neither my observation nor that of Advaniji nor that of any other B.J.P. leader. This certificate has been given by the country's renowned economists. They are Shri Tushar Shah, Shri Ashok Gulati, Shri P. Hemant and Shri Ganga Shreedhar. They have written a paper which got published in the *Economic and the Political Weekly* under the title - "Secrets of Gujarat agrarian miracles after 2000". These economists are not from BJP. They had written a paper in praise of Dr. M. S. Ahluwalia. But how did this miracle happen? The barren land in Saurashtra, Kutch and Northern Gujarat was irrigated, the road infrastructure provided and farsightedness in farming resulted in the agrarian miracle, and Gujarat attained the agricultural growth of 9.6 per cent. If the Government wants to increase productivity in agriculture then it will have to follow the model of this State, however, farsightedness, political will, proper policies and effective implementation of those policies is required which this Government appears to lack.

Madam Speaker, the third pillar of food security is dwindling as foodgrains have declined as compared to the past whereas productivity should have increased for food security. As I stated, proper storage should be the third pillar. As far as storage is concerned, Sharad ji knows what is required as he is the Minister of Consumer

Affairs. The main storage agency FCI has a covered capacity of 25.7 lakh metric tonnes and uncovered capacity of 28 lakh metric tonnes. This is the total covered and uncovered storage capacity of its own as well as rented godowns. The foodgrains which are kept in the open rot due to rains and that inside the godown rot as they lie unutilized for a long time. Sharadji may remember that when I was the Member of Rajya Sabha, I had asked him a question. In our country, foodgrains are handled manually in traditional way whereas in the entire world it is handled in a mechanized way. The difference between manual and mechanized handling is that when sacks are loaded, the porter comes and unloads sacks in the FCI godown. When new supply arrives, the new sacks are kept on top of the existing sacks. When the foodgrains are taken out for Public Distribution System the sacks which are on top are taken out first.

**12.00 hrs.**

New foodgrains are taken out and old foodgrains are kept lying at the same place. Then again supply of Kharif crop arrives and once again new foodgrains are taken out for PDS and old foodgrains are kept lying there. The process of mechanized handling is just the opposite. Foodgrains are moved like conveyer belt. When foodgrain sacks are taken out, first the sack which is kept at the bottom, is taken out. The foodgrain sacks kept at the bottom are taken out, and sacks kept on top come down.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Bahrapur): Madam, give me also opportunity to speak. One hour has lapsed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam, at least he should not play the role of the Speaker. This discussion is of 7 hours and its reply will be given at 6 o'clock. I am taking the time allotted to my party in the 7 hour discussion, I am not taking his time, but he is wasting my time. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You may sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: They have eaten the foodgrains meant for the poor. Let me give vent to the poor men's agony. Why are they wasting 'his' time? ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM. SPEAKER: Adhir Ranjan ji, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam, I was telling you that the difference between mechanized handling and manual handling is that old foodgrains are taken out first in mechanized handling and new sacks come down. Foodgrains do not get rotten and remain safe. Due to manual handling system, which is in operation in our country, new sacks are used, and old sacks lie there are rot. I am not saying about the rotting of old foodgrains in the air. Shri Devashish Bhattacharya too has filed on RTI query in this regard. He asked the FCI to reply whether foodgrains had got rotten? In reply to that RTI query, FCI replied in affirmation and stated that they had destroyed ten lakh tonnes of foodgrains, because that foodgrain was rotten. On that day Mulayam Singh Yadav ji was saying that rats are eating the foodgrains. It is not false. The rats are actually eating the foodgrains. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Sushmaji, please speak.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam, I would like to tell you that in reply to that query, it was told that 10 lakh tones of foodgrains were destroyed. After that, this issue was raised by my colleague, Shri Anant Kumar in the House. All that time, Sharad ji had stated that they would rectify this system, but till now the system has not been rectified. This is the state of storage. I would like to tell you that if foodgrains are rotting, then the figures of buffer stock available with them, are not real. In fact that is pest-infected foodgrain. That foodgrain has become powdered, and when it will be taken out it will not be fit for consumption. It will have to be thrown in the sea only. This contention of adequate stock does not hold water. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You may sit down. Adhir Ranjan ji please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam, the fourth point relating to food security is effective distribution. Here, Sharad ji may say that distribution system is the responsibility of the states, so, how can I put the one son him in this regard, I would like to say, that distribution is definitely the responsibility of the states, but the foodgrains to be distributed under this system are given by the Union Government. There is a huge discrepancy in the figures of the State Government and the Union Government. I come from Madhya Pradesh. Our Chief Minister gave in writing that there are 42 lakh poor people residing in the State. They say that there are 21 lakh poor people. If the centre provides half the allocation, how can we distribute more. There is requirement of funds for 42 lakh people, but the allocation is being given for 21 lakh people and then it is said that the distribution system should be made effective. How will the state ensure an effective distribution system? It is all the more distressful in my state. Madhya Pradesh produces the best quality of wheat; the best sharabatee wheat of Asia. But they continued to exert pressure on us to distribute red wheat. We said that it will involve cost of transportation if red wheat is transported from elsewhere, and this was not needed since we have got enough wheat stored in our godowns. The labourers who sow the best sharabatee wheat in the fields will curse if we feed them with red wheat through the public distribution system? But they ask to distribute them only red wheat provided by them. They allocate wheat for 21 lakh and ask us to distribute it among 42 lakh people. I want to appreciate the Chief Ministers of the BJP ruled states who streamlined the distribution system by taking the burden on their own exchequer. In Madhya Pradesh wheat and rice are being distributed at the rate of Rs. 2 and 3 respectively and Chhattisgarh has forged ahead of all with rice being provided at the rate of Rs. 2 to the APL and Rs. 1 to the BPL families. Our administration gets bags of rice full of 35 kg. each distributed among the poor at the rate of Rs. 1 per kg on 7th of every month and people go home taking that ration in just Rs. 35. We are providing more bonus to the farmers than the support price. Chhattisgarh provided bonus on rice, Madhya Pradesh on wheat at the rate of Rs. 100 per quintal. We are talking about the welfare state. We are providing bonus to the farmers from our exchequer and feeding the poor with cheap foodgrains by giving grant for this purpose. This is our distribution system, but all the four pillars for food security in their distribution system are shaking.

Madam Speaker, on the one hand, the poor are suffering the scourge of price rise, and on the other the Ministers of this Government are adding insult to injury. Sometimes Sharad Ji gives the statement that he is not an astrologer to forecast the time by which price-rise is likely to be checked. Hon'ble Sharad Bhau, price-rise is not caused by any evil effect to entail the need of any astrologer. Price rise is caused by the wrong policies of your Government and that is why the Government is asked about the time by which the wrong policies are likely to be rectified to checked the price-rise and whether it could actually be checked or not and the time taken in this regard. A magazine is brought out by his party, NCP, namely—*Rashtravadee*—in which he states that sugar should not be eaten, it causes diabetes. Such are the statements that are given. Once the US President George Bush had said that the people of India had begun eating more due to which prices had risen. That was voiced by a Minister of this Government in Indian style saying that as the poor are taking two square meals so prices have risen. If you cannot apply ointment to our injury, at least do not add insult to it.

Madam Speaker, there is so much internal conflict going on in the Government that all are involved in just putting the blame on one another. All the leaders of the Congress want to put all the blame on Sharad Bhao and get themselves solved. Then Sharad Ji says that it is the collective responsibility. He reminds the Prime Minister of collective responsibility saying that he is the Prime Minister and he himself was only the Minister of Agriculture. But the dilemma of the Prime Minister is different, since the Prime Minister is also an economist. Dilemma arises between the economist Manmohan Singh and the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Theory of economics says that price rise is an indication of increasing growth rate. Therefore, when there is increase in inflation, they get applause all over the world. Then reaching to the other countries he can say, "See,

[English]

inflation is an indicator of growth.

[Translation]

What I am saying about the increasing growth rate in my country is being indicated by the increasing inflation in India." But being a Prime Minister, when he thinks about it he gets anxious. Thus, he is engrossed in a dilemma. But, today the Prime Minister is not here. I want to tell him, "Hon'ble Prime Minister, now new expressions are being framed in economics also."

Do understand these new expressions. Just a few days ago, I had a meeting with the King of Bhutan. He told me that his father, who is known as K-4, and Costa Rica have jointly coined a new expression that instead of talking in the terms of GDP, GNH should be talked about. Gross Domestic Products does not express the true figures. GNH means Gross National Happiness and this is what I would like to tell the Prime Minister. Dr. Manmohan Singh, that inflation is one thing while the growth rate is the other, so there is no co-ordination in the two. Growth rate is on the rise in respect to those who have increased their assets from 30 to 901 crore. There is no difference for them if you sell them pulses at Rs. 1000. But these poor have to put in hard labour daily and then earn a daily wage and they are the real sufferers of price rise. So, they should talk in terms of GDP, the day they will start thinking in terms of GNH and begin to see the tears in the eyes of the poor, their policy will become correct. When he thinks as an economist, he cannot bring about a change in these policies. The poor are crying. They do not afford two square meals and when the festival approaches, their sufferings cross the limit.

So, Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to convey to the Prime Minister, he is not here, but the congress leadership is sitting here, the UPA chairperson is sitting here. Another kind of responsibility has also come upon the shoulders of the Chairperson of the UPA. While controlling the Government, she can give instructions on her own and I would like to request her to convince her Prime Minister and I want to tell you these fourlines that the day you will start seeing the tears of the poor, inflation and scams like this will die out automatically. These four lines are as follows:

Kisi majboor kee majbooriyon ko sochkar dekho,  
Prem ko jhopadiyon ke beech khojkar dekho,  
Agar insaniyat ko phir se dhartee par bulate ho,  
Kisi rote hue ke aansuon ko ponchhkar dekho.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you Sushmaji. Before I call the next speaker on this issue, a statement has to be made by the hon. Minister of External Affairs. Item No. 7—Shri S.M. Krishna.

12.12 hrs.

## STATEMENT BY MINISTER

### Attacks on Indians in Australia\*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): Madam Speaker, I lay on the Table of the House a statement on "Attacks on Indians in Australia" and the steps being taken by Government of India as well as by the Australian Government in dealing with various issues involved.

The attacks on Indian students have been coming to our notice for over two years now, since 2007 when some students were assaulted in Sydney. In 2008 and 2009 also, there were other sporadic instances of assaults on Indian students, including some working as taxi drivers in Melbourne and in Adelaide. However, it is since May 2009 that there seems to have been a significant increase in the number and frequency of attacks on Indians in Australia. This has coincided with the substantial increase in the number of Indian students studying in Australia over the last three years, with a 141% increase recorded in just two years from 2006 to 2008.

The attacks continued in a sporadic manner till May, 2009. On 9 May, a student named Saurabh Sharma was attacked in a train by a gang of 4-5 people. On 23 May, 2009, a young student studying in Melbourne, Sravan Kumar Theerthala was savagely attacked with a screw driver, resulting in serious injuries to his head. On 2nd January 2010, a student Mr. Nitin Garg was attacked late at night while crossing a park in a Melbourne suburb on his way to work. He later died in the hospital. While there were other cases of assaults on Indian students and taxi drivers in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, most of the incidents seem to have been occurring in and around Melbourne. On 14th January, 2010 night there was an incident of arson by fire in Cranbourne Nanaksar Taath Gurudwara in Melbourne. These attacks received extensive coverage in the media in both countries.

Each assault was taken up with the Australian authorities, at the state level by the Consulates General and at the state and federal levels by the High Commission of India.

The incidents relating to Indian students and nationals in Australia have involved one or more of the following elements: robbery, assault, violence fuelled by alcohol/drugs, juvenile crime and racial abuse. Other contributing factors have been: the financial constraints of the Indian students which have led to them living in poor neighbourhoods, working late hours and travelling in late night public transport, all of which have made them more vulnerable to street crime which has been on the increase in Melbourne, where most of the incidents have taken place.

The profile of the attackers in most of these assaults is of youngsters in their teens and early 20s, largely under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The attackers are of mixed ethnicity, including sometimes, other Indians. Some of the attacks have had racial elements.

Besides the obvious law and order problem, the other issues which have come to the fore include the commercialisation of the Australian international education industry and laxity in monitoring/enforcing compliance of the regulations by the Australian authorities. The increase in number of students in Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector was linked to the immigration system of Australia which gave priority in the last few years to applicants for permanent residency (PR) in certain skills where there are significant shortages. These immigration rules are now in the process of undergoing changes.

The matter of the growing number of assaults on Indian students was taken up in May-June, 2009 at the highest level by Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh with Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and by me with Foreign Minister Stephen Smith.

I visited Australia in August 2009 and conveyed our concerns to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Foreign Minister Stephen Smith. In the course of my 4 day visit covering three states, and my several interactions with our students and our community in Australia, I gained a first hand perspective on the issues related to the welfare and well-being of our student and larger community in Australia.

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\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 1719/15/10.



In the course of my visit, I announced that the High Commission, the Consulates and the Honorary Consuls would be open on every Friday, from 11 am till 5 pm, for any Indian student to walk in to discuss their problems and grievances.

Ministry of External Affairs and the High Commission have also unveiled since 12 June 2009, on their respective websites, Guidelines for Indian students studying in and wishing to study in Australia with advice, dos and don'ts. These Guidelines have been regularly updated.

Bilateral working groups have discussed the issues of regulation of education agents, student welfare, vocational education and training, and quality assurance in Delhi in October, 2009 and will meet again soon.

During the visit of Prime Minister Mr. Kevin Rudd to India on 12 November, 2009, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh conveyed the high priority that Government of India attached to the safety, security and well-being of Indian community in Australia. Mr Rudd reiterated the Australian Government's commitment to taking all possible measures to protect the safety and welfare of all international students including Indian students.

Our High Commission in Australia and the Consulates General in Melbourne and Sydney each have a Community Welfare and Student Liaison Officer (CWSLO) who is on call 24/7, and whose mobile number is on our website as our emergency response number. Any problem involving an Indian student or member of the community is handled by the CWSLO in coordination with the High Commissioner/Consuls General.

In Australia a Task Force headed by the Australian National Security Advisor was set up in the office of Australian Prime Minister, to formulate what they term a 'whole of government' approach to the issue and liaise with state governments on the action being taken by them.

In Melbourne as well as in Sydney, the police have increased patrolling where incidents had occurred. In Melbourne, police presence was stepped up especially around train stations and high crime neighbourhoods; the number of transit police, including in plain clothes on late night trains taken by students, was increased;

the Victoria State Government's Robbery Taskforce was doubled; several offenders were charged. A Community Reference Group for Western Melbourne involving the police and members of the Indian community to facilitate communication on safety issues was established. A hotline was set up for Indian students. Free legal advice and referral for international students was made available at Melbourne. More street lighting and CCTV cameras have been provided in areas that are prone to such attacks.

Of the various reports and reviews commissioned by the Australian Government to look into the several problems being faced by the students, two have submitted their reports, and made specific recommendations to improve conditions for international students.

There have been 8 Ministerial level visits from Australia to India in 2009. Many of these were focussed on addressing our growing concerns about the safety and well-being of our students.

The Australian federal and State Government authorities have taken action in providing relief to Indian students affected due to the sudden closure of certain colleges, in making them aware of their rights and relocating them in other colleges.

Following some attacks on Indian taxi drivers last year, the South Australia government has set up a taxi council to hold regular discussions with taxi drivers, many of whom are students.

The Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) has introduced measures to strengthen checks on student visa applications to stamp out fraud and ensure that students have the financial capacity to live and study in Australia. DIAC has recently announced an overhaul of the general skilled migration rules leading to permanent residency in Australia.

The Victorian Government strengthened the Victorian Sentencing Act 1991 in December, 2009, and is conducting a review of the justice system under a retired Supreme Court judge to address racial crime.

As a result of these measures, the number of incidents recorded in these suburbs has decreased. 300 police officers are being added to the Victorian Police to form a rapid response unit to address continued attacks.

Other concrete measures taken by the Victorian government include the setting up of an International Student Care Service. The service has 24/7 hotline staffed by trained persons, some of whom also speak Hindi. The Centre provides psychological counselling, legal assistance, assistance with any problem with educational institute, employer or landlord or any other authority. It also provides financial assistance to students for temporary accommodation as well as assistance to take care of medical expenses etc.

The issue continues to be taken up very strongly with the Australian Government. I spoke to Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith on 11 January and expressed my serious concern. I also met Australian FM Stephen Smith in London on the margins of Conference on Afghanistan on 27 January 2010 and conveyed that these attacks are particularly worrisome as the individuals from the Indian community appeared to be singled out and it was increasingly difficult to accept these attacks as mere opportunistic crimes.

The Australian Government has recently set up a high-level Working Group under overall charge of Foreign Minister Stephen Smith to deal with this issue on an urgent basis.

India-Australia relations have been expanding rapidly over the last few years. India attaches importance to its relationship with Australia and we are committed to further strengthening and expanding our relations to cover virtually every area of interaction. People to people contacts are at the heart of any relationship. It is estimated that almost half a million Indians (including 97000 Indian students) and people of Indian origin live in Australia today. The older, more established Indian community in Australia consists largely of skilled professionals, such as doctors, accountants, engineers and academics. It has traditionally been seen as a model migrant community and lauded for its contribution to the Australian economy, having settled and integrated well, and highly regarded for their industry and skills. The Indian community through its culture and values is contributing in making Australia the vibrant multi-cultural society that it is today. They are a vital bond between our two countries.

Let there be no doubt that we take the incidents of assault on our students very seriously indeed. I would like to assure you that the Australian authorities have

been fully apprised of the gravity of the situation.. As a result, both at the state as well as the federal level, they have taken several measures as outlined above, to improve security and surveillance; it can be honestly said that they are making efforts to meet our concerns. However, as can be seen, the issue consists of several complex factors, all of which are interlinked and need to be dealt with in a concerted and coordinated manner.

I assure the House that we will continue to monitor the situation closely and work closely with the Australian authorities to deal with the issues concerned and improve the safety and security of our students in Australia.

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12.13 hrs.

### DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193—*Contd.*

#### **Price rise**

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM (Mumbai North): Madam Speaker, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

Madam, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj is the leader of Opposition and in this capacity it was her first speech and I was hopeful that her first speech will be based on truth. ...(*Interruptions*) why are you getting restless? I am not saying that Sushma ji's speech is not based on facts. I am just saying that Sushma ji has spoken half truth and it is needless to say that half truth is very dangerous. ...(*Interruptions*)

Madam Speaker, it seems that the Leader of Opposition has given such a direction to the members of the Bhartiya Janata Party. It is a serious matter, talking with sensitivity is not sufficient, we should also be sensitive while we think. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please be silent.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Madam Speaker, it cannot be denied that prices have risen in recent days. No one can deny this fact. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Kindly listen to what he has to say.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Madam, prices of rice, wheat, pulses, sugar and vegetables have increased. We have realized this thing because we also consume vegetables. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Kindly listen to him. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: We also need oil. We too eat food. If prices have risen then we all are suffering from this. I am sharing that pain here. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Let him speak.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: But, the question is why prices have increased. Madam Speaker, Sushma Ji did not highlight the basic reason in her speech. The basic reasons are that during the NDA Government. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please keep quiet.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: But, all the scams took place during the tenure of NDA Government. Share scam, UTI scam, Centaur scam, all these scams took place during your tenure.....(Interruptions) You have ruined the poor people most..... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Kindly listen to me patiently. It is a serious matter. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Ramkishun ji please take your seat.

[English]

Nothing will go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Madam Speaker, it is a serious matter and it should be discussed with sensitivity.

The Leader of Opposition has directed that this matter should be discussed seriously. It is my humble request that at least Members of Bhartiya Janata Party should listen patiently. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: No, this should not happen. You take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Madam Speaker, I want to say that. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You please take your seat. Please, now listen.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Raigad): Madam Speaker, Shri Sanjay Nirupam is trying to wash his sins. I want to tell my colleagues let him wash his sins.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please listen.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Madam Speaker, had the leader of opposition highlighted the reasons of inflation then I think it would have been a proper guidance to the House and the poor people who are truly suffering hardships due to inflation, could have understood the reasons behind inflation. I think the major reason for inflation is that during the NDA Government the prices of crude oil which we use as petroleum products in our country. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Tufani ji why are you speaking. Please take your seat.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: During the entire period of NDA Government of six years the price of crude oil have never gone above 40 dollars per barrel, but, during our rule the price of crude oil increased upto 140 dollars per barrel from 40 dollars per barrel and the UPA Government did not have any control over it. Presently its price is between 60 to 65 dollars per barrel. I would like to mention its reason. The consumption of petrol and diesel in the entire country is. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Yogi Adityanath ji, please take your seat. Please do not interrupt. You take your seat and let him speak.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Madam Speaker, we have to import 78% of the crude oil to meet our requirement

of diesel and petrol. Our domestic prices are affected as soon as the crude oil prices rise in the international markets. Had the leader of opposition guts enough to mention this fact? If so, why did not he speak it out? This is the main reason of the price-rise during the last four-five years. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, please be seated.

[*English*]

Nothing will go on record.

[*Translation*]

Please sit down. Bishnu Pada Ray ji, please sit down. Please sit down and listen to others. If everyone here makes a speech together, how will it go? Now, why are you speaking? Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: The Leader of Opposition mentioned about so many scams while deliberating on the reasons of price-rise. A scam is a sensational word and is a wide issue. If you want to take up a issue seriously its seriousness is lost the moment you mention about the scams. You cannot go on a serious discussion on price-rise if you sensationalize the subject with a few scams for which evidence is not available.

The issue is of MSP. About MSP ...(*Interruptions*) if you are really so much concerned about price-rise then let me speak on that ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Meenaji, please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Then, there is the issue of MSP. How can one deny that the MSP has increased in the country? They can raise objection only on whether it is one of the reasons for price-rise or not. Compare the MSP of the NDA regime with that of the present time. Try to understand the difference. The mention of it in the President's Address is a matter to scoff at for the BJP, they call it a scam. Today, the MSP of wheat and rice is around Rs. 1000-1100, is it a scam? A good sum of Rs. 70,000 crore was given to facilitate the loan-waiver of farmers, is it a scam? ...(*Interruptions*) The poor have been extended a helping hand under the NREGA with a provision of Rs. 39 thousand crore, is it a scam? They have some doubts on MSP. Under the

NDA regime, the MSP had increased sixty percent only. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Has not the Congress Party found anybody else to reply on the issue, except this gentleman? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: If you can not assess my value, it is your fault and not of the Congress ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Geeteji, please do not interrupt. You are a senior leader, please don't interrupt. Please listen to him.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Under NDA regime, what was the MSP of wheat during 2000-2001. It was Rs. 580, then, it was Rs. 610 in 2001-2002. But today, in the year 2009-10, the MSP being given to farmers, the wheat producers is Rs. 1180....(*Interruptions*). I would be coming to sugar also... .(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please address the chair.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let him speak and listen to him.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, please sit down.

....(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*English*]

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Madam, I am not yielding. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

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\*Not recorded.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please listen to him.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Madam Speaker, what was the MSP of rice during 2000-2001 under the NDA regime? They ruled the country so well that the people threw them out of power! At that time, the MSP of rice was Rs. 511, then Rs. 530 during the year 2001-02 and now during this current year of 2009-10, it has risen to Rs. 1000. They mentioned the support price. The Leader of Opposition raised this point. ... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Why are you all getting so agitated? Please keep your cool and let him finish.

... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please listen, what he has to say.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: The Leader of Opposition raised a point asking for the reasons of increase in domestic prices in the market and the overall price-rise, even when the MSP rates are Rs. 1100 and 1080. She has raised a good point. His question is justified. Sushmaji, I thank you for raising a good point and I greet you. But, I am not good at economics; like your good self but would like to throw some light on this issue. If you purchase one quintal rice, one quintal paddy. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: There should be no running commentary. What is this?

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: If you procure one quintal paddy, the rice produced from it is almost sixty to sixty

five kilo. When the FCI procures that rice, its price comes out between 1300 to 1400 rupees approximately.

Suppose, in some small town of Punjab, the rice is procured at the rate of Rs. 1300 to Rs. 1400, Sharad babu will tell the exact figure. When that rice reaches Delhi and Mumbai, there will be more expenses on it. It will include transportation cost, be subjected to levy and all other taxes. Please remember, Gujarat has maximum VAT. You have all praises for Gujarat. I would tell you the story of Gujarat just now. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Why are you getting excited?

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Bishnu Padaji what has happened to you, today?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: When the paddy procured at the rate of Rs. 1050 per quintal reaches market in the shape of rice, its price goes up to Rs. 1945. You get this calculated by some big expert and the person who knows economics and who can calculate this very well. After this, if the rice is being sold in the market at this rate, then I think we should not blame the Government for this, the market forces should be blamed to some extent.

I would like to mention one reason, which Sushmaji has not highlighted while pointing out the reasons for price-rise.... (Interruptions). I would explain one reason which Sushmaji has not mentioned while explaining various reasons for price rise. The one big reason is hoarding. We cannot deny this fact that black-marketing has increased. ... (Interruptions) but the responsibility of taking action against the hoarding lies with the State Government and not with the Union Government. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad): Sanjayji, please tell who is ruling in Maharashtra. ... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You sit down. You always upto speak stand.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Today, discussion is being held on a very serious issue. The whole country and the people are watching it. The issue of price rise is being discussed. Everyone has the right to articulate his views. If one is putting forth one's viewpoint and others keep on interrupting, then one will not be able to speak. Just now, your leader has concluded his speech and put forth his viewpoint. Now allow him to express his views and you listen to it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Madam Speaker, I would like to say that. ....(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Geeteji, when I am on my legs, why are you standing.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Geeteji, you just sit down. I want order in the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Madam Speaker, I was just saying that hoarding has increased and this cannot be denied, however, the Union Government also took note of this fact very well and in August 2006, the Union Government conferred upon the states the right to openly take action against the hoarders under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

I am mentioning a report here as to what action the States have taken against the hoarders in the year 2009?

I would speak about two-three states only. In Andhra Pradesh, 6119 raids were conducted against hoarding and one person was arrested... ..(Interruptions) Why are you getting so impatient? You listen the whole thing.....(Interruptions) In that raid, a stock of almost 102 lakh corre rupees was seized. What happened in Bihar at that time? ... (Interruptions) In 2009, raids were conducted at four places in Bihar. ....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA IGANDHI (Aonla): In that, two persons were arrested. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: In that, two persons were arrested. ....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Next year, three persons will be arrested. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: If members Bharatiya Janata Party feel happy in claping for the decent work of its coalition parties, let it be so for them, I have no objection to it. Four raids were conducted in Bihar in which two persons were arrested. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Sarān): When were these raids conducted? ....(Interruptions)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: They have given this report for the year 2009. ....(Interruptions) May be, this report is not correct. Laluji has full right to make it clear. ....(Interruptions) Not a single person has been prosecuted so far. Not a single person has been convicted and there is no report as to how much stock has been seized. ....(Interruptions) Now let me come on Gujarat. ....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will you be able to control price rise by sending a person to jail. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Now we come to Gujarat. In the year 2009, 21281 raids were conducted in entire Gujarat, in which 21 persons were arrested. ....(Interruptions) 21,000 raids were conducted and 21 persons arrested ....(Interruptions) I don't know Shri Narendra Modi ji might be watching live coverage of today's Lok Sabha Session, he may be able to explain. I am asking him that he arrested 21 persons but how 74 were prosecuted. I can not understand ....(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Mr. Sanjay Nirupam.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: What happened in Madhya Pradesh in the year-2009. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nirupam ji, please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, just sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: In the year 2009, in Madhya Pradesh how many... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat and let him speak.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not get agitated every now and then.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, you are getting agitated on every sentence, how can the House run like this?

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Why have you again stood up?

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: No. That is very wrong. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: I would also present the statistics pertaining to Maharashtra State before you, but before that I would like to discuss about Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka. In Madhya Pradesh from where. (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: This is absolutely uncalled for, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Madam Speaker, the Central Government asked the Madhya Pradesh State Government about the action taken against the hoarders and the reply has been given by the State Government. Regarding the total number of conducted, the relevant column mentions 'nil'. Similarly, regarding the number of persons arrested, the column shows 'nil'. The answer is again nil regarding the number of persons prosecuted in Madhya Pradesh and the value of goods confiscated. (Interruptions)

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): There is no black-marketing in Madhya Pradesh. Black marketing is going on in the states governed by Congress. (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Why do you stand on each issue. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: This condition is not prevailing in Karnataka. I would congratulate the Chief Minister of Karnataka as he has initiated some action. Let me tell you the action he has taken. In Karnataka during 2009. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please at least listen to him. If you keep on standing after each & every sentence, how would any one be able to speak.

*...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. Nothing is going on record.

*...(Interruptions)\**

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Why are you standing. Please sit down.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Madam Speaker, the Central Government asked the Karnataka State Government about the number of raids they conducted, and the action taken against hoarders. The Karnataka Government replied that throughout the year they conducted raids at 881 places, arrested 39 persons and prosecuted five. When asked about the value of goods seized it was revealed that the total seizure was to the tune of Rs. 22 lakh in a year. Now I would like to speak about Maharashtra. You all were very anxious to know about Maharashtra. The State Government in Maharashtra raided 1011 places and 1639 persons have been arrested in a year. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You will please sit down. You have again stood up.

*...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You all please sit down. Every question has to be answered. Why this cross talk?

*...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You all please listen to him. Why are you standing every now and then.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Maximum hoarding is in Maharashtra. What data you are placing? *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Geete ji you please sit down. When your name would be called you can speak. Why you are speaking now? You can speak when you are asked to.

*...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down and let him speak.

*...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Lal Singh ji, why did you stand up?

*...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: What is this running commentary?

[Translation]

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Madam Speaker, I was saying about Maharashtra that when the Central Government asked the Government of Maharashtra regarding the action against hoarders in 2009, the Government replied that raids had been conducted at 1011 places, 1639 persons have been arrested and



action has been taken against 1008 persons by prosecuting them. I would like to reveal the quality of goods seized, because I had already accepted that hoarding is the biggest cause of price rise. The Government of Maharashtra has told the Central Government that the total value of seizure stood at Rs. 12500 lakhs in Maharashtra in 2009. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Madam Speaker, I want to say one thing.

MADAM SPEAKER: Not at this point of time.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I do not want to say anything. I only want to point out one thing. Kindly hear me. All accept that there is a price rise but we are not offering any solutions. Nor are we discussing the role of the agency entrusted with the responsibility to check price rise.

MADAM SPEAKER: All right, when you speak include these points.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: The main point of my speech is that the state Government is also responsible somewhat and we also are not free from blame. But they also have a responsibility to curb price rise and they should also play a proactive role. The biggest proof of it is Delhi. You all live in Delhi. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing is going into the record, except his speech.

...*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: When the price of pulses started sky-rocketing then the Government of Delhi, the Chief Minister of Delhi arranged special counters for pulses and sold them below the market price. Floor bags were sold at Rs. 10 per kilogram. This is the proof of sensitivity of the State Government towards the hardships faced by the people, unlike several State Governments which took no action against the boarders. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Bishnu Pada Ray Ji, you have stood up again. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Why are you standing? Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Madam Speaker, the result of the special campaign launched by the State Government of Delhi was evident in a newspaper yesterday "Dal ki kimaten Delhi Sarkar ki dakhalandaji ki vajah se niche aayee." ...*(Interruptions)*. Sushmaji said productivity did not increase. It seems that it was the only serious analysis that agriculture productivity in our country is not increasing the way it should. I feel that to blame any single Government for that would be a childish approach. In all seriousness we should determine the extent of increase in area under cultivation during the last 30 years in our country.

A leader of opposition said somewhere that such a huge price rise was experienced for the first time in the last thirty years. I want to tell him that for the first time in 1792 there was a huge deficit in rainfall i.e. to the extent of 23 percent. This was the worst monsoon during the post 30 years. You forgot to mention drought. Some parts of the country experienced drought and others floods, leading to crops being destroyed. ...*(Interruptions)* It so happened that the land which was arable. ...*(Interruptions)*

The cultivable land has reduced from approximately 680 lakh hectares to 620-622 lakh hectares which means we could not cultivate approximately 60 lakh hectares land. It was mainly due to drought situation in the country. Interestingly, where three-four states were reeling under drought situation, two southern states were affected

by excessive rain. On the one hand our crops were being destroyed by drought while on the other hand, crops in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka were being destroyed by excessive rains. It has a direct impact on productivity. However, I would also like to tell that our irrigation potential has increased to such an extent during the last 8-10 years that if we make a comparative study then our productivity on approximately 70 lakh hectares land has increased due to the increased irrigation potential....(*Interruptions*) What was our per hectare production in different states of the country from the year 2003 to 2008?

If we talk of rice, its production was 3654 kg. per hectare in Punjab during the year 2003 which has increased to 4022 kg per hectare during the year 2008-09. The production has increased during the tenure of the UPA Government. ....(*Interruptions*) I feel that you are the most learned persons. That is why the public pushed you out of power during the last two elections. ....(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nirupamji, please address the Chair.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: You need not worry so much. Price rise is a matter of concern even for us however, there is a need to take its cause seriously. ....(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

....(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

....(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Why are you standing every now and then. Please sit down.

....(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: I will not allow any other Member to speak. All the hon. Members may please listen to Shri Sanjay Nirupam.

....(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Sharadji, you made your submission even yesterday. You will get another chance, your chance is due.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Madam, it's a very strange question that I do not know anything about agriculture since I am living in Mumbai. I do reside in Mumbai, however, I have a deep sense of respect, faith and regard for 72 per cent farming community of our country. Owing to that respect, I would like to state the position of Punjab. The production increased in Punjab, however try to understand the reality of Chhattisgarh which is known as rice bowl of India. ....(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: The production was 1454 kg. per hectare in Chhattisgarh during the year 2003-04. Thereafter it has reduced to 1176 kg per hectare during the year 2008-09.

MADAM SPEAKER: You have again stood up.

What is this?

....(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Sharad Yadavji, please sit down. Your chance is coming.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Madam Speaker, I am not speaking on this issue. Please listen to me. I would make a submission to all the hon. Members of the house that we are here to resigned to the reply given by the Govt. side, but do not let this serious discussion lose its gravity by repeated interruptions. It is requested that the discussion on this issue should be allowed to go on, so that the seriousness of the issue remains intact. The hon. Member is not making such a submission which invites their interjections. We do not have to make a force of this issue.

MADAM SPEAKER: Alright, thank you very much.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Madam, I salute the farmers of Punjab that they did not allow their production to get affected even during crisis. However, it is to be remembered that irrigation and agriculture are under the purview of State government. It is a state subject. Afterall, how the things came to such a pass in Chhattisgarh

that the production of rice declined to this extent in the rice bowl of the country. I feel it is necessary to look for an answer to this question as to what efforts were made there for increasing agriculture productivity. We even need to ponder over the efforts of the State Government to augment production there. The Leader of Opposition insisted that the productivity should be increased across the country. It was even alleged that the productivity stagnated during our Government. I wish to give an information to them. During the Government of N.D.A. in the year 2002-03, the period whose songs of glory they sing quite tirelessly the production of rice was 71.82 million tonnes. During the year 2008-09 i.e. last year of the U.P.A. Government, the production of rice was 99.18 million tonne. Now, I will tell you about wheat. It used to be 65.76 million tonnes during the year 2002-03 and it increased to 80.68 million tonne during the year 2008-09. Even after all this if Sushmaji states-that the Government did not focus on increasing productivity, then I can say that her data is not correct, perhaps it is faulty. Her suggestion is well taken that productivity should be increased, however, it is true that it has increased despite acute drought and heavy floods....(Interruptions) We are attributing the reason of price rise to forward trading in foodgrains. I am myself against this forward trading. I have not only been vociferous against forward trading but even given notes in the party over forward trading on three commodity exchanges in the country. I am very glad that the Government has even taken a decision to delist different foodgrains from time to time during the last two-three years. Today, none of the foodgrains is under forward trading.

Commodity exchanges come under the Ministry of Agriculture. I would like to urge the Government that forward trading of foodgrains from the Commodity exchanges should not be permissible at any point of time as it is directly related to the life of Common man. Speculation has been started and it is very bad. So I want to remind and ask my BJP colleagues as to who had started speculations? When were these commodities exchanges started? I can tell you about the history of three commodity exchange.

[English]

There is a national commodity and derivatives Exchange Limited, NCDEX. It is located in Mumbai. It was incorporated on 23.04.2003.

[Translation]

It was not UPA Government at that time. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

NCDEX was incorporated on 24.4.03.

[Translation]

UPA is not responsible for this. ...(Interruptions) The operation of Commodity Exchange started on 15.12.2003.

[English]

Then, multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited, the biggest Commodity Exchange in India, is also located in Mumbai. It was incorporated on 10.11.03. The next one is National Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

I will tell you about this right now.

[English]

It was incorporated on 28.12.01 and started operation on 26.11.02.

[Translation]

You are telling the countrymen that speculation is going on and the speculation of foodgrains is being carried out in the market. I would like to tell you that it is NDA and BJP who started this speculation. ...(Interruptions) I am not in its favour. ...(Interruptions) This type of trading will not be stopped but forward trading of foodgrains should be stopped. Further, I would like to inform you that forward trading of foodgrains has been stopped but it is still going on all over the world. I don't know which future prices Sushmaji has quoted but I would like to quote 2-3 figures of the net test future pricing of rice under forward trading on Chicago Board.

**13.00 hrs.**

How we will save ourselves from it is a challenge before the Government. We should stop trading of our foodgrains. But Commodity exchanges are in the operation across the world including London Exchange and Chicago exchange. We are living in a globalised

economy. There is no restriction on movement of goods from one country to another. She told the story of Dharmendra and the same Dharmendra joined BJP. I do not want to go into such a sensitive statement.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: I have to inform the house that there shall be no lunch break.

Shri Sanjay Nirupam please continue with your speech.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Future prices of wheat at the Chicago board of trade on 1 Feb., 2010.

[Translation]

For March, 2010 was 174.44 US \$ per metric ton and 184.27 US \$ per metric ton on 1st Feb. 2010 for July, 2010. It is month of February and future pricing of July 2010 has been announced on Chicago board of trade on 18th of February. How can we refrain ourselves from this international forward trading? I think it is a crucial situation before the Government and the opposition should suggest some measures in order to face the situation. We have forgotten that we have adopted the policy of liberalization after 1991. We are living in a globalized economy. We will have the effect of inflations of various countries. If the prices rise in different countries, we have to face its effects also and we will also be in a position to avail benefits of competitive prices. Do you know what is pricing on international level? Shashmaji had quoted her own international Scenario. Today the inflation rate of North America has been between 0% to 6% during last two years. It has been 3% of 12% in South America. It has been negative in Europe. ...(Interruptions) I am talking about America because you are living in a globalised economy at this time. You will have the effects of whatever is going on in your neighbouring countries. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

You cannot live in isolation. Please try to understand this point. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down. You may speak on your turn. You please sit down now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: If you have trouble with America then listen about Asia. At this point of time inflation rate of India was 8.3%. It was 6% in China, 14.1% in Russia, 20.3% in Pakistan and 22.6% in Sri Lanka. If you go by these figures, I think the things are out of control in India to some extent. Let us not stick to the question of drought and flood only. Let us not forget the fact that the rates of crude oil have increased international level. Keep this fact in your mind that the economic slow down is going on since last two years and the economy of many well established countries of the world have been shattered during this economic slow down. America is totally shattered and the Britain GDP growth registered a negative. GDP Growth of China, which is called fastest emerging economy has been staggered completely. In such a scenario, in our country.....(Interruptions) please do not make running commentary. If you are not serious, you may move outside. Please go outside...(Interruptions) If you have a little bit concern about the poor....(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Nirupam, please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: And please do not indulge in running commentary.

...(Interruptions)\*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Sanjay Nirupam Ji, please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Neeraj ji, why are you getting so angry?

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM (Mumbai North): If you are so concerned about price rise. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Do not join the issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Do not speak like this.

[English]

Please delete all this.

[Translation]

please sit down.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Madam Speaker, there has been a steep rise in the prices of pulses and sugar. We feel the pinch and the entire nation is experiencing this. But we must not forget that there has been a big gap between the production of pulses and their consumption during the last 15-20 years. We have not been able to bridge that gap so far. There is a shortfall of about 3-4 lakh metric tonnes. We are importing pulses from other countries. This has been done not for the first time but from time to time. When we import from abroad it also affect our domestic prices. We import 8 tonnes of tur dal from Myanmar. All of a sudden the production of tur declined there too. That led to a reduction and restriction in our import of rice. Since tur dal is not produced in the rest of the countries, so there is no question of importing it from other countries. A yellow pea pulse is produced in Australia. The people of our country are not accustomed to eating yellow pea pulse because it causes gastric problems. Then what is to be done? When there is no tur dal then we shall

have to eat yellow pea. What is the role of State Government in this regard? When you live in Delhi you must have been travelling in vehicles and listening to FM Radio. Delhi Government is advertising that try and use yellow pea pulse, its supply is good and its price is also coming down. There should be communication between the people and the Government at some point, the responsibility for which rests not only with the Central Government but the State Government also. I am not talking about the controversies in the Centre-State relations, in fact the responsibility lies with all of us.

Madam Speaker, here the issue of sugar has been raised. Brazil is the largest producer of sugar in the world. In the year 2005 there was a sudden bumper production of sugar in Brazil and in the international market sugar prices crashed. Sugar factory owners of our country became restless. I personally know some of the sugar factory owners of Maharashtra. They said in 2005 that it had become very difficult for them to run their sugar factories because sugar was getting cheaper abroad and nobody was ready to buy their sugar stock. And this was disturbing the entire chain of our sugar industry. After that in the year 2008-09 the situation got reversed. Today Brazil does not produce so much sugar. Today more than 50 percent sugarcane of Brazil is being used for ethanol. Today the sugar production of Brazil has come down by more than 50 percent. We need 220 lakh metric tonnes of sugar whereas only 160 lakh metric tonne is available with us. That is why it is a challenge before the Government to bridge this gap. If in this process of bridging this gap prices go up, then we shall be responsible and we will have to listen all this. Those who are in power have to be responsible for every difficult faced anywhere. If any bomb explodes anywhere then we shall be answerable. If prices go up then again then the liability will come upon us but please also look at the intention of the Government. The Government are trying to bridge the gaps wherever they occur by providing sugar, at some places by increasing MSP and by trying to make imports from such countries where prices are coming down. Expressing my regret and sensitivity on this issue of price rise, expressing my concern for the poor I would like to request the Government to deal with the issue of price rise in a better, well-managed way and try to control it in the coming days so that the common man gets some relief. The prices of the essential commodities for the common-man should come down. Thank you.

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\*Not recorded.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Madam, thank you. In the speeches that have been made so far some have spoken very well. I would like to ask the coming speakers whether the poor people will get food from the figures of Chicago and Asia? Price rise is a serious problem, how can it be checked and people would get food? We just want to raise this issue only. My speech is very small and not a lengthy one. This is the biggest price rise since Independence. Prices had never gone up so much earlier, prices are going up on daily basis. You can imagine, we shall not cite figures, in the last session which ended in December, the Government had assured to tame the rising prices. You can see where the prices were at that time and where they are today. It is to be decided by both the sides. Mr. Prime Minister or Madam please call a meeting, after all it has to be resolved. No solution is being worked out. A rivalry is going on in the House to cite more and more figures. Do not take it otherwise. We shall cite only one or two figures and on this basis just imagine what the condition of this country is and what view we should form about it? I have already said that the prices of the commodities of daily use are going up day-by-day. The more the Government makes announcements to bring down prices, the higher the prices go. What are the reasons for it? It is very simple. The Government is in collusion with the industrialists and capitalists of this country. Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture Shri Sharad Pawarji, I would like to caution you that the propaganda of Sharad Pawar being responsible for all this price rise is being spread in the entire country. Such atmosphere has been created. I am telling you that this propaganda has reached up to the district Committees of the Congress Party. You will not just be in the dock, a history will do be written that the prices rose to the highest point during your regime. And for this Hon'ble Sharad Pawar was responsible. This debate is going on in the Government and you are keeping mum. You may have got the office of Minister, you may be the Minister of Agriculture of this country but it is not of much significance to the country. History does not regard any Minister or Prime Minister. History is written for those who work for the people and is ready to make sacrifices for them. History salutes those people. I do not want to cite names whether it is Gandhiji or Jai Prakashji or Lohiaji, they did not hold any post but the history of India cannot obliterate their names from its pages. Therefore, I would like to caution you sincerely. You are being held responsible for all these

things. You should come out with a reply which may be the correct one. The Government is entirely responsible for this. For the soaring prices all these people sitting here right from the Prime Minister to all the Ministers are responsible.

Why don't they admit it? They should seek co-operation by saying, "yes, there is inflation, so, you co-operate with us".

Madam, today there is so much inflations. Why are the people running this Govt. behaving like the owners of this country. We all have come here. The leaders should have been called to deal with the problem of inflation and their suggestion could have been solicited. We would not hold discussion, it would be settled. Did they ever call us, Madam, you yourself could have called us. If they were not ready to agree with you, then, you could have put this fact before us that the Government was not agreeing with you or the Union Government is not in your control.

13.15 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Today I want to say this much that the prices of commodities are increasing as the Union Government is hand in glove with the industrialists. I want to give an example of the Manvalco Company. The biggest proof in this regard is the unprecedented rise in the prices of sugar and the reasons therefor. You know the reasons in this regard. Where sugarcane is being produced and where sugar is being produced is a fact they know more about. He has also contended this fact and when we were in power, he had delivered a speech over here also stating that the state produces more sugar. That speech is with me, but there is no need to quote it. On the one hand, there are lakhs of tons of sugar lying with the owners of the sugar mills, then, on the other hand why did the Government grant permit to the private sector companies to import sugar from abroad. I want a reply in this regard. Godowns are full of sugar. I live in Uttar Pradesh where there are maximum numbers of sugar mills and the maximum amount of sugar is produced. On the one hand, there is enough reserve of sugar available here, while on the other hand, permission is being given to private mill-owners to import sugar. We could have exported it as well and it was exported, too. We are both exporting and importing. It was rightly

said that these two should not go together. Sugar is being imported from outside by the private companies at the rate of Rs. 16 per kg. If the Government gets all the sugar released from the private sugar mill owners, the price of sugar will decline from Rs. 50 to Rs. 25 within a week. I would like to state this fact with full responsibility in the House. Sugar is in plenty in the godowns of private sugar mill owners. Hon'ble Sharad Yadav ji also knows that in Uttar Pradesh sugar is in plenty in the godowns of sugar mill owners and permission is being granted to these very mill owners to procure sugar from outside. They will procure it at Rs. 16 per kg. and sell it at Rs. 50 per kg. here. Somewhere it is available at Rs. 46 per kg., but actually it is being sold at Rs. 50 per kg. I myself have purchased sugar at Rs. 50 per kg. Where is it being sold at Rs. 46 per kg? It might be available to some people at this rate at some shops. Thousands of tons of sugar is lying at sea ports and they are also aware of it. Money went out of the pockets of the consumers. When will the rates be brought down the time by when the consumers will get ruined completely? I am reiterating what I said earlier that the people of the country are in a state of hopelessness and despair, however, those who are facing such a situation will not commit suicide, but will be ready to do such a work which will pose threat to the unity and integrity of the country.....*(Interruptions)* I will not say those words, however, they will be ready. Sometimes, when the feeling of hopelessness and despair worsens, one does not commit suicide. Instead, he would take such a step, follow such a method which would pose a threat to the unity and integrity of the country. This is the issue of price-rise. This will happen and we will not be able to check it even jointly. They say a desperate man leaves nothing to chance. The same situation will happen... *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: This will happen to these people, not to us, what is our fault?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I have said for whom it will be so.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: It will be against the Governments.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It will be against the Governments. Now, I will say no more, otherwise, they may fight with one another. Nowhere is my Government in power. *...(Interruptions)* They will indulge

in allegations and counter-allegations and the debates is drifting on in that mud-slinging. *...(Interruptions)*

So I would like to tell the Government that the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Finance should get the sugar out in the market which is lying in the godowns. They should get it out from the hoarders. They will say that it is the responsibility of the State Government. You cannot escape by making such an excuse. You cannot escape this sin by making this excuse. People are starving due to poverty. Those who are sick have no money even for medicines and they are succumbing to untimely death. The poor have no money for the education of their children or for their treatment. This is the situation as on date. Today, a number of children are dropping out of their schools on account of poverty rising from this price rise. Who is responsible for this? I am simply giving a word of caution to you people because the public is listening everything and is witnessing all these things. Those times are no longer there. Every village has television channels, so, they are watching as well as listening to the speeches that we are delivering today. They will be responsible for the outcome of this scenario, not we. But the issue is related to the country, so there is a concern. That is why I am giving you suggestions. People will not keep themselves restrained for long on account of hopelessness and despair. Then, they will choose the other way, which will pose a threat to the unity and integrity of the country. This is the most important thing over which the Government needs to think. Now, there should be seriousness over this in the House. It is upto them. It is our duty to give them proper suggestions.

Now, we are repenting on our support to the Government. I did not know that the Government would function like this. I gave support only to stop the communal forces because these are also responsible for this. If they had not demolished the mosque, the congress would not have come to power. It is our compulsion, as we have no other option. There is no other option before the country. If the mosque had not been demolished, their position would have been different today. *...(Interruptions)* You will not be in majority. If you manage to do that, we will not support you. *...(Interruptions)* How will we support now? We supported you twice, but now we will never support. *...(Interruptions)* We will meet the people having common ideology. We will take out those parties, which are having alliance with the B.J.P. We will also ask Sharad Yadav to come

out, come out in the interest of the country, society, farmers and in the interest of those who voted for them.

...(Interruptions) We all will get consolidated.

...(Interruptions) We are giving a word of caution to Pawar ji so that he could move out of the congress alliance join this side.

Sir, the number of people living below the poverty line should be clearly defined. As per the official figures, 27 percent people are living below the poverty line. But according to the report of Arjun Sen Gupta committee, 80 percent people have purchasing power of Rs. 8 to Rs. 20 per day. Their capacity is this much only. Arjun Sen Gupta has submitted this report to the Government, before the country. One can guess too many people are living below the poverty line. According to our estimate, 80 percent people live a miserable life. They are not getting proper diet. Middle class also feels constrained. They think that they have some respect in the society, but they are also being compelled. They are not getting proper two square meals due to price rise. The proper, sufficient diet means, that one should get milk, curd, buttermilk, ghee and fruits also. 80 percent people are not getting proper two square meals. This is the situation in the country. Due to this, diseases are on the rise.

Sir, the Government had conducted the economic survey. The Government has accepted the report of Arjun Sen Gupta and he too has accepted that 63 percent people spend less than Rs. 20 a day. The Government has accepted Arjun Sen Gupta's report which is reflected in the Economic survey who constituted this committee? Who conducted the economic survey? The Government did it and you wrote that mention of 80 percent Indians having purchasing power of Rs. 8 to Rs. 20 a day in Arjun Sen Gupta's report is true. It has also been accepted that there are definitely 63 percent people who spend less than Rs. 20 a day.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now please tell me how can they afford education and medical facilities etc. Therefore, I do not want to present detailed figures and will also advise my colleagues not to get stuck in figures. It is true that the leader of opposition has given a good speech, but has cited more than required figures. Neither the farmers, nor the poor, and the starving man can make any sense out of these figures. Everybody is having a data. One can quote as many figures as one wants, but figures cannot satiate one's hunger. Everybody

is saying, 'give figures'. The moot question is how production should increase.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, the farmland in India is decreasing every year by three percent. It can be more, but at least 3 percent of agricultural land is decreasing every year. The factories, colleges, hospitals, houses, and cities are being constructed on this land. This is a very serious matter. If land is decreasing by three per cent every year, then what action is being proposed to be taken in this regard? I would like to say that when our Government was in power, we made many efforts to increase the area under agricultural land and it reaped many benefits. We constituted a farm and labourers force in Uttar Pradesh. This force tried successfully to reclaim 65 thousand acres of land as cultivable land and got agricultural produce out of that land. We said that till the time land becomes cultivable, the Government will bear all the expenses incurred on it. Arrangements for labourers, drainage, irrigation etc. whether electricity based or canal or tube well based were made. By launching such a movement, we made 65 thousand acres of land cultivable. He is himself telling that go to Kanpur and Hardoi district and see the land prepared by the said force has the crops produced. We have lot of wasteland. Cauvery, Chambal and Yamuna rivers are also-flouring in my State. These rivers are full of water and even if they are not having water, it can be arranged, production can be increased, but Congressmen are least bothered about the farmers and the poor.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, today, hon. Prime Minister is not present here. The Prime Minister should remain present at the time of such discussions and he is not at all concerned about it. This is a serious issue though it may not seem so. Count the people sitting on these benches. Take out the people supporting the Government, then count the number of Congressmen here.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: The T.V. camera is showing how many people are present here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Other Ministers are present in the House. The State Minister is also sitting in the back row.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, this year the-agricultural production has



been negative. The Minister of Finance and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs are present here, they must be having the figures. The agricultural production has been negative. The loss has been suffered in case of agricultural production. The farmer has invested more and production is much less than the investment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: The farmer plays the biggest role in checking the price rise. They will produce most crops. More price has to be given for thin produce. The farmer has to be given remunerative price for this produce. I would like to say that, if the Government accomplishes this one task alone, the prices will be controlled within one week, but I do not believe that the Government will do this task, because it lacks courage, will power and resolve. If the Government had all three, will power, resolve and courage, the price-rise can be checked. But the Government is lacking in the resolve, courage and will power, I think so. Till today, they have not got the will power..... *(Interruptions)*. It has got no meaning, they never got will. Three things are essential and you can estimate that from the current agricultural production as to what will happen in future? These people will not ponder over it, we are pondering over it. 80 percent people cannot spend more than Rs. 20 a day. Today, pulses are available at the rate of Rs. 100 per kg, Rs. 90 per kg, whereas the poor man's purchasing power is Rs. 20 per day. Arhar Dal is the most nutritious food for the poor. He neither gets fruit, nor curd, milk, buttermilk etc, he gets nothing. He cannot even think about egg, meat, chicken etc. The people who can afford it, eat it, but I would like to tell the House that Arhar Dal is the most nutritious food of the poor. If a labourer, who does physical labour gets Arhar Dal, he gets the nutritious diet. Today, Arhar dal cost Rs. 90-Rs. 100 per kg. Who is being looted? The consumer and the farmer.

It was procured at Rs. 25 per kg from the farmer. A maximum of Rs. 2 are spent on processing the pulses; let's say Rs. 5 were spent, then Rs. 30 is the cost input on one kg of pulses whereas it is being sold for Rs. 90 and Rs. 100. How much profit will be earned? Our Samajwadi Party has been advocating the price control policy. The hon. Minister of Agriculture was saying something from that side. I do not wish to go into these figures. If he do not understand the price control policy,

then he should concur with this policy. Not more than one and a half time profit should be allowed to be earned on goods manufactured in the factory after calculating the manufacturing cost. Stringent measures should be taken for its implementation. The other day, I had said that it takes courage, firm resolution and will power to check the rising prices, however, this Government has none of these. The problem does not have three-four solution. It has one and only one solution and that is that not more than one and a half times profit on the cost of a goods produced in a factory should be allowed to be earned. What is the cost today? When arhar dal is produced for Rs. 25 per kg.. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I will be brief. Leave aside those 80 percent people they are not getting two square meals a day. I want to raise this point before the country, before its people because the country understands it. It is unfortunate that the farmer who feeds us and the labourers are struggling to make two ends meet. That is why I said that they may quote any figures to express their inability to provide a cure, however, quoting figures alone would not help. I thank hon. Sharad Yadavji that at least he stood up and asked his colleagues to remain silent. But no one from this side did so. None of these Ministers stood up and asked others to keep silence. He at least took it seriously. I would like to reiterate that if this situation continues, its consequences would be serious. It cannot be tolerated for many days if the godowns remain full of stock, the sugar mill owners have full stock and wheat godowns are replete with stock and yet the people starve. This situation will have to be pondered over and the Government should make efforts in this direction. The Officers will do what the Government asks them to do. It would not just be right to blame the officers or a particular state. Today, the onus lies on the policies of the Government of India. If the fault lies with the State Government then what are policies of the Union Government in this regard? What is the status of the State Government in this regard? What is the status of the State Government? We were in deep slumber during the year 1978-79, we did not get an inkling and when we woke up we realized that our Government was dismissed by the Congress. I was divested of my office, car, peons. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, please conclude. You have taken enough time.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Please allow me 5 more minutes. There were interruptions, although they are from the major party. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No one is interrupting now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Please give me some more time. I will not take more than five-ten minutes. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA (Patna Sahib): Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a very serious issue. It is associated with the common man and none of the persons being held accountable is present here. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the House is here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: With your permission and the permission of the House, I would like to say that we have excellent orators here. Mulayam Singh ji is speaking so well, we want to listen to Sharad ji, we will hear Gurudas Dasguptaji, Sushmaji spoke so nicely. My colleague Sanjay Nirupam ji was equipped with so much data. This apart, the other side could not forego their one time meal to participate in the discussion on price rise. They are out for lunch....(Interruptions) This is a pretty serious issue. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): Sushmaji has said that.. ..(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You need not reply. The hon. Minister would give the reply ...(Interruptions).

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Mulayam Singh ji is speaking so nicely, however, neither the hon. Minister of Agriculture nor the hon. Members from the ruling party are present in the House. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Discussion on the same subject is going on in both the Houses. The Minister of Agriculture was here. He has gone to the other House. That is why, I have come here. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, sit down. The submission of only Mulayam Singh ji and no one else's will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Leader of the House has assumed the responsibility. He says that he is there. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, please conclude fast.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I am not being allowed to speak. ...(Interruptions) I have not said anything deliberately that would hurt anyone. I am giving suggestions. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have spoken for 28 minutes.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I will not argue with you, however hon. Members have wasted my 10-15 minutes by making interjections. However, I will obey your direction.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Other hon. Members should also get a chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I want to say that 80 percent people are not getting sufficient food. Hon'ble Minister of Finance, it is a fact and I, too, know that House will continue functioning even if a single Minister is present here. But the Members elected directly by the people should be at least present here while discussing such issues. ...(Interruptions) It does not matter if the Minister wishes to leave. The Prime Minister should have come at least for ten minutes.

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\*Not recorded.

...(Interruptions) It does not matter if the Prime Minister is on a foreign visit. However, at this juncture he should not go on a foreign visit. He should have listened to us at least for 10-15 minutes. ...(Interruptions) I would like to know as to when and how prices will be brought down. It does not matter whether the reply should be given by either the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Agriculture or any other Minister, but today in the House there should be an announcement by when prices would come down. Only then this discussion has importance. The public distribution system has proved a total failure. The quantum of foodgrains which is required to be given to the consumers was siphoned off by way of corruption. You are speaking of NREGA, where is that NREGA? Tell me about it. Hon'ble Jagdambika Pal ji, you, tell me about NREGA and accompany me. Is there NREGA anywhere?. ...(Interruptions). There is rampant corruption in NREGA. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Let him speak. I am speaking about NREGA that any one should accompany me. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is making his own points, so you take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Hon'ble Minister of Finance, appoint anybody. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is making his own points, so you, take your seat. You may give reply to it later.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I would say what is happening in NREGA is that if the wages are Rs. 100, then, the contractors pay Rs. 50 to the labourers without any work and get their signature by saying that they will maintain register in such a way that the work is over and they will get payment of Rs. 50 per day sitting at home. Now the labourers think that they are getting payment of Rs. 50 without doing any work. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please keep quiet.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: They are getting Rs. 50 without doing any work. Rs. 50 is pocketed by contractors. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Take your seat. Do not give reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Where is NREGA now? ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When you will get opportunity, then, you can explain.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not give your reply. When you will get opportunity, then, give your reply. Take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what have I said that he has felt bad. ...(Interruptions) I am not saying anything wrong, I am just giving information. Jagdambika Pal Ji, do you have information that the workers are paid Rs. 50 without any work in NREGA?

They also think that they did not have to work. In this way, the contractor siphons off Rs. 50. ...(Interruptions) I am saying about NREGA. Out of this, some amount is siphoned off also by the officials. Thus, all the concerned persons involved in NREGA. NREGA has become a victim of corruption. Is there anyone in the House who may tell me the extent of work carried out under the NREGA, I am ready to accompany him. Let him show me the work carried out over there. ...(Interruptions).

SHRI LALU PRASAD: All the manual works are being carried out through the machines. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You all, take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Mulayam Singh Ji.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat. There should not be any running commentary. You all, take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is beyond my understanding as to what I have said against him.....(Interruptions). I have not come in the House first time. I will not tell you as to how many times I had been in Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly and how many times I have been here. It is beyond my understanding as to what I said that made him feel felt bad. Let anybody tell me as to what I said against him. I am giving suggestions and yet he is standing. He is doing it for publicity. ...(Interruptions) He is showing his face to the camera. He is playing to the gallery. That is his intention. What other motive can be there? I am not saying anything provocative, why then is he unnecessarily standing to interrupt. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly sit down. Do not interrupt.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Do not interrupt. Let him speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir he will not listen to you. I know what kind of person he is. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You settle it between yourselves. It concerns your state.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Rise in prices of edible items is due to corruption or else, this situation

would not have arisen. Had there been no price rise and had the public distribution system functioned smoothly there would not have been any need to discuss it here. These people are responsible. Do you know the powers of the state Government? Collectors represent the centre, whereas the Lekhpal and Patwari, under him represent the state. What is their status compared to the collectors? Collector represents the centre. Lekhpal and Patwari belong to the state. In view of the powers of the collector vis-a-vis Lekhpal and Patwari how can you hold the states wholly responsible for this? The responsibility lies not with the states, rather it is the centre which is wholly responsible. What action have they taken against any state government or the Chief Minister? Why don't they act against them? The poor children can not afford education. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will conclude in two-three minutes. I have been steadfast in my view. If it is incomprehensible, I can only say please read it. What can I do? Hon. Minister of Finance is a well qualified, wise and an experienced leader. We, the socialists have always advocated that manufactured goods should not be sold at a profit of more than 1.5 times their cost of production. Whether it is steel bars, cement, iron, sugar or any manufactured product. If the cost of production is Rs. 100 it should be sold at Rs. 150. Who has permitted a product manufactured at a cost of Rs. 100 to be sold at Rs. 1000 or Rs. 1500? I cannot ask the State Governments. They too are responsible but what action have they taken against them? I reiterate that compared to the centre, the states have no powers. My government was in power for three and-a-half years. The sword of dismissal constantly hung above our heads. Meetings were held daily. Some persons in the central government tried their best to dismiss my government. This happened during the tenure of the previous Prime Minister. Same was the case when hon'ble Manmohan Singh was the Prime Minister. Every day meetings were held to find a way to dismiss my government. I did not care if I was dismissed. Had my government been dismissed the people would have voted the government out of power. It was a loss to us. I can assure you that had my government been dismissed the people would have voted against this government. ...(Interruptions)

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\*Not recorded.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Even if you had not extended support, things would not have come to such a pass in the country.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I have already conceded to this fact. I would specifically like to mention that if such a situation arises we are ready to co-operate. The government should assure as to in how many days the prices would be brought down and to what extent. And if the government needs our support for this, we are willing to support. Sharadji I have extended support for only one reason. It was because of your mistake. Because you joined hands with the B.J.P. I cannot form an alliance with them after the demolition of the masjid. We did cooperate before that. The day we join hands they will fall. In fact we three would be sufficient. There is a conspiracy against three of us because we are Yadavs, backward, from poor families, with ordinary background and above all we are socialists. They are jealous of us because of this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I demand that during the reply the government should inform as to in how many days the prices will come down and the extent of support it expects from us. We will cooperate but make a promise that within a definite time frame the prices would be brought down and to such extent. This is the only assurance I seek from government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dara Singh Chauhan.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): What is happening in U.P.?

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (Ghosi): I am explaining right now.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, for all its unwillingness, the Government, today are ready to have a discussion on the issue of price rise in the country under the rule 193. Today, the people across the country are watching how seriously their representatives are discussing the issues in the Parliament. We can understand why the treasury benches were reluctant to discuss the issue while the entire opposition parties wanted to put the matter for discussion under 58(2). The leader of the opposition party started discussing about the price-rise, by giving the

point-wise details but the members of the ruling coalition were vehemently opposing it. They were enraged, but I want to tell that Shrimati Sushma Swaraj Ji was merely putting forth figures, she was not calling any one names. Now-a-days, the people of the country are dying of hunger, They are not getting two square meals to feed themselves, they are cursing the Government as people in extreme distress tend to do. That is why the Government should take this matter seriously.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was listening to the speeches of the members taking part in this discussion. Many a time Governments have been formed under the leadership of two major parties in the country. The issue of price rise is not a new one. The poor, the farmers of the country have through out been helpless, helpless even after the country became independent. Today, I can say that the party which have ruled the country for longest period after independence is very much responsible for price rise. During the regime of that party, the number of people who have had to starve, has been the largest, they did not get two square meals a day. That is why, the present central government is the most responsible for growing price.

The Governments come and go but the largest party in the present government has been ruling the country for most of the said duration and the poor and farmers of the country have been the victims of their wrong economic and exim policies. Today the size of cultivable lands in the country is constantly shrinking. The biggest reason for this is that the poor farmers, who industriously cultivate land to grow foodgrains, have become landless and instead those people who never visit their fields, are the owners of thousands of acres of land. So, the issue of land reform should be discussed while discussing the price-rise.

The largest partner in present government of the country used to raise slogan during electioneering that the party is all for the common man and the poor were taken in by the appeal of the slogan and consequently the party was able to form the government. Because of the wrong economic and export-import policies the price rise is at peak and the incidence of starvation in the country has been growing. This shows one thing that UPA is not with the poor but with the capitalists.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of honourable member Dara Singh Chauhan.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: I am not saying anything wrong but I am putting across my point in the House under the rules of the House. I want to highlight the wrong economic and exim policies of the present government. Because of these reasons despite the low yield of paddy crops, the Union Government exported rice at cheap prices for two years continuously. This has been one of the main reasons of the price-rise.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please!

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: I think some parties are serious about the price rise because it affects the whole nation. It is possible that some individual may have some personal reason of anguists against the Government but I have no grievance against any Government. This pain is shared by my party on behalf of those previous of the country who are victims of starvation and the Government is unable to give any protection to them. It is for them that we speak here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the production of sugar has been low in the country. ...(Interruptions) Pal Saheb, you will also be given an opportunity to put forth your views. I am talking about the pain of the people of the country. Today, the Government of majority is ruling Uttar Pradesh, it is the government of the poor but your allegations will have no effect on that government. A majority government is ruling Uttar Pradesh and after election in coming days, it will be Bahujan Samaj Party which will again form the Government, there are no two views about it. ...(Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, because of wrong economic policies in the country, there is price rise. The black money of the capitalists has always been used by the Government and once they form the government, the prices of diesel, petrol are increased to help the capitalists which consequently causes price rise in the country.

Honourable Minister of Agriculture is not present here. Whenever the Parliament of this country put

questions to bring down the price, the honourable Minister of Agriculture stated that the prices would decrease, the price in fact increased. ...(Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say only that the government are taking plea of global slow-down and low domestic production for the price rise and they are passing the back to the state governments and hiding their own short comings. These are my allegations.

The Governments of the states of the country have proposed that the people below poverty line be given food grains, pulses, sugar at cheap prices. Our Minister of Finance is present here. We had raised the demand last time that the largest state of the country, Uttar Pradesh has been neglected since independence while it contributed a lot in the freedom struggle, but the list of the people under BPL has not been enlarged to cover more people. I demand that the BPL list may be expanded.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, though prices are rising in the country due to wrong economic policies of the Government, yet the Government have never been serious in this regard. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has always been serious on this issue. I would like to tell honourable Jagdambika Palji that he may take my phone number. If you think that there is black-marketing in any part of the district of Basti, call me, at once the raid will be conducted there. ...(Interruptions)

14.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please let the honourable member speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: If the black-marketing is going on at any place.. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of honourable member.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Sir, the states where they are ruling, it is only in the state of Uttar

Pradesh where raids were conducted on more than 31000 places and persons were caught. These persons were the supporters of his party. Today they are having problem that is why they are speaking here. This government is blowing its own trumpet regarding NREGA. If mismanagement of NREGA continues people will die. The Government say that the income of people is increasing through NREGA. I would like to say that the average income of the poor is not increasing in comparison to increase in the prices in the country which is much more. I would like to tell those who are praising themselves, regarding NREGA that people will die of hunger. I would like to say in brief without going into the details, because other members of my party have also to speak.

With these words, I conclude my speech by saying that price rise and starvation deaths are due to the wrong economic and import-export policies of the Government, which has ruled over the country for most of the time. So I would like to say that in this regard Minister of Agriculture, learned Minister of Finance should try to look for any solution to check the price rise in the country.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, price rise is the biggest problem facing the country. The country is beset with problems. There seems to be no solution to price rise. Because of our policies the income of a handful of people which was earlier 2 percent of the GDP, has now shot UP to 21 percent. We are discussing price rise in this House because people are disappointed today. We should do our best to find an effective solution. When I stood up to speak, the attendance in the House and the gallery (press) was thin. Journalists are scarce. They criticise when the attendance in the House is thin. They have got their priorities wrong. The Rail Budget was presented yesterday. Today all the newspapers have published news about cricket match instead of Rail Budget.

Cricket is a game, it is good. Art, culture all those things are part and parcel of human life. But we turn to them only when we are happy and content. Ninety per cent of the people are facing economic hardship. We sympathise with them. What is their condition? With each passing year their condition becomes more wretched. Their condition can not be described in words. Why did we fight for our freedom? We take pride in our progress. The word is applauding us. In our country 12 or 20 per

cent of the people are unaffected by price rise. In Delhi there are markets where the people consider it beneath their dignity to enquire about the price before buying. They simply make the purchase and pay. Moti are coming UP. There is shameless display of wealth. But the chambers are still concerned about the poor. People chastigate politicians. But they forget to mention there are still honest ones also. The house had politicians above criticism such as Lohia ji, Karpooji Thakur, Shri S.M. Joshi, Shri Madhu Dandvate, Chadraseshkar ji, Chaudhary Charan Singh etc. Jagannath Rao Joshi has been my colleague. There is Atalji.

"Kabira hum paida bhaye jag haase hum roye  
Karni aisi kar chalo ki hum haase jag roye."

There were such people. We still have such people. There are still countless such people whom I can name. But time is short. The House can make or mar the destiny of the country. Crores of peoples do not get their due is the budget. There has to be a balance in all aspects. Otherwise democracy would fail in the country and all over the world. I am saying all this because I want to show the way to bring down prices, to remove unemployment, and to increase the production of the farmers. This will be accomplished through agricultural policy. Policy can not be formulated by playing to the gallery. Shatrughan Sinha may be a very good actor. Good actors, good cinema and good dance do have a place in society. I am also a musician. But a musician is of no help when it comes to policy formulation. The policy will be framed by this house, it will be formulated by the politicians. The articles in the papers regarding the Budget presented yesterday urge the honourable Prime Minister and honourable President of India to be more sensitive to price rise and the poor. Good music, drama, sports may give satisfaction to us. But real satisfaction can be had only when society prospers. There is a proverb when in Rome, do as the Roman do. Now we say the country gets the government it deserves. Similar is the case regarding the arts and the elected bodies viz. Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha. The country is facing a grave situation. The discussion is on price rise. I feel that this discussion relates to about 85 percent of the people of this country. ...*(Interruptions)* Not only the Minister, several members belonging to the ruling party as well as the opposition are absent. Why to point out fingers in every direction, situation is so bad. Yesterday night I was watching a person saying now there are 400 channels. I would have

been happy if those 400 channels would telecast discussions on India to matters related. But those channels are telecasting fake reality show on marriages, songs and dances. In Bihar when boys dance, they call it 'Londa Nach' and now day and night 450 channels show "Londa Nach" and no one complains Boys have been dancing since thousands of years, that is not bad. ...(*Interruptions*) You please speak what you want to say. I will reply.

[*English*]

SHRI GOBINDA CHANDRA NASKAR (Bangaon): Sir, he should come to the subject! ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I am just coming to the subject. You are unable to understand what I am saying, if you could understand my point, if the country could understand then we could find the solution. I am saying that why all this has got distorted. Why such a big issue is not being taken up in proper way. You must know that yesterday when the House was being adjourned, the number of members present were not so less, but in the press gallery there were only three journalists. No one will speak about that because you want to be published. But person like me feels the pain. I do not want to point out anyone but a person becomes sad and restless that an issue related to the country is being raised for three days but the way it should be projected in the newspapers and media is not being done. They are hands, nose, eyes and ears. ...(*Interruptions*) Do strike a six, I do not object to that, but there should be a balance of sixers that how many sixes and how many fives you will show. ...(*Interruptions*) It is not the question of those who are hungry. It is a basic question of all humanity.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sharadji, you please address the Chair, do not look in that direction while speaking.

SHRI SHARAD YADAY: It is a basic question. Show business is no solution to country's problems. Similarly cricket cannot solve the nation's problems. Hence my contention that the problem arose due to the policies of your government. Arts and sports have their own importance. I am coming to the point. The press and the politicians have not highlighted the problem adequately. We are concerned here, we are talking on

the issue but the people are not protesting against this problem. The reason for today's discussion is that people should protest. It should not remain confined to the House. Which ever Government is in power whether ours or theirs, in democracy Governments pay heres to public opinion.

You may remember that when people here came out on the question of sugarcane, an acceptable policy was framed on sugarcane. But why it did not become a national issue? We and all others who are running this democracy are responsible to some extent. Today the country is restless, it is in such a condition that we cannot express it. What to say, the condition of the people has remained the same. This Government came to power. Under Pranavji, the country problems multiplied. You asked me to come to the point. I am coming. For your information I have been Minister five to six times in this Government of India. I could not bring major changes I did not have the power. I did my best within my abilities. On the issue of foodgrains which the Government, whether under Jawahar Lal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Morarji Bhai or Atalji it was an established policy. It that the state had a monopoly in foodgrains procurement, and FCI did that. Several honourable members said, that the rats are eating foodgrains in FCI. It is right. It's a fact. Rampant corruption there is. Is there no corruption is in the roads being constructed in villages as well as national highways? There is corruption every where. In Delhi and Commercial city Mumbai prices fluctuate. I am not saying that there is no corruption in FCI. But we had a system, a policy from which we have deviated, Pranavji. Sharadji is not here. I want to tell him that immediately after coming to power we allowed Cargill, ITC and Monsan to purchase the market. They did not buy much but they distorted the market. The government can blame their predecessor.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Rs. 23 thousand crores has been given for food subsidy to BPL people. It is distributed all over the country through PDS. State Governments have to continuously monitor it. Corruption is rampant. Therefore we should be vigilant. Multinational companies have been allowed to purchase from the market. It starts from here. Second question is of export and import. Honourable Minister is sitting here I want to tell him. Sushmaji was explaining quoting data. I too have the data and I will give it to you later, as right now we have time. Import and export are not the means to bring relief to the country. That is infact a



means of loot for some people, that is a major cause of inflation in the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in 2007-08, we had buffer stock of sugar. Sugar barons are present in the ruling party as well as the opposition. When we had a bumper sugar production we exported it. In this House we had raised the issue of export of wheat and rice but Government have not given a proper reply till date. JPC should also be constituted. Those corrupt should be punished. But I want to admit that there is no fault in export Import policy. We import during inflation and shortfall importers are in Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkatta. Whether ITC or Government undertaking NAFED, they have a nexus, with rich businessmen and leaders. A major cause of prevalent inflation is import and export. I agree that matter of oil price is not in your hands but you can control the prices of foodgrains. A leader from Bajrang Dal and Shri Mulayam Singh raised a point. I want to present it in a concrete and pointed way. You have not tried to make fertile the barren and waste land in the country. You did not save the fertile lands in Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Bhopal and Banaras. Big cities have come at those places where there is cultivable lands in the country and it was on account of this cultivable land not markets developed there. The big cities are situated on the bank of rivers or 'around good cultivable lands. You have sanctioned SEZ plans. 8 lacs hectares land has been consumed by SEZ. You have committed so many mistakes in regard to SEZ. Television channels are being run by those having criminal background and builders involved in SEZ. No one will speak unless and until it get media coverage. Because of this if getting these news items published or telecast is a must because absence of this if you raise your voice no one will bother to pay heed to it. We all are responsible for all these we will have to show courage and introspect ourselves also. Politicians and even members of Parliament and Minister are all accountable and will have to clear allegations whether true or false. If the allegation is false then the truth will out some day. The Parliament, the Government and the politicians are responsible for this, not the whole society. Real freedom does not mean that you can do anything you like, and have got immunity to do anything. Such freedom will destroy the real freedom. Whenever I watch the channel, I feel that independence, which was attained with great difficulty and by making lots of sacrifices will come. Cropper due to the people associated with the channels. They are telecasting contents related to ghost.

Even television which is a scientific invention has become a total of spreading superstitions. They invite stupid astrologers. One Minister had said that he was not an astrologer because he can't predict the future then who is the astrologer in this country. If we have the largest number of astrologers in our country, then they should have forecast the future of the country beforehand. There are no astrologers both in Europe and America but they are marching ahead. There channels are spreading superstitions. It is not wrong to believe in God. All great people in the country and world over believe in God. One who believes God, also believe in soul 'Atma' and human being. There is a reverse trend in our country. No scientific inventions and discoveries have been made whatever little is done is attributed to some celestial power or something else. God knows what these channels are showing? Some channels are showing 'snake' going on a particular mission, some other are showing new route for 'Pandvas' and that Draupadi covered be seen wandering here, also not Hanumanji is weeping. Lord Ganesha is drinking milk. Is it possible for any idol or rock to drink milk? ...*(Interruptions)* The whole nation is engulfed in superstition. We should get rid of superstition. ...*(Interruptions)* Why don't we protest for any wrong doing. We have not build the nation or led the nation towards progress. Sixty years have lapsed when Jawahar Lal Nehru ji had asked to adopt scientific temperament.

We have not developed scientific temperament instead we are spreading superstitions. We are reserved to abide by certain rules and regulations and believe in a manna not constitution prescribes for us. This is not a bad thing at all but whether all these rules and code of conduct are not applicable to all? Freedom does not mean transcending the prescribed limit. The whole society cannot be allowed to commit this crime in the name of freedom. Freedom is meant for putting the human and society on the right path. It is good that there are certain restraints on our liberty. We are here discussing the price-rise in the House and the contentions issue is that the Government of India or the State Governments to check the problem of price rise. Sushmaji has rightly said that the State Governments have little role to play in this. We have four sets of data regarding the poverty. Which report should I bring forward? It means we have not been able to ascertain the exact number of poor even after 60 years. We can not find the reliable data of inflation to reach that conclusion. I have some data of

the Government of India that would show the price rise in last 52 weeks. I have time constraints to read it out. The prices of essential items during the last 52 weeks have risen in this way—price of rice rose by 12.60 percent, wheat by 14.40%, pulses by 46.87%, milk by 13.95%, potato by 47.56%, sugar by 95.1%, vegetables by 10.5%, fruits rose by 4.17%. This is the detail provided by the Government of India. Without mincing words. I would like to say that only a few people are plundering the nation and shaking the foundation of freedom and preventing the fruits of freedom from being enjoyed by the common man. Even contesting elections has become such a costly affair when I contested election for the first time, I managed to save 24 thousand rupees. But if I contest election today, workers fill petrol in the jeeps, they demand food and other facilities etc., which require a lot of money. This point can be put for discussion. It means corruption causes price rise and except those who cannot get two square meals in India, all others in some manner or the other are responsible for corruption. That is why there is dispute between government of India and State Governments that who is responsible for this. It is the Government of India which decides the prices of wheat, rice, pulses, millets, sugarcane etc. It is the Government of India which decides buffer stock of sugar, wheat and rice. It is the Government of India that decides the prices of petroleum products and oil. PDS falls under the purview of State Governments. I would like to say that Sushmaji was telling the truth. Shri Shatrughan Sinha is also sitting here. According to the data presented by the Union Government, in Bihar alone there are 60 lakhs people who are living below poverty line. Both Bihar Government and other agencies claim that their number is 114 lakhs. How should the foodgrain be distributed among the poor? You are certainly creating problems for the State Governments because there are more BPL people than these for which allocation of foodgrains is made. We have to seriously ponder over this point. You should accept this and say that you will distribute half kilogram of foodgrain instead of one kilogram but will not be dishonest regarding figures. Four Committees namely Saxena Committee, Arjun Sen Gupta Committee and Tendulkar Committee were formed. Friends; people believe that there is God. We should identify the actual number of poor people so that the actual benefits reach to each and every poor. But we failed to trace out even that number. We have minimum buffer stock of rice and pulses on an average there is one bad yield once is

four years and arrangements were in place to face it. All the Government had such emergency arrangements but you have breached that system. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Sir, according to the figures, 80 percent responsibility lies on the Government of India while hoarding contributes 20 percent. You are ruling both the Centre and some of the States. You should create a model in the country to put an end to the price rise. If you cannot do that you have both CBI and gathering system at your disposal.

I assure you that if we get inputs from your intelligence network we will put this hoarding to an end. Price rise is a challenge for us. Shri Mulayam Singh ji said that we should decide that we will do it in a time bound manner, decreasing it by two percent or five percent. We are taking it as challenge. Please extend the session for two more days as we are not able to complete our speech due to the time limit. You have also your own limitations. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have my limitations.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I will request you that all the systems are under the control of Government of India and two cities are responsible for this price rise—first is Delhi and second is Mumbai.

Lastly, I would like to say that markets of India are centuries old, and not one day old. Due to the culture of our market, price rise cannot go to that level, that it has gone now. There was a self regulation in our markets. After that commodity exchange was introduced. I would like to say in this House that during the regime of our Government, I gave 2-3 commodity exchange to people. My friends, bureaucrats and a few people from the Government said that farmers will be greatly benefited from this. We have lost elections two times and we are admitting in this house that we have committed mistake. Someone was saying that everywhere there is commodity exchange. Mulayam Singh Ji spoke, Dara Singh ji spoke and I am speaking and the speaker from the treasury benches is not present here. You have all the systems, army, Government, I.B., C.B.I., income tax, still if you will not pay heed, then what is the use? It is simple. Fix responsibility for State Governments and guide them. I am speaking here as a representative of a State

Government. We are in trouble because you are providing us less grain and we are having more number of poor people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are providing them grain from our side. Pranav Babu, you have provided succour everywhere but when there was flood in Bihar and Prime Minister said that it is a calamity, it is a national calamity and after national calamity, the kind of succour we should have received, were not provided to us. We asked for 14 thousand crores of rupees but we were not given anything. During tsunami or earthquake, you provided rupees one and a half lakh to every victim for the construction of home, but it was not provided in our State. There should be equality in your eyes. You should be impartial because it will unite the country. If you will be partial then it will divide the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mulayam Singh Yadav ji was talking about controlling the price rise. Today our country has developed a lot. Our market culture has impressed the whole world. The Government will have to control the price rise, either of farm or factory, it should not increase one and half times in one year, it is not possible. Your Government have made sufferings of the poor an issue, the assistance given by the Government to poor is not reaching to them. Every package given by the Government to the poor is plundered, whether it is Indira Awas or food grain given to people living below poverty line or whether it is NAREGA. People are making money out of NAREGA. It is killing the poor but it is a blessing for looters.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sharad ji, now please conclude your speech.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the whole system is under the command of the Government of India. If you want food security again in that system and as more corruption is prevailing in Food Corporation of India like any other organization then you increase procurement through this. Now there is crisis and if you are having more buffer stock and if you had provided food grains on the price lower than the market price then there would have been some difference in your principle of demand and supply.

I have myself been the food Minister. I have provided to biscuitwalas, maidawalas and in market. Buffer stock is very big thing and a debate has taken place here

and it should also be extended for its maintenance. So I would request you that the Government of India have eighty percent control on the system and the system has been made by everyone. So you streamline this system. I would like to say that rabi crops is going to come up and you procure on large scale. In addition to Punjab and Haryana, you direct rest of the Governments of the country and you keep buffer stock on large scale and engage FCI so that the robbers of the country who are located in Delhi and Mumbai and have grip on market, could not rob. You completely lock the community exchange. Earlier there were three middlemen and now there are not only 20-25 middlemen involved it but their number has increased to 300. Commodities do not come in the market. Lakhs of bags of pulses are sold in the market of Kolkatta, Mumbai, Chennai and Ahmedabad and there is a big role of commodity exchangers in raising the price like this. Though you have drawn some commodities out of them but there is role of commodity exchange in raising prices in the country. You must reply one of my point as to how many transactions have taken place. How much money saved due to this? I should get the reply of my point. At last I would like to say that "Rehman Aah Garib ki kabahun na khali jae mui khal ki shawers se loh bham ho jaye". I would like to say that so far as poor people of India are concerned it is said in their case that ahiman Ah Garib ki Kabahun Na Khali Jaye, 'Kabahun na nisfal jaye, it will not go unnoticed. You have the responsibility to ensure that this debate do not go in vain but the people who are sitting on this side also have responsibility to come on road. So long as this does not happen the direction and the way of the Government and State will not change.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR (Barasat): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you. Today's situation of hunger and starvation is worrisome. Throughout the nation the poor people are not being able to gather two square meals a day. It is definitely a very very serious problem that the nation has taken upon itself today to discuss in this august House and we have to consider certain points as far as this problem is concerned. This problem did not arise suddenly in the past few days. It has been slowly building up over the past couple of years and there are reasons behind it.

Firstly, we will have to keep in mind the worldwide recession which shook the world. Possibly this recession is the worst to hit the world after the great recession of the 1930s and that affected adversely our import and export situation. The price rise affected international markets and the export of rice was also hit. Hoarders stepped in at that moment and they thought they would make a kill by hoarding rice and later on releasing it to the international market till it was banned. Also the rises and at certain times little fall in the crude oil prices all over the world has affected this adversely because, after all, the foodgrains are carried mostly using transport modes which use the finished products of the crude oil, also used for crop irrigation by shallow pumps.

Keeping this in mind we have to agree the state of the poor people, the poor people of the nation who are going hungry, the poor people of our nation who are not able to gather two square meals a day. It is no doubt a very very serious situation. I am really grateful to the hon. Leader of the Opposition for bringing up this topic, of course, from a Party which is known to be the *messiah* of the hoarders and traders. And it appears that there is a political motivation because this is not an emergency situation which started just two days back or a week back. It has been developing over the past few years.

So, the tussle over the last two days regarding under which rule we would discuss the hunger and thirst of our poor people leaves us wondering whether their constant demand for the Adjournment Motion is politically motivated or not. Here, we would really like to appreciate the Government for the excellent projects taken by them. During the course of the day we have really heard criticism about the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Now my question is – why did the Hon. Members of the Opposition, when they were in power, not think of the poor people of our nation by giving them such an opportunity to earn money *albeit* it is Rs. 100 for 100 days coming to Rs. 10,000 per year.

Why did they not think even of this amount when they were in power? As I said, messiahs of traders and hoarders have suddenly woken up to today's situation and taking advantage of it, they have been lashing out at the Government which has been trying very hard.

At the time of Independence, the average lifespan of the Indians was 40-42 years. Today, it stands at 65-

67 years. It is through the efforts of the Government which has worked hard to improve the food situation, to improve the delivery system of the medical facilities and in taking good care of our people that the lifespan has increased from 42 years to 67 years.

Being a doctor myself, I would however like to point out that this *hulla-gulla* being created about sugar should be curtailed. Do not look at the comment politically. We have to realise that our country has been projected by peers internationally as the diabetic capital of the world. Juvenile diabetes is also taking place here. We are genetically predisposed. So, it is correctly being pointed out that though it is definitely required as an essential component of our daily intake, there should not be such a big hue and cry regarding sugar, which is the most harmful food product of the humankind.

Coming from here, taking up from there, I would really like to point out that the enlistment of the poor people through the BPL List is not a job of the Central Government alone; the State Governments are lagging behind in this and they are putting the names of other persons into it. Particularly in my State of West Bengal, they are including the names of the people in the BPL List who belong to the cadres of the political party which is ruling the State there. No de-hoarding attempts have been taken by the State Governments, particularly in West Bengal where we have seen an uprising of the people, the common man against the hoarders and the ration dealers in the last one year. People have been brought to book because from their godowns, the poor people, the hungry people of West Bengal's Purulia, West Midnapore, Bankura, Birbhum and Burdwan area pulled out sacks of rice stored there which were meant to be distributed among the poor people.

Here, we want to point out that there should be more accountability and monitoring, and strict vigilance on the part of the Central Government as far as the PDS of different States is concerned. The PDS should be used more efficiently as it is in our knowledge that the grains meant for the poor people are taken out of the system by the retailers and sold in the open market at a higher price. They should be brought to book. The question remains how much of such hoarders have been arrested. For example, in my State, West Bengal where people are dealing with poor people's lives by taking away food from their mouths and selling it in the open market, this question has to be thought of very seriously.

At the same time, we have also to keep in mind that the land space is not increasing. We have only one world, but the population is increasing.

We have also to keep in mind that our great nation surging ahead and leaping forward towards development has increased buying capacity of the middle class. This middle class, according to statistics, is now capable of buying more things for their own consumption and also the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, *albeit* criticised by the Opposition Benches, has given some opportunity to the rural poor for consumption and they are also buying things. The difference starts here, where there is gap between the demand and supply. We have not been able to keep up with the demand of our people who are now capable of buying food for consumption. So, the suggestion would be that more stress should be laid upon irrigation, more stress should be laid on non-wastage of food grains and more importance should be given to scientific advances in agricultural research which would result in the Green Revolution which we had once seen under the able leadership of our beloved late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. She had brought the Nation out of this crisis once, and the research has resulted in high-yielding crops. So, these are the suggestions that should come here. It is not right just to come and criticise negatively. I feel that positive suggestions should come as far as the PDS system and de-hoarding are concerned, and exemplary punishment should be meted out to the hoarders and traders after de-hoarding.

I again stress the point that we should really think about it, and I would request the hon. Minister to think about this. Would it be prudent to start investigation on the traders and hoarders who are hoarding food grains and whether it is being done under political motivation and political instigation by anybody to demean the Government, which is trying to do so much good for our Nation?

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Sriperumbudur): Thank you, Sir. The issue of price rise and the prices of essential goods are of great concern to everybody. It is not only the concern of the Opposition, but also of the Ruling Party. But at the same time, the people who wanted or demanded the debate should understand that the Central Government is not the only Government that is responsible for the price rise. They should look back to their own States.

The demand to debate the issue of price rise to precede the customary debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address is welcomed by everybody because it is a serious issue that is affecting the common man. Hence, the Government has yielded to go ahead with this discussion under Rule 193. The issue of price rise is not a recent occurrence. It has happened for the past 2½ years. On 6th February, the food inflation was of the order of 17.97 per cent, and now it has exceeded to more than 20 per cent. Hence, my Leader, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi called for an urgent General Council Meeting on 20th of this month, and he has requested and demanded not only the Central Government but also all the States to go for corrective measures and actions to resolve the issue of price hike. We have to put our heads together to see that the price rise is reduced, and the burden on the common man is checked. It is an elaborate Resolution, but I want to quote the operative part of it. I quote:

"The General Council demand to control the prices of essential commodities on war footing and at the same time to bring out appropriate legislation to amend the Essential Commodities Act by both the Centre and the State."

It will not be out of context if I point out a Report by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. It has assessed the situation in 2009 itself. It has said, "13.6 million Indians are pushed to the rank of poorness because of joblessness and because of high rate of inflation." If this report is true, it is a warning bell to India.

Rising prices of essential commodities are of a great concern to everybody – to the middle-class, the lower middle-class, especially to the poorest of the poor. At the same time, in a growing economy like us, it is not so easy to insulate the prices of each and every essential commodity. The Government has a dual responsibility. On one hand, the Government has to pay remunerative prices to the farmers, and on the other hand, it has to ensure that the customers get commodities at affordable prices. The Government has to act in both ways.

The Indian population has been increasing at a higher rate. Let me explain that. What was the Indian population in 1971-72? It was 551 millions. What was the Indian population in 2007? It was 1,122 millions.

The burden of Government to feed the public in 1971-72 has doubled in the year 2007. It means the population has doubled, but at the same time, the production has not doubled. We should take note of this issue that the population has increased whereas the production has not increased in a significant proportion.

What was the production figure of pulses? The production of pulses in 2009-10 was of the order of 14.86 million tonnes. It is expected to reach 15.79 million tonnes in 2011-12. In terms of percentage, the increase is only six per cent. At the same time, the demand grew at the rate of nine per cent. There is a gap between production and supply; the demand-supply gap is there. That is why we have imported pulses. In 2005-06, we have imported 1.6 millions; in 2007-8, we have imported 2.7 millions; and in 2008-9, we have imported three millions.

Hence, I demand that the Government has to come forward and advise our scientists to go for inventing new varieties of hybrid pulses. We are concentrating on wheat and rice, but at the same time, we are not concentrating on pulses.

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), which is supported by 64 countries, a private institution that is recognized world over, in a Climate Change Meeting held in Bangkok recently said, "Countries like India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan are vulnerable to declining crop yields due to glacier melting, drought, floods, and erratic rainfall." This has happened last year and also happened in the year previous to that. There was drought situation, erratic rainfall, floods and so on. We have experienced it. We were witness to these occurrences. The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme has said in a Seminar, "We need to deal with not only the way world produces food, but the way it is distributed, sold and consumed."

**15.00 hrs.**

It is the message of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme. So, distribution forms part of the most important issue and not just the production. The way in which the country distributes, for instance the PDS, is important. What is the story of PDS? The Government of India has launched a programme of targetted PDS. It only helps the poorest of the poor. It is not addressing the entire population.

But here, there is a success story. There is a success story that has been prevailing since 2006 onwards in the State of Tamil Nadu. Our Government, the Government of Tamil Nadu headed by the Octogenarian Leader, Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi has declared Universal PDS. There is no APL; there is no BPL. In its entirety, there are 1.98 crore card holders in Tamil Nadu. Each card holder is issued rice at the rate of Re.1.00 per kilo. They have universalised it. Sugar is distributed at Rs.13.50 per kilo. We never had it anywhere except in Tamil Nadu. Kerosene is at Rs.9.00 per litre. What is the APL price? It is Rs.8.30 per kilo. What is the BPL price? It is Rs.5.65 per kilo. What is the AAY price? It is Rs.3.00 per kilo.

My friend Shri Sharad Pawar ji is not here, he will be hearing me somewhere. He will be seeing me somewhere in television. It is not just for the benefit of the House, I am addressing him also. Tamil Nadu needs 3.16 lakh tonnes per month whereas the Government of India is supplying 2.98 lakh tonnes. The shortage is 20,000 tonnes. The Government of India is meeting the extra need. But on what price is it supplying? We are extending to the public, the entire mass, at Re. 1.00 per kilo but we have to purchase it at the rate of Rs. 15.37 per kilo from the Government of India. How do we have to cope up with the situation? What is the APL price? The price is Rs. 8.60 per kilo. At least, the Government of India should come forward to give the additional allocation at the rate of Rs. 8.60 per kilo. But they are not extending it. They are charging us Rs. 15.37 per kilo and we are supplying it at Rs. 1.00 per kilo. What is the price of sugar? We are extending sugar at the rate of Rs. 13.50 per kilo. But we are purchasing in the market at the rate of Rs. 40 per kilo.

Here, I want to mention one thing for the benefit of my friends who are clapping the desk on the other side. The quantity of levy sugar has been increased. The levy sugar, some three months back, was up to 10 per cent. Now it has been increased to 20 per cent. Whatever levy sugar he has increased up to 20 per cent, it has to go to the PDS. Is it not? That means, the 20 per cent of the levy sugar invariably has to be distributed through the PDS system. That means, they have to extend the extra allocation to the PDS, to the State Government. The levy has been increased from 10 per cent to 20 per cent. But the stocks are lying in the mills only. It has not been distributed to the public, the needy.

We need additional allocation of sugar. Sugar allocation should be increased. Our monthly requirement of sugar is 34,000 tonnes but the allocation is only 11,000 tonnes. We need an additional allocation of 23,000 tonnes, but we are not getting it. We have to purchase it from outside at the rate of Rs. 40 per kg. What happened to the levy sugar? The entire levy sugar of 20 per cent has to be distributed through the PDS. It is intended for that. I do not know where it is lying? Maybe it is being kept as buffer stock for the worst period. The Government can surely do that. However, when there is a need, it has to be met.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is not only issuing rice at Rs. 1 per kg, sugar at Rs.13.50 a kg and kerosene at Rs. 9 per litre, it has launched the Special PDS. One can compare the prices. The per kg price of toor dal is Rs. 40, urad dal Rs. 40, rava Rs. 17, mida Rs. 16, atta Rs. 11, and price of palmolein is Rs. 30 per litre. From 2nd October, 2008, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, spices and condiments have been included in this. Spices and condiments like turmeric, coriander, chilly, mustard, pepper, garam masala, bengal gram dal, jeera, methi, urad dal, etc., are supplied in PDS and it is only Rs. 50 when the cost is Rs. 131.50. Government of Tamil Nadu is issuing these things in pockets.

Let us compare the prices in Delhi and Chennai. These are Government figures. Yesterday an hon. Minister has stated these figures in answer to a question. On 17th February, 2010, the price of rice was Rs. 1 per kg in Chennai and it is Rs.23 per kg in Delhi. Wheat per kg was available at Rs.7.50 per kg in Chennai and it was available here at Rs.15 per kg. Atta was available at Rs.11 per kg in Chennai and it was available at Rs.17 per kg in Delhi. Sugar price was Rs.13.50 in Chennai and Rs.43 per kg in Delhi; rava was Rs.17 in Chennai and Rs.26 in Delhi; mida was Rs.16 in Chennai and Rs.26 in Delhi; toor dal was Rs.40 in Chennai and Rs.77 in Delhi, urad dal was Rs.40 in Chennai and Rs.69 in Delhi; palmolein was Rs.30 per litre in Chennai and Rs.55 in Delhi.

This is a success story in Tamil Nadu. The scheme adopted by the Government of Tamil Nadu, headed by my leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi, has been a success story. Why don't you go in for a Universal PDS? What is the fun in continuing with this Targeted PDS? I can

only advise my friends to seriously consider switching over to Universal PDS.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: But they should follow your advice?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: They are following the proper advice, not the one given by the Opposition. They are being guided by Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi only, and not by you.

Taking into account the success story of Tamil Nadu, the Government of India should come forward and go in for Universal PDS throughout India. Additional allocation of rice and wheat should be made to the PDS at the APL prices. The entire quantity of levy sugar of 20 per cent should be passed on to the PDS of the States concerned.

Before I conclude I would say that it is not the responsibility of Government of India alone, it is the responsibility of all the States; and it is the responsibility of the Government of India to go in for a new legislation, if necessary.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I rise to raise the voice of millions and millions of suffering people of our country. There has been a cruel attack on *aam aadmi* because of rising prices of almost all essential commodities. There has been relentless increase in the prices of food grains, edible oils, pulses. This rise is not the recent event but what is the recent happening is that the food inflation has crossed 20 per cent. This is the highest food inflation in 26 years and that was why we have been demanding; the entire Opposition demanded that a discussion on price rise should be under the Adjournment Motion.

We had discussed the issue of price rise on 26.11.2009 in the Winter Session; we had also discussed in the last August during the Budget Session; and we had discussed it in the 14th Lok Sabha at least six times. Totally, we had discussed nine times, if we take today's discussion into account.

Because of the callous attitude and casual attitude of the Central Government, there has not been any let up in regard to the rising prices of essential commodities. We have seen the reply of the Minister of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Shri Sharad Pawar. While concluding his speech, he replied that the

Government would take every step to control and contain the prices of essential commodities. What the Prime Minister, while inaugurating the Conference of Chief Ministers' said was the worst is over. The day the Prime Minister of India said that the worse is over, the next day, there has been one point rise in the inflation of food articles.

Why are the prices increasing? Why has the Government failed to control and contain the prices of essential commodities, particularly, the prices of food grains? What are the reasons? The Government always tried to shirk its responsibility and try to blame the State Government as if it is the responsibility of the State Government, and the Central Government has no responsibility or role to play.

The policy is determined by the Central Government. Export-import is decided by the Central Government. The Essential Commodities Act was amended by the Central Government and it was diluted by the Central Government. The Public Distribution System is being dismantled by the Central Government. The Food Corporation of India procures the food grains. It has the monopoly power to procure the grains and then distribute to the States. The role of the State Government is to distribute the food grains to the people.

In 1991 we adopted the globalised or liberalised economy. We found its impact on our economy and on the other aspects of our society in the successive years. Our economy has been integrated with the global economy and that is why sometimes this has been interpreted as the reason for increase in inflation of food articles as if it is a global phenomenon. If we see the inflation rate of food articles among G-20 countries, we will find that the inflation in our country is the highest amongst the Group-20 countries. Russia's inflation rate is nearer to ours but ours is the highest inflation rate. So, it is not the global phenomenon but it is the result of the domestic policy being pursued by this Government.

It has been mentioned here that we had a bumper sugarcane production and a bumper sugar production in the year 2006-07. Why did the Government not build up buffer stock? Without building buffer stock why the export, that too at a cheaper price, was allowed? Next year when there was less production we had to import sugar by paying a much higher price. We allowed export at the rate of Rs.12 per kg. but when we imported sugar

we had to pay Rs.35 per kg. Export subsidy was given on the export of sugar which was allowed at a cheaper rate. It has been stated here that this profit was cornered by 33 mill owners. How has this happened? I would like to know whether the Government was not aware that altogether these 33 mill owners had the profit of only Rs.20 crore. How could they have a windfall profit? Just because the export was allowed at a much cheaper price, their profit increased to Rs.900 crore in a year. There was 2900 times increase in the profit. I would like to know whether the Government was aware of it or not.

We would like to know why export was allowed and why these 33 companies were allowed to have a windfall profit to the extent of Rs.900 crore. We would also like to know whether any inquiry has been done or any action has been taken. The Government owes an explanation to this House.

The same thing happened with wheat. Wheat was allowed to be imported at different rates. This question was raised on the floor of this House during Fourteenth Lok Sabha. The Government has no explanation why certain companies were allowed to export wheat. We exported wheat and on the other hand we also had to import wheat. There is a problem of mismatch between supply and demand. One of the reasons which the Government tries to put forward is that there is a less agricultural production.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have spoken for five minutes only. If you want, I can sit down. Please allow me to speak. I have just started. I could cover the first point till now and you are asking me to conclude. I have not come to the main points. I have many points but I will deal with some of the important points only.

It is indeed a fact that there has been a reduction in the cultivable land to the extent of six lakh to ten lakh hectares. It has an impact on our agricultural production. As you know, China has much less cultivable land than India but their agricultural production is double than what we produce. In 2008-09, we produced 233 million tonnes and that was an all time high according to the Minister of Agriculture. Their agricultural production is double because of crop intensification. In order to increase agricultural production and in order to achieve



four per cent growth in food grain production, two schemes were started – National Food Security Mission and subsequently the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. I am referring to the seriousness of this Government towards agriculture and towards overcoming agrarian crisis. More than two lakh farmers have already committed suicide in our country. The crisis is being accentuated in our country in the agrarian sector....(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Sir, he is misleading the House.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You are a Minister. You should not disrupt the House...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, Rs.25,000 crore was the financial target for five years under Krishi Vikas Yojana. But for the three years of the Eleventh Five Year Plan how much money has been allocated? It is only one-third — Rs.8565 crore. Now we have only two years left. Can we achieve this financial target of Rs.25,000 crore?

If financial target is not achieved, then the physical target also will remain unfulfilled. That means, our target with regard to food grain production to the extent of four per cent will not be achieved and as a result of that the food security of the country will be at stake.

Sir, forty per cent of our agricultural land is irrigated and in the last several years the capital formation in agriculture has been declining, rather gradually decelerating. There has not been much extension of irrigation and it has its impact on agricultural production. As a result of that the growth in agricultural production is not commensurate with the growth of population of our country.

The third important aspect that I would like to touch upon is about overcoming this spiralling impact of prices, the unprecedented rise in prices of food grains and also about the problem of providing food grains to the people of our country. When the UPA Government assumed office in 2004, in its Common Minimum Programme, one of the important programmes that was incorporated was strengthening of the Public Distribution System. Along with strengthening of the Public Distribution System there was a need for universalisation of the Public Distribution

System. Why are we asking for universalisation of the PDS?

In the year 2001 by the introduction of the targeted Public Distribution System, the people of our country has been divided. According to the guidelines issued by the Planning Commission then, we had only 26 per cent of our population below the poverty line. But subsequently, a Committee was constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development under the Chairmanship of Shri N.C. Saxena and that Committee observed that we have 50 per cent of our people living below the poverty line. Then, another Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Tendulkar and it observed that we have 37 per cent of our people living below the poverty line. Finally, another Committee was constituted under Dr. Arjun Sengupta by the UPA Government and that Committee in its last report observed that 77 per cent of our population has to depend on Rs. 20 only for their survival. That means, 80 per cent of our population needs subsidised food grains. Now, how much food grains do we require to provide 80 per cent of our population subsidised food grains? We require 90 million tonnes of food grains for this.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am just concluding.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, you are taking too much time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I will take only 5-7 minutes and I will speak to the point.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to stick to the discussion only.

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: How much funds do we require to provide 35 kilograms of foodgrains at subsidized rate?

We require Rs. 1,20,000 crore. We have worked out this figure by way of calculation. The figure is Rs. 1,20,000 crore. How much is the Government spending as food subsidy? It is Rs. 50,000 crore. So, by spending

Rs. 70,000 crore, we will be able to provide 80 per cent of the population, that is, 25 crore households, with subsidised food grains like wheat, rice, sugar, pulses and edible oil. In order to mitigate not only the sufferings of the BPL families, but also the entire population of our country, they should be provided with subsidised food grains, edible oil and other items. The recent increase in prices by 10 per cent and decontrolling the price of fertilisers has added fuel to fire. It will have repercussions on the cost of agricultural production, and the farmers of our country will be adversely affected. This is intrinsically connected with the prices of foodgrains....(*Interruptions*)

I demand that the decision to increase it by 10 per cent and to reduce the subsidy of fertilisers by Rs. 40,000 crores should be withdrawn.

The Parekh Committee has submitted a Report to the Government on the prices of petroleum products. Our demand is that the Government should reject the recommendations of Parekh Committee. If its recommendations are implemented, then not only the prices of petroleum products like the LPG will be affected but it will also have an inflationary cascading effect on the prices of other essential commodities. The Government should reject the Parekh Committee recommendations.

I have four important suggestions to make and then I would conclude my speech. Firstly, the Government must release cereal stocks through PDS by increasing the quota of rice and wheat to the States. The quota of BPL has been slashed drastically and it has been reduced by 80 per cent in the case of Kerala, it is 62 per cent in the case of West Bengal. In spite of that, the Government of West Bengal is providing the entire BPL category with rice and wheat at the rate of Rs. 3 per kilogram. When the price of potatoes increased to Rs. 22 per kilogram, potatoes were supplied to the people through ration shops at the rate of Rs. 13 per kilogram only. Pulses are also being supplied to them. The Government must supply sugar, pulses, edible oil through PDS outlets at cheaper rates. The PDS should be universalised. Futures trading is a very important point which many hon. Members have mentioned.

Allowing futures trading has created havoc. Although in case of wheat it was withdrawn for sometime, it has been re-imposed. So, that should be revoked. The

commodity exchange market system should be withdrawn forthwith.

The Central Government, in coordination with the State Governments must launch a countrywide crackdown against hoarding, black marketing; all private traders of food articles must disclose their stocks and release surplus stocks; and diesel and petrol prices which were hiked last year should be brought down. A large number of people in our country today have to go to bed empty-stomach. One-fourth of the population today is hungry. India has become the hunger capital of the world. The Government has not taken any steps. It has only convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers and it has constituted a Standing Committee. So far no concrete action has been taken by the Government of India to mitigate the sufferings of millions of people of our country.

I demand that when the Minister of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution replies – the Minister of Finance is expected to intervene before him – he should inform as to what concrete steps will be taken by the Government to mitigate their sufferings. In order to control and contain the prices of essential commodities, the Government should strengthen the Public Distribution System and revoke the futures trading, forward trading and commodity exchange market system.

I demand that the Government of India should take all these measures forthwith.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, since morning we are discussing the issue of price rise, which is not only sensitive but also affects the life of every one of us, particularly the more vulnerable sections of the society. It is nobody's case that there has not been rise in the prices. There is a consequence to that. It results in the sufferings of the common people. When the prices of commodities, particularly when the prices of essential commodities, go beyond the reach of the common people, it affects them. There is nothing unusual when the Members of Parliament, representing the entire spectrum of the population get agitated and their concerns get reflected in the House. Therefore, it is good that we have kept that behind us and today we are engaged in discussing this important subject.

But there is one general point which I would like to point out in the course of my observations. I will come

to it, as Shri Basu Deb Acharia, was telling that no concrete steps have been taken. Or, what concrete steps have been taken including banning the forward trading, on which items and on which date? I will give those details. But there has been one general point stated that what is the meaning of discussion and what is the purpose of discussion if this discussion does not lead to anything.

First of all, we shall have to keep in mind that any amount of rhetoric and any amount of accusation cannot alter the laws of the economy – neither the laws of demand and supply nor the laws of too much money chasing too few goods. If there is a shortage, there is a shortage. Any amount of speech, volumes and tonnes of observations cannot make the deficit into surplus. This ground reality is to be kept in mind. If the country does not produce the quantum of pulses it requires, there will be shortage. We require 18 million tonnes of pulses and we produce around 13 to 14 million tonnes of pulses. The concrete steps, which I will narrate a little later, there I will mention as to what steps we are taking.

We have through the import of pulses on the public sector undertakings, with the blanket assurance that you can import up to three million tonnes and 15 per cent of your loss will be made up by the Government so that the gap between the supply and demand can be bridged. But mere accusation is not going to bridge that gap and for that economic steps are to be taken. I would like to mention here that certain steps have been taken.

It has been pointed out that what MSP has to do with the price of rice. Yes, it has something to do with the price of rice. If the Government procures one quintal of wheat at Rs. 1,100 per quintal, after procurement the local taxes are added. All the distinguished hon. Members are fully conversant with the agricultural economy of the country in which State which local taxes are there and what is their percentage. None of this information which I am sharing with the distinguished Members is not unknown to me. The short point which I am trying to drive at is what is the co-relation? Therefore, if we buy one quintal of wheat at Rs. 1,100, after adding the local taxes, transportation and thereafter the prices at which it comes to the consumer, it is Rs. 13.50 per kg. When we procure one quintal of paddy at Rs. 1,050 plus Rs. 50 bonus, at Rs. 1,100, the same procedure is being followed. One quintal of paddy will give us 66 kgs of rice. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Rs. 50/- bonus is already added.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Yes, Rs. 50 bonus is already added. So, the price comes to Rs. 1,050. Then, when it reaches at the consumer points, it become Rs. 19.45. Therefore, these are in-built which in the term of economy is called, 'cost push'. These are the ingredients which are there. Therefore, nobody is denying that the prices have risen.

Now, what is our option? Yes, we have deliberately chosen that. I am sorry, I am not apologetic to it. I am part of the Government from day one. When we took the decision that we would enhance the Minimum Support Price from Rs.600 to Rs.1100, when we decided to enhance the procurement price from Rs.1050 to Rs.1100 per quintal because we were confident that we induce the farmers and the cultivators to produce more, they have produced more. Sir, 234 million tonnes of grains have been produced last year.

I remember, in the Monsoon Session, when the impending drought was threatening us, I still remember the expressions of the hon. Members. Fortunately, I must express my gratitude to the Governments of Punjab, Haryana and many other States also which have taken timely steps and as a result of that, the adverse impact of the drought and the later part of the flood could not reduce the kharif production at the anticipated level. There will be some shortfall. It may be 10 million tonnes or it may be 15 million tonnes. I do not know the exact figure. Shri Sharad Pawar will respond to you about that.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: It is 7 per cent.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I am talking in terms of million tonnes. 10 to 15 million tonnes may be the shortfall but the encouraging part is that procurement, particularly from the two major States which fill the Central Pool, Punjab and Haryana, is higher than compared to last year's procurement. Therefore, stocks are available.

I am pretty old. That is why, please do not mind if I give you the reference of past days. In our rhetoric, we may like to indulge in it. It was said that it has

never happened. Somebody has stated that in 60 years, it has never happened. I am not going back to 60 years – 1950. I am going back to 1974. In this very Hall, when the Wholesale Price Index reached as high as 24 per cent, the then Finance Minister Shri Y.B. Chavan had to present the second Budget after presenting the first Budget in the last working day of February – a second financial proposals were to be approved by this House and drastic economic measures were taken. It was because of acute financial crisis mostly related to food crisis because of three reasons. They were the two consecutive droughts, the first oil crisis of 1973 and the delayed impact of war with Pakistan in connection with the liberation struggle of Bangladesh. Therefore, it happened.

In 1979, when the Janata Party Government collapsed and then on 14th January, Shrimati Indira Gandhi took over, the rate of inflation which was running was as high as 16 per cent, not 8.3 per cent which we are describing as an unprecedented one! It was said that in 60 years, it never happened!! In 1991, when Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao took over after a short spell of experiments, there too prices were high. Therefore, it has happened. The short point which I am trying to drive at is that the Indian economy has the resilience, has the capacity to overcome that. Our farmers, our workers and our managers have the capacity to overcome this crisis.

They can see that the equilibrium is brought in the economy. Therefore, my first contention is that it is correct that it should be discussed and through this discussion many points emerge and it helps the policy makers.

Somebody mentioned about forward trading. I would like to inform that as a result of one such discussion, the forward trading on these items was banned. It resulted out of a discussion on the floor of this House. Therefore, the discussion on the floor of this House is not meaningless. It directs the Government to work and it suggests the policy makers to take appropriate steps.

Futures trading in rice and two pulses, *urad* and *tur* was suspended by the Forward Marketing Commission in the year 2007-08 and it is still continuing. We have added sugar to that list with effect from 27.5.2009. Therefore, it is not correct to say that some actions have not been taken in respect of forward trading and exchange market.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: What about other pulses? There is *chana dal*, there is *moong dal*, there is *urad* etc.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: *Urad* is there in the list.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: But what about *chana dal*?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: *Chana dal* is not there in that list. You are correct that not all pulses are put on the list. But at that point of time this was the demand which was raised.

I can share this with the House that when Lalujji was in the Government, he insisted that an immediate ban should be put in respect of forward trading on these items and it was put. Therefore, it is not correct to say that the discussion and the suggestions given by hon. Members are not heeded to and are not acted upon.

A question was raised – and this is the favourite thesis of my Leftist friends – about universalisation of the Public Distribution System. It is ideal. Who denies that? If we have the capacity, we can do it. But we have the capacity? Are we running the Public Distribution System effectively? Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar spoke about a few minutes ago and she vividly described about the failure of the Public Distribution System in some States. We are not running the Targeted Public Distribution System effectively and if you want to expand the capacity, do you believe that people will have confidence in that system? This is a mere ideological posture, it is not the practical suggestion. If we had utilized whatever we have, then this situation would not have arisen. I am not saying that we have been able to take care of the problems of the entire population of our country.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I would like to say my point only in one minute. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Please do not interrupt every time. This is the second time I am conceding to you.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I would request you to form a opinion about people living below the poverty line because there is confusion about their number. How it will be formed? Just Shri Arjun Sen Gupta say something. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Please do not give another *baashan*. I listened to your speech. I am replying to the point about persons living below the poverty line. The fact of the matter is, whatever be their number, the number is known to us. As per the current calculations of the Planning Commission, about 6 crore plus families are living below the poverty line.

My limited question is, are we serving them properly? This is my question. I am not blaming anybody. I am just taking it upon myself and including others. We are in the Government here, and we are in the Government in 28 States. Are we in a position to serve through our PD System effectively, whatever is available?

What is available right now? Right now what is available is, rice at Rs.5.65 per kg for BPL, Rs.3 per kg for AAY; and wheat at Rs.4.15 per kg for BPL, Rs.2 per kg. for AAY since 2002. Can we tell honestly that in my State, whatever be the existing number, we are serving them with this level of supply?

I am sorry, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we are not doing that. That is why, it has been suggested what the committee will do. The committee will do what the Prime Minister thought after the discussion of the Chief Ministers. Some very valuable points emerged. The way many Chief Ministers are dealing with it, at least, it appeared to me — I was listening to them from 10 o'clock in the morning till the end — that the models which they are suggesting can be replicable in certain other areas. Therefore, it was thought that the Chief Ministers, along with the key Central Ministers, in this matter should sit together, should try to find out a solution.

I will give you just one example. Many of you might have read the daily newspapers, published in Delhi. In the box item, they have given what is the *Mandi* Prices at Azadpur, whatever is the name — I am sorry I do not know that *Mandi* — and what is the price at the

retail shop. Now, this is not just for general information. The problem which it is pointing out is the huge cost of intermediation. If there is a difference of Rs. 6 to Rs.7 per kg. from the wholesale market to the retail market, then what the poor farmer is getting? Perhaps, he is getting even half of that. Therefore, there is a huge cost of intermediation from the farm gate to the kitchen.

How to solve this problem? The discussion is necessary for that. Suggestions to improve this; what mechanism, what innovation, what steps we can take from the MPs, from the Chief Ministers, from those who are involved in dealing with this problem would help us.

A question has been raised as to what number will be accepted. The Government is contemplating, thinking, considering it. Various reports have come. The Tendulkar Committee Report has come. Other reports are also available and when the Government will arrive at a decision then that will be the number. But before that we cannot remain idle. We will have to deal with the numbers which are readily available to us. Even if it is a small section, for whom this is being meant, we will be able to address their problems. We have not enhanced the AAY issue price since 2002. We are providing certain commodities to certain categories of consumers at the MSP rate.

Now, there are two schemes which are available, Rs.15 per kg. subsidy scheme of edible oil. Except six States, out of 28 States, have not taken this. Some States have said that there are no takers of the subsidised edible oil per kilogram. We are providing not to have the general impact on the price. My contention is to protect the vulnerable sections of the society who could be identified as the persons who are below the poverty line.

16.00 hrs.

For them, when we are providing per KG of edible oil a subsidy of Rs. 15 and per KG of pulses a subsidy of Rs. 10, at least let us utilise that when states will not take their share, then how will they get. It is not possible for the Agriculture Ministry to carry it on its head and go to each and every household. So we are taking and this Scheme is still on. This is on the tap; if somebody wants to put on the tap, he can have it. Tomorrow onwards the States are entitled to have it. Let them have it. There will be no problem.

Basudeb babu has made a good speech on sugar. I have some comments to make on sugar. It is true; let us look at the figure. Everybody knows; particularly those who are agricultural experts know much more than me. They know about the cyclical trend of sugar. In 2006-07, the area under sugar cultivation was 51.51 lakh hectares. Sugarcane production was 3555 lakh tonnes. Actual sugar production was 282 lakh tonnes; our demand was 191 lakh tonnes. Therefore, there was a surplus. Next year also there was a surplus. Production was 263 lakh tonnes; demand was 205 lakh tonnes. What should we do if we do not export? We have buffer-stock. We have simply the buffer-stock, if we do not export, if the prices collapse as it has happened. Therefore when we are talking here to put a ban on forward trading, I had pre-Budget interaction with the farming community, and all the noted farmers organisations and their leaders said: 'We do not want it. We want they should be freely traded. You take care of the speculators in different manners but not at the cost of the farmers.' It has been suggested export-import is the root cause of the price rise. It is not export-import. It can happen; it should happen; international trade on same commodities. Even if we are in short supply, we shall have to import to meet our requirement. If we have excess, we shall have to export it. But international market does not depend on when I will have exportable surplus. International market is a competitive market. If I do not fulfil my export obligations, export commitments, somebody else will come and fill in the gap. My exporters will not get it. Particularly for the agricultural commodities, once the export market is closed, when your demand is less, supply is more, buffer-stock is no economic answer. The answer lies that you shall have the system so that there is not a drastic reduction, a drastic mismatch between the supply and demand management. Why has it happened? It has happened mainly because of the fact that when the market prices of wheat, rice and paddy went up very high, the sugar-cane farmers also changed because they noticed that in the preceding five years, the enhancement was only Rs. 60, an average Rs. 12 for five years.

In the next five years, the enhancement was more than Rs.400 and Rs.450. Therefore, he had the option and he opted for it. Now, in 2008-09, the production figure came down further; 146 lakh tonnes was produced and 220 lakh tonnes was the demand. For this year, the forecast is that 160 lakh tonnes would be the production and 230 lakh tonnes would be the demand.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is the issue where we shall have to work out a strategy. I think, many Members have made comments, and I entirely agree with their observation that long-term, even medium-term solution lies, particularly to ensure our food security, that we must have massive investment in agriculture. There is no denying to this fact. I am not passing on the buck to anybody. I share the buck on myself because for the major part I was in the Government; we were in the Government but you shall also have to take a small share. You cannot just raise the accusing finger only against me because we did not make adequate investment in agriculture, and we have made the beginning.

The Leader of the Opposition accused why twice the Food Security Act has been mentioned in the President's Speech. The commitment of the Party was that if we had voted back to power, we would bring the Food Security Act. The Indian people trusted us and they voted us back. They voted us back not for five months or six months or seven months or nine months; they voted us back for five years. Even after the passage of one year or two years, if you see that there is no movement on the Food Security Act, then you can accuse us but not after seven months or nine months. Therefore, you shall have to wait for that. So, my most respectful submission is this. ... (*Interruptions*) Yes, is there anything offence? I have not offended anybody. I do not want to offend anybody. If somebody feels offended, I am sorry for that. ... (*Interruptions*) I do not want to mean anything. What I say is: "Yes, we have committed, and we shall have to do it." Please wait. This was not the proper time. If you were the Finance Minister or the Agriculture Minister when drought is impending and all over the world agriculture is uncertain, will you do it? I have calculated every price. I have calculated the prices; the trend of prices. Yes, I do agree, rather I envy you when you started your Government in 1998, at least on one point you were lucky; your average oil prices were 36 to 40 dollars per barrel. During our five-year period, the average oil prices had gone not less than 69 to 70 dollars per barrel. Therefore, can there be two comparable situations? When 75 per cent of my crude is imported, I have to pay through the noses. Do you see that you have a carpet under which you can ... (*Interruptions*) Madam, would you like to say anything? ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: You have come into power for five years and you have mandate, so you may complete five years, there is no problem in it. But you have also placed 100 days agenda in five years before the Jf country. I would like to remind you only your 100 days agenda. You may rule for full five years. You just mentioned that you will apprise us about the poor population as and when available to you. I would only like to read out 23rd items of 100 days agenda from your previous Address. You yourself has placed 100 days agenda. In this you have mentioned that within the next 100 days our Government will take steps on these measures. Further, I would like to read out 23rd point.

This was your 100 days agenda and not of five years.

"For people living below the poverty line targeted identity card will be issued—This identity will be done on this common basic principle that all beneficiaries i.e. identification of beneficiaries will be done by Gram sabha and Urban Local Bodies and this list will be placed before the public so that if necessary, then objection can be raised."

About food security which they are talking, the first pillar of that food security is—figures of the poverty. Through President of this country you said in this House that you will complete this work within 100 days. Therefore, I am only saying that you have not fulfilled even first point of food security which is for 100 days and not for five years.

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Absolutely correct. So far as the Food Security enactment is concerned, I have given the explanation that the drought came within these 100 days. It did not come after 100 days...*(Interruptions)* Most respectfully, I would submit that the drought was there from July onwards. This was the speech delivered in July and the drought was from the month of July onwards. ...*(Interruptions)*

So far as the statistical number of persons below poverty line is concerned, I have stated that these various

figures have come. Except the Tendulkar Committee Report, other Reports had their limited applications. What the Ministry of Rural Development did, their Terms of Reference were different. What Dr. Arju Sengupta Committee did, their Terms of Reference were different. It was comprehensive criterion on the basis of which the persons below poverty line were to be calculated; and it was covered by the Terms of Reference of the Tendulkar Committee. Therefore, we shall have to go by that.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: But you said, it is the Planning Commission. There is a vital difference. The Planning Commission says 25.7 per cent and the Tendulkar Committee Report says 37.2 per cent. There is a difference of 12 per cent.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sushmaji, please do not try to confuse yourself. You cannot confuse me. But do not try to confuse yourself.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I am not confusing...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The Planning Commission is still talking today of 25 per cent; and on that basis, I have mentioned six crore families. Unless that figure is replaced...

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: ...by 37 per cent.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Whatever is the number. Unless that figure is replaced and adopted by the Government, the relevance of the Planning Commission will be there and the allocation will be made on the basis of the figures of the Planning Commission. This is as simple as that. Therefore, those figures are being worked out.

I would not like to take more of your time. Rather I must say that I have done a little out of box because the Finance Minister does never speak before the Budget presentation, and it is just even 24 hours before the Budget presentation, I am to speak. That Sushmaji forced me to speak! I am jokingly saying it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Take a hot cup of coffee and take rest, for the Budget tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You have mentioned about drought that came at that time. Every year some parts of the country are having floods and some are facing drought.

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: That is true, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav. I would simply request you to go through your own speech delivered in this very House. The picture, you projected was this. You said: "There would be droughts; we, Members of Parliament would not be able to move. You take immediate steps, and call the meeting of the Chief Ministers." Please read your own speech on droughts, which you delivered in the Monsoon Session... (*Interruptions*)

Therefore, keeping that in view, I am a little bit influenced by your observations, observations of a very senior leader, who ruled Uttar Pradesh, the largest State of the country and who is expert on these matters.

So, if I am little scared and advise my colleagues that you do not proceed further because we do not know and we are giving the legal guarantee. But if there is no food, I know what will happen. It is because as a student of history I have seen that we had to borrow Bajra. We had to bring Milo from other countries to feed our people. Therefore, keeping that in view, if we take a little cautious step, you can say that we are extra cautious but do not blame us.

Thank you Mr. Deputy-Speaker for giving me this opportunity.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Have a hot cup of coffee and take rest to present the Budget tomorrow. We are all waiting for your Budget.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I stand here today to speak on the issue of price rise that is being very abnormal, and it has agitated us for the last three days when the Budget Session is on.

During the last one year there has been abnormal increase in prices of essential commodities and it has been a matter of great concern for all of us. These food items form the basic constituents of common man's diet and rising prices affect one and all. The problem is

more acute for the poor whose real incomes get eroded and nutrition intake gets affected.

In the last three years there have been huge fluctuations in commodity prices and this has been caused due to macro economic factors. The Leader of the House and the Finance Minister has mentioned about the resilience of our farmers and our workers to fight back and bring back the economy on to the rails. But I was expecting an answer from the Finance Minister and the Leader of the House that he should come out with the reasons for this man-made disaster.

Therefore, I would say there is a demand to investigate why these fluctuations have taken place within the last one year, and the Government should come out with a White Paper as early as possible before the House rises for recess so that the whole country would know why the Government should always react in a knee-jerk manner and take steps within 15 days, fortnight, month-wise and it should explain to the country why such fluctuations have taken place.

The Government has detailed some steps in the hon'ble President's speech relating to food prices. The Government has recognized pressure on the prices of food grains and food products. The reasons that have been given are shortfall in domestic production and prevailing high prices of rice, cereals and edible oils globally. Through the President's speech, the Government has stated that because of higher procurement prices and higher public spending on programmes of rural development and because of raised income in rural areas, the prices of essential commodities have gone up.

Nothing can be far from truth. Would anyone subscribe to this view? When one diagnosis the problem one expects that the remedy will follow. But if the decision is deliberate, then the focus shifts to other areas. Therefore, their actions are blunted. What we hear from the Government is not 'actions' but belated explanations.

Last year, in February, the United Nations Environment Programme released a report in New York which had warned that food prices might increase by 30 to 35 per cent within the next ten years. This would force those living in extreme poverty to spend 90 per cent income on it. UNEP Executive Director Mr. Achim Steiner had said: "We need to deal with not only the



way the world produces food, but the way it is distributed, sold and consumed."

I am reminded of Finance Minister Pranab Babu's speech of February 16, 2009, when he presented the Interim Budget. He had said: "The real heroes of India's success story are our farmers. Through their hard work they have ensured food security for the country. Procurement of 22.7 million tonnes of wheat, 28.5 million tonnes of rice for our public distribution system was done in 2008. Our granaries are full." He had assured us. "Annual growth rate of agriculture rose to 3.7 per cent and production of foodgrains increased by 18 million tonnes each year to reach an all time high to over 230 million tonnes in 2007-08."

**16.21 hrs.**

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO *in the Chair*]

But the Government does not want to hear that the full granaries failed to calm the turbulent prices. They just rose. Despite high production, prices rose. I am of the opinion that many of supply side measures taken to contain prices of essential commodities by Cabinet Committee on Prices are based on flawed assumption. It is naïve to assume that hoarding alone is behind the spurt of prices of agricultural items. Commodities like vegetables, fruits, milk, egg, meat and fish, all of which have contributed significantly to food inflation, are highly perishable in nature. Hoarding cannot explain the rise of these prices.

I am reminded of the Conference of Chief Ministers on soaring food prices convened by the Prime Minister on February 6th this year. An attempt was made to find scapegoats. Everyone is pointing fingers at everyone else. Even today we are witnessing that. It also provides an opportunity for heart searching and fresh thinking. One thing must be made clear right at the outset, it simply will not do for the Centre to wash its hands off its responsibility touting the argument that agriculture is a State subject. It is well known to students of constitutional history that though there is distribution of powers between the Federal and State Governments, it has access to and control over vast natural and financial resources and our advances in communications have come to assume an overarching as well as overbearing role resulting in the erosion of the powers of the constituent States. In respect of agriculture in particular,

every sphere of decision making laws has by default, if not by tacit consent, comes within the purview of the Central Government.

The Bureau of Costs and Prices computes the cost of production based on which the Ministry of Food and Agriculture fixes the remunerative prices to be paid to farmers. The Food Corporation of India undertakes the procurement of cereals, maintenance of buffer stocks and transportation of foodgrains. The allocation of foodgrains and essential commodities going to States' public distribution system for distribution in fair price shops is made by the Food Ministry.

Inter-State movement of food articles, the timing, duration, quantities and pricing of exports and imports including trade and all levies connected with these operations are regulated by the Centre.

Thus, the leavers of reversing the present critical situation are mostly at the Centre's hands. The most potent instrument is the buffer stock of foodgrains. Onus lies with this Government. Please do not shift your responsibility. In view of comfortable levels of production and procurement, the Kirit Parikh Committee had some years ago brought down the buffer stock to four million tonnes of wheat and six million tonnes of rice whereas the stocks with the FCI as at the end of 2009 are 19 million tonnes of wheat and 24 million tonnes of rice. The first question that arises, therefore, is – why does the Central Government prefer to sit on this huge quantity far in excess of the minimum essential level of buffer instead of using at least half of that quantity for reducing the prices and releasing to the States as much as they want for population above and below the poverty line and for the Targeted PDS meant for the vulnerable section. Plainly, the Food Minister owes an explanation for this omission.

It is not enough merely to make the allocation to the PDS, accommodating the requirements conveyed by the States. Do you have weekly meetings with the FCI and the Railways regarding the progress in the movement and delivery of the quantities allotted? The Government should also overcome the tendency to be indifferent to the offer of cooperation by the States ruled by Opposition Parties. I have a question here. Is it true that one Government – I am not naming that Government – had offered to crush nine lakh tonnes of imported raw sugar lying at ports in that State in mills to augment availability

but the Central Government, weighed down with political inhibition, adopted a 'dog in the manger' policy of neither taking up the offer nor making alternative arrangements.... (*Interruptions*) It is Gujarat Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

We need a categorical reply. Very often difficulties are created for the States by the Food Ministry acting on its own without keeping the States in the picture. Delays and cuts in the allocation for PDS have brought the situation in the affected States to near crisis. Even the tenor of allocation, transportation and supply at the doorstep of fair price shops is disturbed by the Centre's dilatory or thoughtlessness actions. It takes a long time for the State to get back to the normal rhythm. This clearly demonstrates that substantive responsibilities are left to the States to manage the PDS and taking action against hoarding, profiteering and other malpractices under the Essential Commodities Act. Instead of looking within and correcting the causative factors for which you are answerable, you are adopting too escapist ploys to divert attention for your failure.

First, you are making it look as if launching de-hoarding drives by the State Government by itself holds the key to bring down the prices. However extensive and effective de-hoarding drive, the quantities unearthed do not make any difference to the overall picture. Second, you have gone for the time-dishonoured move for setting up a Standing core Committee comprising the Finance Minister and the Agriculture Minister, the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission and the Chairman of Prime Minister's Economic Council and ten Chief Ministers. This Group has been asked to suggest measures to deal with price rise and proposed steps for improving PDS, procurement of foodgrains and production of agriculture produce including long-term policies for sustained agriculture growth.

There is no doubt that it is an all encompassing charter, but it is a waste of time because comprehensive database and recommendations do already exist.

In the recently held CM's Conference, Orissa Chief Minister had mentioned about the issue of estimating the number of the poor. The latest recommendation and estimates of Tendulkar Committee put the poor in Orissa at 57.2 per cent, but the question here is whether the Central Government is allocating food grains for PDS accordingly. The allocation is of 1992-93 and 2002. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Your time is over.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I need more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: To bring about transparency in PDS, I would mention in this House that Orissa Government has taken up a pilot project in one of the districts of the so-called KVK, named Rayagada where biometrics of all the households have been captured. The UID and the State also plan to roll this across the State. This would lead to real time monitoring of PDS lifting and inventory levels. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interruptions please.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair and finish your speech.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. MAHTAB: This should be done throughout the country.

Sir, I would say that galloping food prices have shattered family budgets across the country. With the latest inflation data showing that prices rose at around 20 per cent continuously for the past four weeks, the main essentials of the Indian kitchens are almost beyond reach. Sugar is up by 60 per cent, pulses by 46 per cent and potato by 53 per cent over a year in a country already suffering from chronic malnutrition and low income. This trend is a killer.

Recently, Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability points out that if food security is to be really achieved, restricting the provision of subsidized grains to the BPL category, ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mahtab, please take your seat. You have taken 16 minutes while your time was 10 minutes. Please conclude in one minute.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I am giving certain suggestions. I need some more time.

What is required is availability of food grains by channeling cheap food grains through a universal Public Distribution System as was propounded by Shri Baalu

and supported by Shri Basu Deb Acharia. Along with that, I am adding that you provide the biometrics as quickly as possible to the vulnerable sections of the society so that one can monitor.

If you make it universalized, the point that has been missed here is that if you provide 35 kilograms of food grains to each family, the expenditure would be Rs. 84,399 crore annually. This is less than one-fifth of the revenue foregone by the Government through tax exemptions in 2008-09. Mr. Chairman, you can very well understand. The amount of tax foregone is Rs. 4,18,096 crore. Therefore, there is a need to universalize PDS and have biometrics of all the households captured. There is a need to monitor release of food grains to the PDS at Central level. I demand for proper investigation into these matters, and the Government should come out with a White Paper on the reasons for the repeated fluctuations and rise in prices of essential commodities before the House rises for Budget recess.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The next speaker is Shri Anant Geete. Mr. Geete, the time available with you to speak on this issue is only seven minutes. Please do not exceed too much.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Raigad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the six year tenure of UFA, this is the ninth time that this House has been discussing the issue of price rise. Every year it was expected from the Government that some efforts will be made to control the price rise but every time except discussion nothing has happened in the House and no initiative by the Government have been taken to control the price rise. Today when we are discussing this for the ninth time I don't think any measures to control price rise will be taken by the Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, recently Leader of the House and hon'ble Minister of Finance Shri Pranab Mukherjee has taken part in discussion and supported the price rise during the whole time. He has cited many reasons for the spurt in prices. He accepted price rise but did not utter a sentence about the steps to be taken by the Government to contain price rise. Therefore, I do not think Government intend to contain price rise. Shri

Sharad Pawar is Agriculture and Food Minister. Earlier also he has given lengthy reply to discussion and today also I feel he will did lengthy reply of this disucssion. Earlier when leader of the House not say anything about containing price rise so I don't think Government will take any initiative to control it. Leader of the House has not only supported the price rise but also reminded to the opposition that they have mandate for five years. He did so because we are discussing this matter under rule 193. If they have courage then they should have accepted the Adjournment Motion and reminded us but they did not take chance. When we are discussing it under rule 193 they are threatening us but Leader of the House should keep in mind that the discussion is on price rise. Today people of the country are suffering from price rise. Not only the BPL people but also the condition of APL people is worst. We make programmes for BPL, run schemes for their welfare but their condition is very bad. Today 72 per cent people of our country are living in rural areas. This way 72 percent of India is rural population. In our country, whether they are farmers, BPL, APL their way of living is same. Therefore, common people are suffering from price rise. Common people have suffered during the Congress or UPA regime. It has also been mentioned in the President Address that today common people are suffering.

But the Government does not want to do anything. Yesterday it was discussed in the House that the Adjournment Motion should be admitted or not. We expressed our views on it and our Minister of Parliamentary Affairs grew angry at me. Then I cautioned the Government that if the inflation continues to increase like this, one day there will be civil war over bread in this country. That time is approaching....*(Interruptions)* This is a mass-movement. The people are acrimonious....*(Interruptions)* The people of the country are in anguish.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Geete, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Sir, today the people of the country are anguished, angry and agitated over inflation and the may situation turn violent at any time. Shri Sharad Yadavji said that now this matter is not confined to the House, this should be taken away to the streets. Our leader Shri Laluji is saying that there

should be mass movement through out the country. It has begun in Bihar, it is being launched in Uttar Pradesh also and gradually it will reach streets. This agitation will be launched throughout the country and the responsibility thereof will lie on the Government of India. The Central Government is holding states responsibility for inflation and the State Governments are saying that they have nothing to do with it. The Government of India is responsible for it. When Shri Sanjay Nirupam was speaking here, he read out the list of hoarders and especially mentioned several states. He is present here. The State where maximum number of 16000 cases in which action was taken against hoarders is Maharashtra. This implies that most of the hoarders are in Maharashtra. ...*(Interruptions)* I was outraged over it and this was the reason to give vent to my resentment while speaking on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: The action has also been taken against the hoarders in Maharashtra. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Sir, I was stopped from approaching the Chair. I expressed outrage over it. What information are you giving?. ...*(Interruptions)* Your Government is there. Congress Government is there in power. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: You are angry over the issue of Shah Rukh Khan. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Your Government is there. ...*(Interruptions)* The Minister of Agriculture has his Government there. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government of Maharashtra belongs to the Minister of Agriculture, the Government of Maharashtra belongs to the leader of the House, the Government of Maharashtra belongs to Chairperson. If the hoarding is highest there in Maharashtra, the Government ruling the state as well as you people are responsible for that. You mentioned about Delhi, whose Government is there in Delhi, what information you were giving?. ...*(Interruptions)*. If it is true, I regret for that but the State Government is responsible for this. ....*(Interruptions)* The policies of the Government are responsible for this. Today, hoarding is being encouraged due to the wrong policies. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not in favour of the hoarders, I am against them. The way you said this thing in the House, what did you like to say? For this, your government and your policies and the State Government is responsible.

Sir, the Union Government cannot shirk its responsibility by shifting it to the States. The Government should take responsibility and accept the inflation. Efforts should be made to check the inflation but when we heard the leader of the House after the whole debate, it seems that the Government does not want to take any steps to check inflation. On the contrary, you are supporting it. You are taking into account the price of the crude oil. Today, you are talking about providing support prices to a large number of farmers. You are giving its reference here but unfortunately despite that largest number of farmers have committed suicides in Maharashtra. The farmers have committed suicide in Vidarbha and even today they are committing suicide. What facilities are we providing to them? Mr. Chairman, Sir, only 28 per cent area of our agricultural land in the country is under irrigation. What did we get in the last 62 years? What were our priorities? Seventy two percent agricultural land has no facilities of irrigation at all. The farmers growing foodgrains are gradually abandoning the cultivation of foodgrains. The cultivation of foodgrains is proving to be a loss making business. Therefore, farmers have started abandoning it. The farmers are gradually migrating to cities. The number of the labourers and the unemployed have increased and slowly the cultivation being declined. Here Smt. Sushmajee said that the cultivable acreage has declined. Acreage of land has declined but the farmers engaged in the cultivation of foodgrains have now started abandoning it due to its loss-making business. Its ill effects are coming as inflation and scarcity of foodgrains. This is happening as the result of wrong policies of the Government. The farmer, is suffering today because of the wrong policies of the Government. The inflation is increasing day by day. There is nobody to control it. The Government is running away from its responsibilities. In such circumstances, if you leave the public at the mercy of God, then tomorrow the people will come down to the streets, the agitation will be seen throughout the country and definitely the Union Government will have to face the consequences.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today there are more than fifty percent workers, labourers, salary earners. Their plight is the worst because their salary is limited and there is no any increase in it. They get the fixed amount as salary at the end of the month and the prices of the essential commodities are increasing every day. The prices are being doubled in a week. The life for the common man has become difficult. Holi is going to be celebrated on 28th February and 1st March. I do not

think that this time the poor of the country will be able to celebrate Holi. Nobody will be able to celebrate Holi. What are the prices of sugar today? It has increased to Rs. 42 to Rs. 50 per kg. How shall we celebrate our festivals now. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. There are many speeches. They will be denied the time to speak. Please take your seat.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I am concluding. This issue is serious that. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have ten more speakers. Please confine to your time limit. You know the time allotted to each party.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue of inflation cannot be taken so lightly and the Government cannot shirk its responsibility. The Government should take concrete steps to check inflation. When the Minister of Agriculture replies in the House today, he will have to assure the House about the steps and the action they are going to take to check the inflation.

[*English*]

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Karur): Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the opportunity to say a few words on this important issue. All Members in the House have expressed their views about price rise. All Members expressed that there is an unprecedented price rise of essential commodities. Because of that, the common man is affected very much. Even our President of India in her speech said: "There has been an unhappy pressure on the price of food grains and food products. Higher prices were inevitable, even the shortfall of domestic production." In this aspect, I want to say a few words. The President of India speech means, it is the policy of the Government. The Government itself accepts that there is price rise and also shortfall in production.

When production goes down, definitely there is shortage of goods and demand will be more and because of that the price increases. This is a simple theory of economics. Due to shortage in food production, prices are increasing. Why is there a shortage of food production in India? It is because the farmer is not given enough remunerative price. There is demand from the farmers that the minimum support price of rice, wheat, sugarcane and other products be increased. That is what the farmers are expecting. Input costs of farm products are increasing and the farmers are getting low income by selling their produce. That is why the farmers are not coming forward to cultivate more lands and produce more. That is why farm production is going down.

Recently, my leader hon. Ms. Jayalalithaa has written a letter to the Union Agriculture Minister requesting him to consider increasing the support price of sugarcane. Farmers in Tamil Nadu are getting a minimum support price of Rs. 1437 per tonne of sugarcane. During the reign of Ms. Jayalalithaa in 2005-06, the price given was Rs. 1014. At that time the sugar price was Rs. 12 to Rs. 14 per kg. Now the price of sugar is Rs. 44 per kg. When that is the case, if the support price given is Rs. 1437, is it feasible for the farmer to cultivate sugarcane? That is why the production is going down, cultivation area is going down and due to less production the price is increasing and so we are forced to import. Why do we have to import? If you give more incentives to farmers, definitely the production will increase and definitely the price can be controlled. That is why our leader Ms. Jayalalithaa has written a letter requesting the Union Government to consider increasing the support price for sugarcane to Rs. 2500 per tonne. Then only it will be remunerative for the farmers.

Production of sugar in Tamil Nadu during the term of Ms. Jayalalithaa in 2005-06 was 21.5 lakh metric tonnes. It has come down in 2008-09 to 16.4 metric tonnes. Instead of going up, sugar production is going down in agriculture sector. That is why the Hon. President in her Address said that production is going down. Therefore, in order to increase production, definitely we have to consider the request of the farmers. Otherwise, farmers would not come forward for cultivation.

I now come to the prices of other essential commodities. One Hon. Member said that the Government of Tamil Nadu was giving rice at Re. 1 a

kg. But what about the prices of other commodities? In the open market the price of rice is Rs. 34 per kg. This is the price prevailing in the open market. Take the example of salt. What is the price of salt now? It is Rs. 9 to Rs. 10 per kg. Even a match box costs Rs.2 nowadays. Prices of every commodity are going up.

We have to have an effective PDS mechanism. It is not at all effective in Tamil Nadu. That is because most of the rice is smuggled to the neighbouring States and to other countries also. We have seen a report in the newspapers about two weeks ago, about officials raiding the stock of a firm in the Tuticorin harbour. They seized nearly two thousand tonnes of rice there. The officials said that that was PDS rice. Within a week the officials came forward to say that that was not PDS rice but that was similar equivalent to PDS rice. They said that the firm procured that rice from the same place in Andhra Pradesh where PDS rice was procured. This has become a controversy. I am referring to it to say that the PDS rice is smuggled to other States and to other countries like Maldives. This is going on. This is reported in the newspapers. It is very essential that the Government strengthen the PDS and see that the poor man gets essential commodities at cheaper rates.

I want to make a suggestion regarding marketing of products by farmers. Some kind of corporation is required for this purpose. Central Government should consider this suggestion and set up corporation to procure the products from the farmers and sell them to the consumers directly through the cooperative system. This system would alone control the price rise, otherwise, middlemen would make a lot of profits in this.

Another issue which affects the price rise is inflation. I think, inflation is more because of circulation of more money and maybe because of certain RBI policies. Illegal activities are going on in our country. Most of the counterfeit, illegal money printed in Pakistan, China and Nepal come to our country through various ways. This money is circulated among the people which results in escalation of inflation. The money which people are getting through these means are invested in real estates. Poor farmer is tempted by the money. At one point of time, the cost of one acre was Rs.1 lakh but because of the flow of illegal counterfeit money, the farmer is given Rs. 1 crore and the farmer sells his land. This one crore of rupee may be spent by the farmer in due course of time but this land was kept by the ancestors

for the family but because of flow of counterfeit money and the inflationary conditions, he is tempted to sell the land. Afterwards, he suffers. Therefore, the Government should come forward with a new monetary policy to curb flow of illegal and counterfeit money. Thank you for giving me time.

[Translation]

SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO (Khammam): Hon. Chairman, many discussions have taken place in this house on price rise earlier also. When I came in this house as an MP, I thought that the issues relating to nation that are discussed here are seriously deliberated resolved by the Government. But after discussing the issue of price rise here twice, Government has totally failed in controlling the price.

Hon. Prime Minister told that this rise is taking place due to market forces. Our Agriculture Minister has assured that prices will fall after the rabi crop. The rate of inflation has touched 20 percent in the country due to this price rise. Last time, it was assured in this house that there will be growth rate of 1.6 percent to 4.00 percent in agriculture sector but its very unfortunate that growth rate has reduced by 0.2 percent in agriculture sector. The Government is entirely responsible for this.

Honourable Chairman Sir, it is very surprising that hon. Finance Minister was supporting the export of sugar. Hon. Finance Minister is not present here right now. But I would request him to tell the reasons for supporting the sugar export. Whether he was supporting the export because there was surplus sugar in the market at that time and that was exported. He also told that the production of sugar in the year 2008 was 263 lakh tonne and our consumption was 205 lakh tonne. It is a very important point that in the year 2009 production of sugar remained only 146 lakh tonne. When he knew that production of sugar will reduce in the country next year, then why he exported and now why he is supporting it? When he knew that the production of sugar in the country next year will reduce and the consumption will increase, then export should have not been allowed. But not only export was allowed, subsidy was also provided for export. This Government has given subsidy of 695 crore rupees to exporters but nothing to farmers.

Mr. Chairman Sir, the Government should have planning of two-three years but this Government have

no such planning. It is very unfortunate. The Finance Minister has also supported on this issue and has said that export is good. That's why today sugar prices have touched 50 rupees.

**17.00 hrs.**

The Government is fully responsible for this. Our Agriculture Minister Saheb knows too much about sugarcane. He was aware of the next year production and even then he allowed export. Government is totally responsible for this. Now the prices of sugar have increased from Rs. 13 to Rs. 40 since UFA Government came in power in the year 2004, the hike is two hundred percent. Simultaneously prices of pulses have also increased from 34 rupees to 96 rupees, the prices of pulses have also increased three hundred percent. The price of sugar has increased from 13 rupees to 45 rupees and its price also increased to 250 percent. The price of each and every food item, which is consumed by poor person has increased from two to three hundred percent since this Government came in power. The Government could not control the prices, unable to protect the farmer and create confidence in farmers due to failure of its poverty. After coming in power this Government is responsible for low production. Atleast now the Government should realize it and support the farmers completely and provide lucrative rate of MSP. We pointed out so many times in his House that farmers should get appropriate rate, but despite pointing out by every one, no body listens anything.

Sir, it is a very important issue. Poor people of the Country are facing difficulty to meet their food requirement. The most important point is that all over world the maximum number of starvation deaths are taking place in our country. We are unable to provide food properly to around 21 crores people. The number of starving people is also increasing due to increasing rates. Therefore I request and demand from the Government that this problem should be resolved. A statement has been made about the

*[English]*

measures taken by the Government to control the prices of essential commodities.

*[Translation]*

He has mentioned in the reply of Question number 2511. He assured in many ways to control the prices- He

says that he will impose zero import duty. If zero import duty is imposed, rates will come down.

*[English]*

Reducing the import duty on refined sugar and a ban on export of non-basmati. Still he is not speaking and I know we are having insufficient time. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, nothing has been mentioned to protect farmers in the measures taken in this regard. There is a mention about export, import and VAT but nothing has been mentioned to control prices, to increase productivity and to support the farmers. It reveals what Government is doing for farmers. They simply take and do nothing. So please think seriously about farmers.

Sir, productivity of foodgrains has declined to 7.5 percent. There is a maximum decline in the productivity of groundnut oil i.e. 22 to 23 percent and the productivity of rice has decreased to 12 percent and similarly the production of sugar has also declined drastically. In view of all these things, farmer should be supported to improve production. Give price to farmers and create confidence and only then prices will be controlled in the forthcoming time.

Our party President Chadrababu Naidu introduced 'right bazar' to control prices when the Telugudesham was in power. There used to be no middleman in this market. The farmer could sell his products directly in the market. Farmer will get its due rate. Consumers will get reasonable rate in the market. People will become ware of this. They says that they will give subsidy directly, but they have increased price of urea by 10 percent. Today farmers are being lathi charged. In my constituency, last year, farmers were lathicharged and put in jail. This happened yesterday also. The price of urea which was 225 rupees per bag, was increased by Rupees 125, due to their policy and thus the price of urea bag has risen to Rs. 350. The Government is responsible for this. Keeping in view all these points, the farmers should be fully supported. The production should be increased. The recommendations of Swami Nathan Commission should be discussed and the support should be given to farmers. The Leader of Opposition spoke about sugar scam, rice scam, pulses scam is the morning. They will definitely try to believe her. The JPC should be constituted in this regard and, with these words, now, I am concluding my speech.

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran): Hon. Chairman Sir, the burning issue in the country is the price rise. Leaders of all the parties have expressed their concern and anger against price rise. Our colleagues from treasury bench and opposition party have made allegations in different manner. This is an admitted fact that galloping price rise has affected the people of our nation adversely. This is not only the question of sugar, but the prices of spices, coriander, turmeric, garlic, tomato, cauliflower, meat, fish, milk, potato etc. have also increased. When we are in UPA-I, the price of potato was Rupees-2 per kg since the formation of UPA-II there is galloping price rise. There is no coordination here and they are working in an arbitrary manners and become authoratarism. They are in delusion. The Central Government blames the State Governments that they are not cooperating, they are guilty, and are not strengthening the PDs and are not taken any action again of black marketers. They have not procured through SFC. This is true that State Government and Central Government both are equally guilty. This discussion will not bring any outcome. The answer will come today. They will ray it will be done, we will see, or they way say that this data is due to global recession. This is affecting its. This kind of justification has annoyed and irritated the people of our country.

Sir, if you remember that in the year 1977-78, when we were in power, price of onion was increased. The Government fell on the issue of onion. Our public is suffering and is in distress. Their expenses are more than their income. And you are talking about progress. Mulayam Singh ji has rightly said. Congress Party is saying it unitedly. The media persons were also asking us that what action should be taken against Mr. Sharad Pawarji. There is no politics in this. We had been together but your intentions are not good. That's why it will not bring any result. We supported you to keep them away. That work has been accomplished. You have delusion that you are here for five years. But public is not going to tolerate it. Changes are taking place in Bihar. Five hundred people have died in Bihar due to starvation. Red card holder, yellow card holder are walking pillar to post but are not getting ration. As a result, Naxalism is increasing. When we will not do anything, the Naxals will do. Two-third part of Bihar is under the control of naxalites. You can ascertain this because you have agency like IB. This situation is prevailing there. We always use to listen this slogan

that jab tak bhukha insane rahega, dharti par too fan machega. We used to shout these slogans which I am seeing today. Roko Mahgai bandho dam, nahi to hoga chaka ja. The Government which can not control price rising, is inactive. The Government which is inactive, will be changed. Bihar bandh was historic. I was Minister of Railway. Now the bandh will be observe in UP. So many people are also with us. The people from different parties from each state are gathering on this issue. You see, nothing is going to happen by discussion only. Now there will be fight and there will be no request. The problem is not going to solve only by praying and delivering speeches. There is gambling and forward market in Mumbai and poor people from every section will watch this the Government in this session itself. You people should be alert. People of this side should also be alert. Women Reservation Bill is a priority for this Government. Women Reservation Bill is coming. People are suffering from price rise. People are suffering and devastating due to price rise and it is being conspired that you will not be allowed to come forward in Parliament in the name of women. It is priority of the Government. It is not the priority as to how we can set the market and de-hording. Whether it is State Government or Delhi Government, youths of the country are facing the crisis of unemployment and price rise. I have regret to say that the people of Shiva Sena. ...*(Interruptions)\** They were talking about the people of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Those people are having feeling of hatred....*(Interruptions)* Only Maharashtraian people can become drivers there. What they are saying. These people are dividing the country. They are going to divide the country into pieces. This type of thing happened and I talked to Prime Minister. Cabinet of Congress Party took decision on it and Sharad Pawarji is also a part of it. Sharad Pawar's party is also in the Government. You have taken a decision in this regard and said that it is a timie of economic boom and states have been given huge funds under Bharat Nirman and it is right that we people have done it. Today is the situation that there is unemployment on one hand and there is price rise on the other hand. In Delhi, potato were sold at rupees 50 per kilo. The farmers produced potato by doing hard labour and potato have been sold in Bihar at two to four rupees per kilo under a conspiracy. ...*(Interruptions)* When potato is put in the cold storage then it will take its original position. So far as the price of onion is concerned, it indeed made people to bear the brunt of its steep cost especially during the month of Ramzan

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\*Not recorded.



and during the famous festival of Bakrid belonging to Muslim community as the onions were selling at Rs. 35 per kg.

Garlic and turmeric are available at Rs. 500 per Kg. The prices of factory goods as well as essential commodities have gone up. Under these circumstances, the people expect from us to express our views in this regard. Sharadji said that we have to take to the road. Rashtriya Janata Dal, Lok Jan Shakti Party and we are on the road. Its outcome was that people of all castes, communities and the traders took to the road and organised the bandh voluntarily. But, being the Minister of Railways, I decided not to include the railways in it. Had I announced about rail -bandh, imagine what would have been the situation of the country. There is resentment among the people. They are in difficulty. So, giving data only is not sufficient. You have to see as to what happened earlier, when what happened and what is happening now. Arhar has vanished from our food. It is said that whenever shortage of any commodity occurs, import it. It is the duty of the Union Government to import and it is equally responsible to keep the prices reasonable. Arhar and other commodities are available at high prices. Hoarders and black-marketeers are flourishing. What is the reason behind it? Can a poor person win election. From where the money comes when you give Rs. five crore to a candidate to contest the election. It has come from big businessmen. Shri Hukumdev is not present in the House now. When Choudhary Saheb was the Prime Minister, Hukumdevji said Lalu, elections are going to be held and some amount should be asked from Choudhary Saheb. We people went to him and told him that Choudhary Saheb we people are going to contest elections and have no money how we will contest elections. He looked in our eyes and said what did you say? Son, we will get enough money, many industrialists come to our door. When we take money from industrialists and give it to you then to whose work you will attend, either the industrialists or of hungry farmers and youth? We had a great jolt. When we take money during the election, we will pay to the owner of the TV channel, press for favourable news and advertisement etc. and win the elections. Prabhat Joshi, a well-known Journalist, is not present here, He alleged....*(Interruptions)* Hon'ble Mulayam Singh ji has rightly said that had these people not demolished masjid. We would not have been divided today. We people have helped them..*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is over, you please conclude.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Whether it will help in checking the price rise. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Conclude in one minute.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: How can I conclude in one minute. Whether you were not present in the House earlier. Some Members have spoken for hours. Whether it is pouring that you have to leave early.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Other Members would like to express their views. Please conclude.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I will listen to all my colleagues.

Sir, you must know that it is fictitious price rise. The Prime Minister is gentleman. He calls people, but these Ministers are not in control. There is no coordination among the departments. There is no monitoring. Now, the Government is talking about food security law. Food Security Bill should be formulated. There should not be any hungry people in the country. But its priority has come and we will see on which day they are going to introduce it. If you would like to provide reservation for women then there should be provision for women belonging to backward castes, minorities and dalit woman. We know your conspiracy very well. You want these people should not come forward, therefore, you are talking about reservation for women. Cautious against back-breaking price rise. You will have to go without completing your term, then you will repent. If price rise is not checked within a month. I do not know what situation will emerge.

Law and order will deteriorate, civil war will not take place, but the crowd of lower middle class people will loot the godowns. Mr. Pawar, what happened to your buffer stock. You said that there is buffer stock of wheat. From Kargil food to forward market, whichever private player came in the field, they purchased the foodgrains from the farmers at the rate of rupees ten per kg due to this you faced problems in procuring wheat. We people thank Shri Prakash Singh Badal for cooperating with you at that time. Wheat came to Government godowns from Punjab, Haryana and at that time the Government said that today we are self-sufficient in foodgrains. But where has that foodgrains gone now, why are you not

brining that in the market. I would like to tell you what happened to that, that foodgrains got rotten lying in godowns of places like Mokama etc. One is rat and other is white rat. They will write that this is not fit for human consumption and they will auction that foodgrains for use in poultry form.

Today, condition has become worst. On the question of this hunger our party, the Rashtriya Janta Dal will coordinate with other organizations all-over the country and will organize Bharat Bandh and start Jail Bhara movement. We know what will be the reply of the Government to this discussion. We will not let people die due to starvation. Till price rise is not checked our movement will go on and nobody can stop us. We people will coordinate in that movement. Therefore, through you, we would like to apprise the Government of the fact that it should not be under the impression that we are not united on this issue. We have supported you to prevent them and have run Government for five years. *...(Interruptions)* Their term is already over, but you should not be autocratic. I support the views expressed by hon. Mulayam Singh Yadav and other Members of the House in this regard and believe that we will soon tide over the rising food prices. Mr. Pawar tell us reality I therefore, request Mr. Pawar to kindly let us know the fact so that we can also understand what is what.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Ghatal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I must confess very frankly that the speeches made from the treasury benches do not reflect the seriousness of the situation. The treasury benches have not been able to realise the gravity of the situation that prevails in the country. *...(Interruptions)* I am only saying my opinion. In Parliament I have the right to express my views and you have the right to express yours. I must say that the devil's advocates have not been able to argue their case properly.

The main point is that if scarcity is the reason for the price rise, then scarcity did not occur yesterday. Scarcity of food grains is a phenomenon associated with agriculture for a long period of time. The present Government is in power for the last six years. What has been done to do away with this scarcity and to improve the agricultural production? You cannot fall back upon scarcity as a reason for the price rise. What has been done for agriculture?

Secondly, if the Public Distribution System for the people below the poverty line has not worked, whom do you curse for it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Dasguptaji, please allow me one minute. Many hon. Members wanted to lay their speeches on the Table of the House. The Chair allows those hon. Members who want to lay their speeches on the Table of the House.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The point is very clear. If PDS has not worked for the people below the poverty line, then who is to be blamed? It is the Government. The Government is a homogeneous quantity. It does not belong to Delhi or Kolkata, but it belongs to whole of India. What has been done to recover the situation? The only thing I understood from them is that selective forward trading has been banned, but forward trading as an economic step has not been banned. Therefore, I must say that you have not argued your case well. Let us agree that there is catastrophic food inflation in the country. It is not inflation only, but it is catastrophic food inflation. Let us all agree that there is a deep human distress in the country. People belonging to the poverty line are really starving.

Thirdly, let us agree that test of the pudding is in the eating. What have you done and what is the result?

Sir, Sharad Pawar is the hon. Minister of Agriculture for the last six years. Dr. Manmohan Singh is the Prime Minister and the UPA has been in power for the last six years. What has been done to curb the price rise because it did not produce any result? Therefore, the question is this. It appears that the Government is not sensitive to the bitter, baffling and dangerous human problems that have overtaken the nation. That is the complaint.

[Translation]

Please tell us what the common man's Government is doing for the common man. Tell us what are you doing for his two times meal.

[English]

So, the point is as to what is the speciality of the price rise. The speciality of the price rise is that the mobile phone has become cheap, but the *dal* has become costly. The railway travel has become cheap,

but the oil has become costly. The point is that all the commodities of mass human consumption, all that we need to survive, have become too costly and it is the outcome of the total economic policy of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

This Government will have to take responsibility for policy formulation.

*[English]*

The point is that it is the entire economic policy of the Government which is responsible for the situation. What are the steps that the Government has taken? Who had refused to ban forward trading as a whole? We demanded forward trading as a whole. It was not done by the Government. Who had allowed export of foodgrains. This is the Government who had allowed export of foodgrains. ... *(Interruptions)* The hon. Minister of Agriculture may kindly listen to me. Who had promoted cash crop as a detriment to our food security? Who has done it or who has facilitated it? Who has facilitated lavish bank loan against foodgrains stock? Will you kindly answer me why cash crop was promoted and why bank loan was facilitated against foodgrains stock? Why the reserve of foodgrains against bank loan has been increased from five per cent to ten per cent?

17.30 hrs.

*[DR. M.THAMBIDURAI in the Chair]*

It is the total economic policy which is responsible. So, I hold that reckless liberalisation as the reason for the food price increase without adequate safeguards. I hold that the Government has no political will to curb the price rise. If it had the political will, why did the Government not act decisively?

The hon. Members may kindly remember that during the last Session of Parliament, the Government had announced a number of monetary measures. While the monetary measures failed, while the credit squeeze failed, why did the Government not act decisively to curb the price rise? What you did? Please listen to Shri Pranab Mukherjee. What was done? What was done to curb the price rise? Except that to believe that the market economy will come to its old adjustment, it is their faith

in the market economy, it is their faith in the unguarded liberalisation, it is their faith in globalisation which has brought the country to disaster.

We argued that the Essential Commodities Act might be amended. You will remember it. But the Essential Commodities Act was not amended. Then, where is the political will? Shri Pawar, we are not ready to listen to your statistics. Statistical jugglery is the greatest mystery in the world, not here in India only. What has been the effect? What has been the outcome? What has been the impact? How have the prices been contained? That is not the only issue.

Today, food trade is the most profitable trade in the country. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj has referred to sugar. I am referring to the whole food trade. Will you believe it, Sir, that the whole food trade has made a profit of 300 per cent in one year? Wherefrom the money came? The money came from the nationalised banks. Why did the money come? It is because the Government opened the door of the nationalised public sector banks to the food traders. People's money has been utilised to bring misery to the common people. Therefore, who is to be blamed? Who is to be blamed for this non-performance? Who is to be blamed for the non-Governance? Who is to be blamed for the non-existence of the Government? Sir, please forgive me if I say that people do not believe that there is any Government in the country. People do not believe whatever you are saying in Parliament. Shri Bansal, you will be having your Parliamentary majority but people do not believe there is any Government in the country....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH (Mavelikkara): Why?... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: It is because of inflation....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Bengal is too far away....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, do not make running commentaries. No running commentary is allowed.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Bengal is too far away. What is happening near Delhi?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Please describe what is happening in Bengal....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: What is happening in Andhra Pradesh?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Aaron, take your seat, please. Nothing will go on record except Shri Gurudas Dasgupta's speech. No running commentary is allowed.

(*Interruptions*)...\*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am saying that Bengal is too far away. What is happening in Andhra Pradesh? What is happening in Chhattisgarh? What is happening in Pune? The point is that there is nobody to take care of the price rise. There is nobody to take care of the hunger. There is nobody to take care of the pauperization. There is nobody to take care of the disempowerment of the common people. It is the total economic policy which is responsible for this situation. Therefore, what is the suggestion?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I am concluding.

I appeal to the Minister to listen to my suggestion. The suggestion is that there must be massive investment in agriculture. The hon. Finance Minister was saying that everything is being done. Earlier, 27 per cent of the Government expenditure was for agriculture. Today, only 5 per cent of the Government expenditure is for agriculture. Who is to be blamed? Now, only 40 per cent of the cultivable land in our country is irrigated and 60 per cent remains unirrigated. Who is to be blamed? The political system is to be blamed and most of the time, the Congress Party was in power either by itself or through a combination.

Therefore, I would like to suggest that there must be massive investment in agriculture, the Government must expand irrigation, stop commercialization of land, stop diversion of land for non-agricultural purposes, ensure remunerative price for the farmers and set up a huge social infrastructure for the rural areas.

Secondly, the Government must stop speculation, stop commercialization, stop forward trading and stop bank loan for food trade.

Most importantly, I would suggest – Mr. Pranab Mukherjee might have ridiculed the idea, this not my idea, not only the idea of the Left, but all the leading newspapers of the country have written and newspapers are all owned by corporate houses – that the only solution is universalisation of the Public Distribution System in the country. For that what is needed? Today we are spending 1 per cent of GDP for food subsidy. I demand that 3 per cent of GDP should be spent for food subsidy so that 23.96 crore families can be given food at subsidized rate. The State must operate, the State must deliver and the Government must see the reason. There must be a change of policy, there must be concern, there must be a tear and there must be consultation. Unfortunately, political abuses were hurled. That is not the way to deal with the basic human problem of the country.

Lastly, I must tell you that the increase in the Maoist violence cannot be dealt with by the administrative machinery. As long as poverty lives, as long as unemployment remains, as long as hunger remains, as long as atrocities on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes continue, Maoism will have its own breeding ground.

Sir, we are against Maoist violence. But I must tell you that if you do not take care of price rice, if you do not take care of hunger, if you do not take care of food requirement and if you do not take care of the unemployment problem, the country will be divided and the Government will lose its vitality and lose its credibility, we do not want you to lose your credibility.

[*Translation*]

Please tell us what the common man's Government intend to do for common man.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister wants to reply at 6 o'clock. Before that, I want to accommodate the remaining speakers. Please cooperate and speak briefly.

\*SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (Vizianagaram): I have no doubt in my mind that inflation affects every segment of the society, particularly the housewives. There is an impending hike in the petroleum products. Expecting the hike, the vendors have already hiked prices of essential commodities. I thank the Railway Minister that she has announced some reduction in the freight charges on food grains and fertilizers. We all know that higher food prices had been caused by monsoon deficiency as well as increase in global crude prices. Inflation is a global phenomenon. Even during the NDA regime there has been inflation. If we see the record of the debates over the past one decade there had been a discussion on inflation every time. All Governments have assured us that they were controlling the inflation.

I thank the Government for taking a pro-active policy in controlling the inflation. Some of them are: increased allocation through Public Distribution System, reduced import duties so as to allow imports of grain at low prices, ban on food exports, reduction in excise imposed on food items, subsidies for food items such as oilseeds and pulse, imposing stock limits on traders and enforcement of provisions against black marketeering and hoarding of food.

I also expressed my gratitude to the UPA Government that they have announced a number of steps to tackle food price inflation. We all know that in January, 2010 the Central Government had allocated 20 lakh tones of wheat, 10 lakh tones of rice to State Government for sale to retail consumers and small processors. The food grain was allocated to Minimum support price plus freight. The Opposition should note that half of the allocation was supposed to be lifted by State between October and December, 2009, again extended to January, 2010. But the States could lift only 1.81 lakh tones of wheat and 3.09 lakh tones of rice. The Opposition which is accusing the Centre should ask their State Governments to life the stocks and distribute the same to the ration card holders. Another important thing we have to note is that the Government has issued direction to Central Government agencies to sell wheat and rice to retail customers at the same rate as that at which food grain was released to States. Not only that it has allocated 15 lakh tones of wheat for bulk consumers. The PDS centers are in the hands of State Government. If they

do not deliver properly and timely to the ration card holders, the Centre is not to be blamed.

We all know that the Prime Minister had held a meeting with States to review implementation of Essential Commodities Act and directed States to take steps against hoarders. The Centre also asked States to reduce taxed on imported sugar. There is a scheme of subsidized distribution of edible oils. There is also another scheme to distribute imported pulse at Rs. 10 per kg through State Governments. If States do not implement the schemes to distribute oils and pulse at subsidized rates, the Centre is not to be blamed.

Our Government has also taken administrative measure which include ban an export to edible oils and pulse, imposition of stock limit orders in the case of rice, paddy, pulse, sugar, edible oils and oilseeds, Minimum Export Price to regular exports of onion. Opposition parties should not forget the fact that one million tons of imported edible oils have been supplied to States at a subsided or Rs. 15 per kg. As per the desire of the Opposition, the Government has banned futures trade in key essential commodities.

Our Government has been kind enough to provide MSP, subsidized fertilizers, subsidy on mechanized farming to our farmers. Even global warming is impacting the climate. As a result of this, there have been floods in some States and there have been droughts in some other States. It is affecting the crop pattern.

We should not forget the loan waiving scheme announced by the UPA Government amounting to Rs. 72,000 crores. Our Government is pro-farmer. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is supplying rice at Rs. 2 per kg. Subsidy on gas and pre power for farmers. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh is very concerned to curtail the price rise on various angles.

I suggest to the Government to strengthen the local markets by converting them into local super markets Like a flagship programme. The farmers can sell his produce at these markets. It will eliminate the middlemen. The products produced by DWCRA and DWUCA can be marketed. The IT exemption may be raised in respect of the Self Help Groups.

So far as palm oil is concerned, the Government should encourage States coming forward to produce it.

I have been informed that we are importing palm oil to the extent of Rs. 10,000 crore. Even if we produce 10 per cent of the palm oil we will be able to save a lot of foreign exchange. We will be able to supply palm oil in the retail market at subsidized rates.

Already there is a sign of prices of essential commodities coming down. After the rabi season, there will be further reduction in inflation. The Opposition should not make a political issue out of it.

[Translation]

\*SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (East Champaran): The UPA Government after 8 months into its second term has failed miserably to control price rise. Those running the Government would have never imagined that things would come to such a pass. For the first time, the people realized very soon that the Government elected by them to control inflation failed to do so.

The pace at which the prices of eatables have been increasing for the last one-year has adversely affected not only the common man but also the middle and upper class people who have also been feeling the pinch of it now. It is surprising that despite the presence of several economists in the Union Government, the prices of eatables are sky-rocketing. The prices of various have just doubled in one year, which raises a question mark on the policies of the Union Government. The way sugar, pulses and vegetables have gone beyond the reach of the common man, it seems that the Union Government has no control over the prices of these commodities. It is strange that the Union Government is trying to convey such message as if the State Governments are responsible for this price rise.

The hon'ble Minister of Agriculture has blamed the State Governments for huge disparity between the wholesale prices and retail prices. The Union Government cannot shy away from its responsibility by passing the buck on the State Governments. Price rise is not limited to a particular state or a few states. The question is that if the entire responsibility rests with the states then why people are not getting relief from price rise in the Congress ruled states. The Delhi Government of Sheila Dixit has further increased the rates of VAT despite this price rise. The prices of other items including pulses,

sugar and edible oils are high not only in Bihar, Gujarat and Karnataka but also in the congress ruled states like Delhi, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

The prices of eatables have gone beyond the reach of the common man in the country. Even the figures, which were issued last month, confirm this fact that food inflation has touched 20% mark, which is very high. As per the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, due to the shortage of 2.1 crore tonnes of Kharif crops, the demand and supply equilibrium has been upset and therefore, improving the situation, we have to wait for the next crop. Does it mean that the Government will do nothing, wait for the next crop and make no efforts for controlling the prices rise? It is true that whenever the supply is less as compared to the demand, it will affect prices. However, it is possible that the hon. Minister of Agriculture and his able officers were not aware of the fact that Kharif production was going to be less than expected this year. Hence, the question arises as to why the Government had been waiting to get things out of control and why measures were not taken to reign in the prices. If the Union Government thinks that the Governments of opposition ruled states are not taking any action against hoarding and black-marketing then why the congress led UFA Government itself does not set an example by initiating action in this regard.

Hon'ble Prime Minister is a renowned economist. He is fully aware that as per economics the prices of commodities increase only when the supply is less but when the supply is more than the demand, then, the prices come down. This is called 'Demand and Supply Theory' in economics. However, it seems that even this theory does not fit in our country as the prices increase even when the supply is abundant. Why does this happen?

The reply is very clear which we will discuss. It has been the experience of the common man of our country that whenever the congress party came to power prices increased and whenever the BJP Government was formed, prices decreased.

The prices have been increasing since 1970. It made the life of the people miserable. At that time, the congress was in power. However, when in 1977, the Janata Party Government came to power, prices decreased. This experience was like a miracle for the people.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

In the year 1980 when the congress came to power, prices again started increasing and the same situation continued till 1989 due to which the people had to face a lot of difficulties. However, in 1989 when the Government changed, prices decreased again.

In the year 1991, the congress again came to power and the prices have again increased. The prices came down only when Shri Atalji came to power in 1998. The issue of price rise was never discussed during these six years i.e. from 1998 to 2004. All commodities were available in the market. Even the government godowns were full of stock and every commodity was easily available in the market. There was not much difference in the prices of commodities available at the ration shops and in the open market. Even today people remember that pulses which were available at Rs. 30 per kg. six years ago are now available at Rs. 10 per kg. The price of edible oil was Rs. 35 in 2004 and now it is available at Rs. 80. During the NDA regime, the price of rice was Rs. 10 per kg., now it is Rs. 30 per kg. During the BJP Government, tealeaves were available at Rs. 100 per kg., now its price has risen to Rs. 200. At that time petrol and diesel were available at Rs. 30 and Rs. 20 respectively but today the price of petrol has risen to Rs. 45.50 and that of diesel between Rs. 32-38. Gram flour, which was available at Rs. 20 per kg. is today available at Rs. 607- per kg.

It is a story of two Governments. Today, the prices have increased due to the policies of the congress led UPA Government. The Congress party only cares for the speculators, profiteers and mill owners. Not only the consumers but the farmers also suffer thanks to their policies. The congress wins election on the basis of votes cast by the consumers and the farmers however after coming to power it adopts such policies so as to benefit the speculators, profiteers and mill owners. The people have to suffer loss due to the nexus of these bigwigs. The anti-people policies of the congress have been exposed. Whenever the congress party comes to power, prices increase and whenever the BJP comes to power, prices come down.

For instance, at present the price of sugar is skyrocketing, if we try to find out the reasons for this increase, we will come to know the entire fact. Our country requires 220 lakh tonne sugar every year. This year 240 lakh tonne of sugar is available in the country. In such a situation, the price of sugar should not have

increased but it is increasing. Before January 2010, price increased by Rs. 10 per kg. in 10 days. Yes, it is a fact that sugarcane production was less during the last year and the current year and there is decline in the availability of sugarcane.

But we should not forget that 2 years back when the farmers were demanding a rate of Rs. 120 per quintal, the UPA Government instead of giving them the said remunerative price, resorted to charge batons on the protesting farmers. Sugarcane cultivation became a loss making business for the farmers and consequently they took recourse to other crops instead of sticking to the cultivation of sugarcane.

The people should be aware of the actual arithmetic of price rise. The sugar which is being sold at the rate of Rs. 44 per kg. this year, was manufactured last year. Last year, the farmers got a price of Rs. 160. Even after taking into account the manufacturing cost, transportation cost, various taxes, profits of the mill owners, wholesalers and retailers, this sugar should be available at a rate of Rs. 25 per kg. This is an established arithmetic. But due to the connivance of the Government, speculators, and profiteers, the sugar which should be available at a rate of Rs. 25 per kg., is being sold at a rate of Rs. 44 per kg.

The extent to which this Government can go gets reflected in the fact that instead of evolving ways to reduce the prices, the Ministers of this Government are competing with one another to contend that how the prices would increase.

Till March, 2009, the UPA Government was telling that the sugar stocks available in the country are in abundance and there is no need to worry for the next two years. Therefore, the Government gave permission for the export of sugar. 48 lakh tonnes of sugar was exported at a rate of Rs. 12 per kilogram. Now, during the last 6 months, the Government realized that there could be shortage of sugar. Now, a decision was taken to import sugar and the irony is that today the same sugar is being imported at the rate of Rs. 30 per kilogram. A total of 70 lakh tonnes of sugar is being imported.

This is not a policy, but a scam. If it is investigated properly, the Congress Government will be exposed. Shortage of sugarcane could not emerge suddenly in

one day. The Government knows one year in advance about the total area of sugarcane cultivation, but this Government's policy is of personal benefit and corruption.

See one more irony, sugar is being sold to foreign customers at a rate of Rs. 12 per kg. and it is being sold to Indian customers at a rate of Rs. 44.

This price rise is not natural, but created by the Government. If the prices are rising in the country against the principle of demand and supply, the reason behind it is the irregularity being done in regard to import and export.

During the tenure of Shri Atalji, the Government used to purchase wheat and rice from the farmers. All the godowns of the Food Corporation of India were full of foodgrains. The Government was able to undertake two tasks by this way. Firstly, the Government took a historic decision to give 35 kilograms of foodgrains at a lower rate of Rs. 2 and 3 per kilogram to the 4 crore poor families and this remained not only an announcement, but was really implemented. This way the poor got the food security. Malnutrition was eradicated and the poor were freed from the need to buy foodgrains from the market. Secondly, whenever the prices would start to rise in the market, the Government immediately come into action and directly brought into market wheat or rice from its reserve, thereby bring the prices down immediately and saving the people from price rise. If the Government functions while keeping public interest in mind, such decisions are taken.

But, after coming to power, the Congress led UPA Government reversed everything. The Government granted permission to private companies to purchase foodgrains directly from the farmers. Foreign companies like Cargil, Monento and Indian companies like Reliance, Adani etc. purchased huge quantity of foodgrains from farmers by paying a little more prices. The Government godowns remained empty and private godowns were full during the first four years of the UPA Government. Then what was destined, happened. The foodgrains continued to get stored in private godowns. Artificial shortage was created in market and prices started increasing. As the Government godowns were empty, the government could not effectively intervene into the market to check price rise. As the Government godowns were empty, the poor began to get 15-20 kilograms of foodgrains instead of 35 kilograms per month. The poor too was forced to

buy foodgrains from the market and prices sky-rocketed. It is notable that per capita availability of foodgrains has decreased to a large extent. The per capita availability got reduced from Rs. 186 to Rs. 150 due to the Government's policy.

This is a proof of how the Government's policies are responsible for price rise. Government's policies increase or decrease the prices on a large scale. The prices are increasing due to the anti-people policies of the Congress led U.P.A. Government. Probably, on account of this, the common people are honouring the Minister of Food with the nick-name price-rise Minister and the hon'ble Prime Minister with 'Mahangai-Mohan'.

It is clear that the policies of the UPA Government are mainly responsible for price rise being witnessed at present. There are not two opinions that hon'ble Sharad Pawarji has proven a complete failure as the Minister of Food and he is responsible for this situation. But, this is only half truth. Giving permission to private companies to procure foodgrains directly from farmers, not reviewing rules relating to storage, bringing black ordinance in regard to sugarcane, non-adoption of the Swaminathan formulae, non-supply of foodgrains in the market are the collective decisions of the Government. The Congress party wants to play the role of Vishwamitra to evade its responsibility.

Reality is that 'Ali Baba and 40 thieves' are in power. Corruption is at its peak. At a time when there is shortage of rice in the country, the Ministry of Commerce exported 25 lakh tonnes of rice. Large-scale scam has taken place under the plan to export rice to African countries on humanitarian grounds. Despite dissuasion various ministries, the Ministry of Commerce deemed it appropriate to show humane justice to the African countries. However, justice will not be meted to the people in the country, but to the foreign countries. Reality is that, this Government is involved in many scams. They are looting the country and when people agitate, they put blame on one another. There is just one reality and that is this Government is fully responsible for price-rise.

The Government fixes the prices of petrol and diesel. Petrol and diesel are costliest in India, because half of the price of petrol and diesel consists of taxes. Anywhere in the world, 100 percent tax is not imposed on any item, particularly on essential items. But, this is happening



in our country. The actual price of petrol should be Rs. 22-25 per litre.

That is 45-50 today because the Government imposes heavy taxes. It is none other than the Government policies that are responsible for this price rise. An excuse of rising prices in the international market is advanced in this regard. But in September, 2005 when the price was \$60 a barrel in international market, petrol was available at Rs. 43 per liter here. But when in December its price fell to \$43 a barrel, petrol was sold at Rs. 50 per litre in the country.

During the six year rule of Shri Atal ji the situation to import wheat never arose. It is due to the wrong policies of the UPA that compelled the Government to import wheat that was not worth eating. It got rat in godowns. People threw it away. Moreover, a new variety of weed came along with this imported wheat, which is likely to ruin agriculture in the coming years.

Same is true of edible oil. Oil was not imported in the country till the year 2003. The country was self sufficient in respect of oil. But it was the anti farmer policy of the UPA Government that caused the failure of oil mission. This Government is more interested in export-import policy. Instead of giving longtime guarantee to the prices oilseeds cultivation, the Government granted permission for import of oil. Initially it was imported at a cheaper rate. Oil industry of the country was ruined....Oil cannot be imported in India without paying the custom duty. But since Sri Lanka and Malaysia have free trade agreement with the country, oil started to be pouring in from there. Factories in India were closed. The very owners set up factories in Sri Lanka. There is a free trade agreement between Sri Lanka and India, that is file why oil from Malaysia was imported via Sri Lanka. Today 60 percent oil of the total indigenous requirement is being imported. This self sufficient country was made a dependent country by the UPA. Special mission was constituted in respect of pulses and oil, but the commission remained preponderant on it. So, the farmers of the country neither got remunerative prices, nor the credit for increasing productivity through research, nor safe water. Not only that, the Government does not even have an effective policy for export-import.

Initially this Government was not ready to admit this fact that the prices are rising. On the basis of wholesale price index, the Government continued to state that the

rate of inflation was only one or two percent and thus, there was no price rise. But, these data are based on the prices of 220 commodities and they take into consideration the wholesale prices thereof. Customers go to the retail market for purchasing. The Government made every effort to conceal the rising trend of inflation. But, the truth manifested itself after all. It has been proved that the prices of food items have increased by 20 percent. Prices of various commodities were doubled within a year, this was what the people experienced.

In such a situation, the Government should have taken substantial measures to check price rise. But, the Government did nothing on this count. On the contrary, it began making irresponsible statements. Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and other Ministers began saying publicly that inflation will go up further. What is the need for the Ministers to say that inflation will go up. On the contrary, the Minister should say how to check the price rise. The unwarranted statements of the Ministers added fuel to the fire of inflation. No one would have ever seen such an irresponsible Government.

Some Ministers and spokespersons of the Government began advancing illogical arguments that the people were not burdened by the price rise since they were winning election. There can never be a more ridiculous reasoning. The Congress is construing, its electoral success as the mandate of effecting price rise. The people will also have to take it into consideration.

The Ministers of the Government say that the farmers get benefited from the forward trading. But, our country has no such experience. The trade which was worth Rs. 62000 crore some years ago is today, worth Rs. 73 lakh crore. It is also necessary to ascertain as to how many farmers take part in forward trading.

The Minister of Agriculture went to the extent of attributing low production of foodgrains in the country to the climate change. This is also illogic because such a large country often faces natural calamities like drought and floods in some areas and that is the reason the Government has implemented the scheme of buffer stocks.

Some Ministers of the Government are also saying that now the people are eating more. This is akin to the

statement of the former US President, George Bush who had said that the people of India had now begun eating more. I want to ask the Government whether the poor do not have the right to take two square meal. The Government should immediately withdraw such an irresponsible statement. It should check corruption prevailing in higher echelons in order to contain price rise. The scam of future trade as well as the major scam committed under the cover of import -export should be investigated into by the joint Parliamentary Committee.

\*SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Today, the increasing prices of essential commodities in the country are compelling poors to die of hunger and the working class also at the receiving end due to price-rise. The working class is now realizing the pros-cons of the Pay Commission at the time when they enter a shop or house, because, they have to deal with shopkeeper in the shop and spouse and wards in the house.

It is official figures that food inflation rate is 17.96% while the rates have been revised 40% to 50% in market. Sugar which was Rs. 17-18 per kg is now being sold at Rs. 30-35 per KG. Potatos were Rs. 5 per kg and now it is Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per KG; pulses were Rs. 25-30 per KG and now-a-days it is being sold at the rate of Rs. 90 per KG, rice which was Rs. 15 per KG now being sold at the rate of Rs. 25. Thus the unprecedented rise have been noticed in the rates of all eatable items including flour, milk, soap, soda, oil and salt.

Agriculture Minister has boost the moral of hoarders and blackmarketeers by advising the countrymen to have less sugar intake. The Government hold the agriculture and food Minister responsible for it but we should not forget that all such decisions of the Government are taken in the meeting of the Cabinet which is generally attended by all the Ministers including hon'ble Prime Minister. Therefore, the UPA led government should not misguide the public. The public is innocent and one should not try to misguide it if at all could not extend any relief to it.

Today the slogan of "Congress's hand with poors" is avoiding poors. The people are forced to live peacefully despite their hunger. The bomb blast, murder, loot and disruption are beyond the control of the masses of India. Heavy Security is for big guns and hunger, corruption and black-marketing is for common man. The economists

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

hold demand and supply mismatel, responsible for this inflation. Let us take the example of pulses only. In the year 2008 production of pulses was 147.6 lakh tonnes in the country while it was around 146.6 lakh tonnes in 2009. Some economists have quoted the demand of pulses around 170 lakh tonnes. If we agree to it; we had imported 25 lakh tonnes pulses and if both the figures are added the availability of pulses in the market reaches upto 171.6 lakh tonnes. Now it is the duty of the public to understand the reasons for price more than just double despite the availability of more pulses this financial year?

Now-a-days the big industrial houses are getting their food items sold through their well dressed salesperson in air-conditioned outlets. They first get these products from the farmers at very cheap rates and sell them after storage at heavy prices. Telecom and Electricity Regulation Authorities have been set up but the big retail companies of food items are free to earn profit for want of a regulatory body. The business men have grabbed the supply and they exploit the situation. Not only that, even a small retailer is earning 400% profit.

Even the business TV channels have started to advise investors that which is the best food item for investment. This will also have an effect on the price of food items. The Entire government machinery is concerned about inflation but they have no solution for it. The Government announced to sell food items at cheaper rates through fair price shops. But whenever you visit the shop you will find the items are out of stock and there is a long queue of people. There is no concrete policy with the government for checking hoarding and black-marketing.

\*SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (Nalanda): Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to raise the issue of inflation under the rule 193.

Today, the prices of flour, milk, rice, pulses, sugar, oil and vegetable oils including tea soap, salt and other items of daily use are sky-rockening. The Government is unable to control the same. The Prime Minister has stated that the food security and the price control have become the major issues during last two years. There was a wrong impression for the last few years that there

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

is sufficient stock of food items and there is no need to worry. Similarly, some people were under the impression that we were able to control the price rise. They say that keeping in view the increasing population and high living standard of the people, there is a need to increase supply of food items. The agriculture production of the country is comparatively low than the other countries of the world. The Congress Party had promised in general elections this time that they would check the inflation within three months if voted power. But, it is on the rise instead of going down.

1. The cost of foodgrains production is increasing and it is my personal view in the matter that suitable price should be given to the farmers.

2. Hike in freight rate.

Hike in prices of petroleum products have direct on it, so I think government should avoid like in petroleum products.

3. The speculation market of foodgrains should be stopped because the people who have invested huge amount therein are in no way connected with production and distribution and they earn profit by increasing the prices and the common has to bear the of the same.

4. Not importing of the foodgrains on time, which are in short supply.

It is seen that first government allows the prices of cereals go on and when the situation goes beyond their control they announce to import such foodgrains and there kind of own children steps never contribute towards checking price-rise.

5. Export-when your own children are crying for bread have far is justified to feed breed to cows. On the one hand there is a hue and cry in the country due to shortage of sugar, on the other the Ministry of Commerce is exporting 100 crore KG sugar to the European union. To what extent it is justified? If at all exports of certain items are to be made then either these items must first be directly purchased from abroad and thereafter exported to other

countries or the exports of indigenously produced items must be duly compensated for. To export indigenously made sugar is not the right thing to do.

Rampant hoarding and speculative activity be checked immediately.

Addressing both the Houses on 23 February, 2010 His Excellency the President said that to check the soaring prices was the top priority of her Government. Out of the suggestions the ones that were accepted or proposed to be taken up for implementation put forward in the conference of Chief Ministers, by the Prime Minister to check soaring prices, include the appointment of a National Food Security Advisor which may solve the problem. National Food Security Advisory Council should also be constituted.

A centralized command be instituted under the direct supervision of Prime Minister which will be responsible for food security and co-ordinate various concerned Ministries and Departments to formulate and implement a well thought out plan, strategy and programme of National Food Security with a view to deal with future food crisis. This should be coordinated by the National Food Security Advisor.

Today food security has snowballed into a problem like terrorism. If it is not resolved in time it will become a big problem and it will be very difficult for the Government to check it. Reiterating that the Government should take food security seriously, I conclude.

\*DR. KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI (Ahmedabad West): During this year we have been facing the height of price rise throughout India. Perhaps India has never before witnessed such price rise in its history in thousands of years. There is not an iota of exaggeration in this statement. During the last 18 years the rate of price rise has been 18 to 20 percent. The common man has been the victim of this economy and scams. The life of common man has become very difficult.

The UPA Government, which came to powers wearing by the common man, has made the life of the poor and middleclass people difficult by following wrong and scandalous policies.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

Year	Retail price of 1 KG		Prices given to farmers	
	2007	2009	2007	2009
Rice	14	32	8.5	10
Wheat	12	24	8.5	10.8
Sugar	16	50	8 to 12	14 to 18

During the last three years there has been bumper crops of wheat, rice and pulses. FCI ran short of godowns to store them. However, due to the faulty and anti-people policies of the Government the retail price of these cereals has almost doubled.

The wrong policies of the Government are as under:

- Failure in providing buffer stock.
- Price of wheat, rice, pulse and sugar doubled.
- Inflation in 2009, in August-1 percent, December-7.81 percent.
- Food inflation 20 percent.
- About 80 percent population of India spends 70 to 80 percent of its income on foodgrains.
- The consumers are spending almost three times of the price paid to farmers.

After every statement of the Minister of Agriculture, prices scale new heights. There is lack of homogeneity right from the Prime Minister down to the entire cabinet. This Government has given different statements about soaring prices and to conceal its failure at times it points its finger towards drought and at times towards State Governments as being responsible for the rising prices, unsuccessfully though.

The decision of the Government to allow forward trading in essential commodities is itself a big scam due to soaring prices. Almost 99 percent is speculation and manipulative trading. Delivery is actually less than 1 percent. The beneficiaries of this scam are multinational companies, corporate, manipulators and black marketers only. Thus common man has to pay two or three times of the genuine price. Whereas farmers get less price for

their produce. The difference is gobbled by the scamasters and in this system all those black marketers have the blessings of UFA Government. This is the total failure of the Government and there is smack of big corruption in it. This is the failure of the Government and there should be an enquiry and investigation into it.

It is my humble request to enquire into these alleged scams and mismanagement, which have made life difficult for the common man and the entire people of this country, of this Government by constituting a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

\*SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH (Kaiserganj): Today the people of this country are facing difficult time. This crisis is related to the essential commodities. The prices of essential commodities are going up excessively. Food inflation has gone up to 18 percent. The situation of uncontrolled price rise has been going on for about one year but at present the situation has gone out of control. Within one year the condition has taken such turn that sugar which was selling at a price of Rs. 20 to 22 per kg is now selling at a price of Rs. 45 to 48 per kg. The price of tur dal which was Rs. 45 per kg has to Rs. 80 to 100 per kg. The prices of onion and potato has doubled. Even the ordinary garlic which was available at a price of Rs. 15 to 20 per kg, last year is now being sold at Rs. 80 to 100 per kg. The prices of green vegetables have skyrocketed. The prices of milk and fruits have also gone up. Coarse grain has also become costly. The prices of life saving drugs has also gone up by almost 20 percent. Besides the poor and the farmers, the town-dwelling middle-class people are also facing hardship. The Government have been accepting that these is problem of price rise. But it has totally failed to check it. As a result initially it was pulses that became out of reach of the common man, and it was followed by vegetables. Now, the poor people have

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

to work hard to manage bread and chutney of garlic, selling at price of Rs. 100 per kg.

Whenever the issue of price rise is raised within and outside the Parliament, Government have tried to protect itself by citing incidence of drought. The Minister of Agriculture was saying till date that food crisis is the outcome of this drought. There will be improvement after the arrival of Rabi crop. But the fact is that if the Government try to manage it by statement, conditions may further worsen. The food crisis did not crop up in the country in a day and it cannot be solved in a day too. The fact is that since when UPA Government has come into power, food crisis in the country continued has continued to deepen the our dependence on import has increased. The Government kept ignoring this horrible fact that 25 percent of the total population in the world who are on the verge of starvation reside in India-where agricultural production has almost stagnated for the last one decade. The food grain availability in the country was 510 gram per people in the year 1991 but in the year 2007-08 it has come down to 440 gram and at present it is projected to further decrease.

To make the country self reliant in the matter of foodgrain production it is imperative for the Government to accord priority to the agriculture sector. But unfortunately this sector is not in the list of priority of the Government on which more than half of our population is dependent for livelihood. For many years Government are repeatedly saying that they have to achieve 4 percent growth in agriculture but its growth has gone down to less than zero. Today the contribution of farmers has decreased in the increasing GDP of the country. During the last session our Minister of Finance himself admitted in Rajya Sabha that during the last 10-12 years expenditure on agriculture has decreased and there was a need to increase it. The negligence of agriculture sector on the part of Government is that in the Central budget of 2009-10, the provision of only one percent was made to spend on agriculture. It is due to this negligence not agriculture has become a loss making vocation. During the period of 1991-2001 more than 90 lakh people abandoned agriculture as their profession. In the census proposed to be hold in the next year this figure may further increase. The crop area of sugarcane is continuously decreasing in the country. During the last several years no effort has been made to increase the production of pulses. One decade ago we were self-reliant in edible oil but today more than half of our

edible oil requirement is being met through import. There are both long term and short term causes for the excessive price rise we are witnessing today. Longterm causes include decrease in the production of edible items and short term causes include hoarding and black marketing. Therefore, it must be tackled at both the levels. The Economic Advisory Council of Prime Minister itself has accepted that one of the important reasons for soaring prices is carelessness in food management. Actually the fact is that the need of buffer stock was ignored at the time of bumper production and absurd decision of export were taken. For example, before 2008 when sugar was available in the country in sufficient quantity no one paid any attention to make adequate storage for it. The same thing happened with wheat and rice. Besides a long-term strategy to check price-rise some urgent measures need to be taken. There is a need to take immediate positive steps to formulate schemes to increase agriculture production and remove lacunae in food management besides checking hoarding and blackmarketing. To increase production, there is a need to formulate policy to increase public investment in agriculture and provide remunerative price to the farmers for their produce.

Economic inequality is continuously increasing in the country due to our faulty economic policies. On the one hand we have the mountains of wealth and on the other gulf of poverty is continuously widening. Today we have two Indias in our country. On the one, hand we have a India where splendour and luxury are in plenty in sky scaling palaces. Mere even dogs lead a better life than commonman. On the other hand we have an India where people are forced to live like animals. Where it is difficult to manage a square meal even after a long day's hard work where mothers shed tea and fail to console their hungry children. Where people suffering from illness are forced to die in the absence of essential drugs. I am not alleging government deliberately or merely for the sake of political opposition. But I want to bring into light certain facts by citing Government figures.

1. The UPA Government in their last tenure appointed a Committee under Arjun Sen Gupta which after conducting detailed economic survey submitted its report. Some startling facts came into light-" About 77 percent population i.e. 83.6 crore people of this country are not in a position to spend more than Rs. 20 in one day". The number of such people has further increased during the last three years.

2. Prime Minister has constituted an economic advisory Council during his present tenure. Wherein eminent economist Suresh Tendulkar is a Member. An expert Committee was also constituted under his Chairmanship which has since presented their report some time back. Salient features of the report are:

- (i) 37.2% people of the country are poor.
- (ii) 41.8% population means approximately 45 crore people are living just on Rs. 447 per capita per mensem. It is clear that they can't even meet their daily needs with such a meager amount. On the other hand 30 rich families of the India is occupying one third of the country's Estate. As much as amount will come in the hands of these 30 families it will be assumed that the country is prospering because economic growth does not reflect widening economic disparity. It is a fact that—as country is progressing economically the poverty is also rising in proportion. The Government should admit this fact that the promise of eradication of poverty and starvation could not be fulfilled despite their much publicized agenda of high growth rate.

The problem of malnutrition is becoming severe day by day particularly among the women and children. 47% children are suffering from malnutrition. One out of every third malnourished child is an Indian. More than half the women and 3/4th children of the country are anaemic. Existing policy of food Security is proving futile. Health facilities in rural areas are almost nil. There are shortage of specialist doctors and there is shortage of medicines in Government hospitals. Common man of the country is unable to afford costly treatment. Government should consider it seriously.

The problem of unemployment is gaining day by day. Every year in the budget we have declaration of employment generation and reduction in unemployment but the figures of unemployment are increasing constantly. It is a major reason for increase in criminal incidents in the country. There is no satisfactory growth in literacy rate in the country despite all out efforts made by the Government. The motive of the Sarvashiksha Abhiyan is being defeated because of corruption. Instead of education getting cheaper it is becoming more and more costly. Talent is being suppressed in the brief of

education and employment in the guise of reservation. When reservation was implemented in the country it was said that the basis of it would be social, economic and education backwardness. But economic backwardness has been ignored in practice. Where below average children of well to do dalit and backward class-families get admission in higher education institutes easily, the brilliant children are facing the curse of reservation just because they are born in upper caste. The situation of employment sector is also the same. Educated unemployed youth of upper caste are compelled to pull Rickshaw, carts like animals, to polish shoes and work in homes and hotels as a labour. Women and young females of poor upper caste families are compelled to indulge in flesh trade to make their both ends meet. It brings before us inhumane, impractical and ugly face of our reservation policy.

It is the need of the hour that the reservation policy should be reviewed de novo and new policy should be evolved on the basis of economic criteria so that the people of all religions and castes may get benefited. If required amendment in the Constitution should be carried out in this regard.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I call upon Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala to speak and request him to speak only for five minutes.

\*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Khadoor Sahib): Thank you, Chairman Sir. Today, we are discussing a serious issue in this august House — sky-rocketing prices. Since 2004, we have discussed this issue threadbare about 8 times in this House. However, we have not reached any conclusion. We have not found any solution to this problem. For the last three days, all the opposition parties were agitating for the acceptance of our notices for an Adjournment Motion on price-rise. However, the Government did not agree to our genuine demand. Today, we are discussing this issue under Rule 193. Better late than never. It was the need of the hour.

Sir, many hon. members have candidly expressed their views on this issue. Both Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav have been very

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

forthright in expressing their compulsions under which they had to earlier support the Congress party.

Sir, 62 years have passed since India became independent. The Congress party has ruled over this country for more than 52 years. Hence, it is solely responsible for all the ills that plague this country — illiteracy, inflation, corruption etc. Sir, 81% people of this country earn only Rs.20/- daily. It is unfortunate that people are finding it difficult to make both ends meet. The Central Government cannot run away from its responsibility. However, the Government is doing nothing concrete to tide over this problem. The hon. Agriculture Minister claims that Kharif crop will bring relief. Sir, these are false hopes. Price-rise has nothing to do with Kharif or Rabi crops. The policies of the Government are lopsided and skewed.

The Central Government is trying to pass the buck on the State Governments. The State Governments are pointing their fingers at the Central Government. However, the Central Government cannot shirk its responsibility because it is the Central Government that fixes the MSP for all items like foodgrains, fertilisers etc. Or else, the states should be given the right to fix MSP for all items. Let Punjab decide on these issues. I assure you that we will feed the entire country and our condition will also improve.

Sir, the farmers of Punjab toil day and night so that our granaries are full. The farmers of Punjab consider their crops as their sons. They nurture and love their crops. They spend their last rupee so that they may get a bumper harvest. The farmer of Punjab spends Rs.2500/- per acre on the cultivation of paddy. But what do we get in return?

Sir, the Chief Minister, MPs and MLAs of Punjab met the Agriculture Minister, Finance Minister and hon. Prime Minister to demand the share of Punjab. However, the Central Government has not given a single rupee to bail out the farmers of Punjab. We demanded a sum of Rs. 1200 crores. However, we did not get even a single paise.

Sir, Punjab has only 1.5% of the entire land of India. We have 2% of the population of the entire country. However, I am glad to say that we are providing 60% foodgrains to the central pool. However, the centre has

neglected the just and genuine demands of the people of Punjab.

Chairman sir, Punjab is passing through a difficult phase. 69 lakh tonnes of wheat is lying for procurement in Punjab. Similarly, 71 lakh tonnes of paddy is lying for procurement in Punjab. However, no Government agency is procuring the foodgrains. Our foodgrains are rotting in the open whereas people are dying of hunger and starvation in other parts of the country. Rodents and rats are gobbling up the foodgrains. The procurement system is faulty, to say the least.

Even when the foodgrains are purchased, there is no proper storage system. FCI only indulges in corruption. The foodgrains are rotting. Time and again, we have appealed to the centre to procure the foodgrains in time. But our appeals have fallen on deaf ears. The farmers do not have any place to keep their foodgrains. We have requested hon. Sharad Pawar ji to bail us out. But to no avail.

We cultivated the 201 variety of paddy. However, the Government says that Health Ministry will test it first. The Health Ministry had already tested it. But we are getting no relief from the centre. If we do not look after the welfare of our farmers, hunger and starvation will become the order of the day. Farmers must be provided their due. I appeal to hon. Sharad Pawar ji and to the hon. Prime Minister to kindly direct the central agencies to procure lakhs of tonnes of paddy lying in Punjab. Only then can the farmers heave a sigh of relief.

What is the root cause of galloping prices? Sir, I fully agree with Shri Lalu. At the time of elections, we ask the rural folks to provide us crores of rupees. After the elections are over, the situation changes altogether. Sir, the Government is at the root of all inflation and price-rise. If the Government acts decisively, things can be brought under control within a day. However, the intention of the Government is not good.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Sir, I appeal to all sections of the House to rise above party-politics. We are discussing a very serious issue today. The Central Government must take corrective measures so that the poor people of the country can have two square meals a day. No one should find it difficult to make both ends meet. No one should die of hunger and starvation.

SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO (Purulia): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on price rise. Today, the whole day, the hon. Members of Parliament from the Treasury Benches and from the Opposition Benches are discussing about price rise. It is a burning problem today. I rise to raise the voice of crores of people who are suffering in our country due to their hunger. Massive attacks have been made on the people due to hunger; the people are starving.

If we look into the records of the Parliament, in the last five years, nine times there has been discussion regarding price rise in the Parliament, but a permanent solution has not yet come. Specially, increase in the prices of essential commodities is a great tension to everybody, especially to the lower-middle class people, middle class people, those who are starving and those who are in hunger. The Government should go for a corrective action to contain price rise. Production should be increased; universal PDS policy should be formulated. But because of casual attitude of this Government, it is not under control. By this time, the prices are rising by leaps and bounds.

More than 70 per cent of our agricultural land is not irrigated. After 63 years of independence, a concrete policy on irrigation has not been made. It should be done to overcome the unprecedented position.

Regarding the increase in price of essential commodities, the Central Government must supply sugar and pulses through PDS through the State Governments. There has been an acute pressure for the rise in prices of foodgrains and food products. Higher prices were inevitable given the shortfall in domestic production and prevailing high prices of rice, cereals and edible oils globally. Food inflation is near about 18 per cent as prices of essential commodities like sugar, pulses, rice and vegetables have gone through the roof in the recent month.

But the Government has failed to take appropriate measures for controlling price rise. So, the Government should have a plan for this. We should work together. The Government should play its role, and the forward marketing in respect of food grains must be restricted.

The Government is not sensitive to such a burning problem. It is beyond the policy of this Government.

The Government should have a political will for the solution of this problem of price rise. The Essential Commodities Act should be amended.

Henceforth, my suggestion and humble submission to the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, is that universal Public Distribution System should be made for the benefit and usefulness of the crores of people of our country, who are in hunger today.

On the other side, the land which is not being used today should be used by irrigation system, and there must be more investment in agriculture. On the other hand, my humble submission to the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, is that the Government should take steps for stopping the commercialisation of land. Henceforth, the price rise will be controlled, and the Central Government should have a plan to control this problem of price rise.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP (Shimla): Today there is uproar in the entire country due to rising prices and the UPA Government of the Centre has totally failed to check it in the last six years. Today the prices of essential commodities are increasing excessively be it flour or sugar, edible oil or vegetable or pulses all these things have gone out of reach for the common man. In our hills flour is selling at a price of Rs 20-22 per kg. The price of edible oil is Rs. 60-70 per kg. Not only this the prices of pulses have gone up to Rs. 90-100 per kg. When UPA Government came to power in the last May, it had promised to control prices within 100 days but now it is about to be a year. It has not been able to check prices from scaling new heights not to talk of controlling it. At present the prices of all foodgrains are increasing on the one hand, but farmers are not getting remunerative price of their produce on the other. Subsidy on flour, pulses and edibleoil is being provided by the BJP Government of Himachal Pradesh keeping in view the common man and the poor, but the Central Government did not provide sugar and other foodgrains to the state being provided under the PDS in time and thus increased our problems.

Keeping all these things in view I, through this House would like to request the UPA Government to control



rising prices immediately so that common man get some relief and hilly states be provided their quota of sugar and other foodgrains in time.

\*SHRI PREMDAS (Etawah): Today the issue of price rise is being debated. The issue of price rise is the biggest issue of the country. If special measures are not taken to tackle it, situations may take a serious turn. Today the people of villages and farmers are facing difficulty. There is unlimited money in Delhi and Mumbai. But on the other hand the poor people do not have resources for food, medicine and education. The country is running short of arable land. Special campaign should be launched to make land suitable for agriculture. After that administration should be toned up to tackle corruption and villages and farmers be accorded priority. For this Central Government should own full responsibility. Today capitalisation of country is going on which will prove dangerous for the country. It is high time to correct it.

\*\*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat): Hon. Chairman Sir, you must be aware that the entire country is in the grips of unprecedented hardships. Everyday the prices of all commodities are increasing by leaps and bounds. Inflation in food products is to the tune of 20%. What is the reason for such spiralling prices of food grains and manufactured goods? We know that for economic development of our country, agriculture sector needs to be strengthened and agricultural productivity needs to be increased. For that, we require massive investment in the agricultural sector. 63 years have passed since our country's independence but only the Government which rules the nation knows why investment in agriculture could not be increased. Investment is required for irrigation, for reopening of the closed fertilizers factories or for setting up ware-houses and godowns. The Government has failed to take care of this aspect as a result of which we are facing such difficulties. Millions of people go hungry every-day. They starve due to scarcity of food. Who is responsible for this? Congress party and the UPA Government are solely responsible for this kind of situation.

Last year, in the Presidential Address it was mentioned that within hundred days, the BPL lists would be revised. But to date the Government has not been able to provide a flawless BPL list. We don't have a

correct figure as to how many people in the country are below poverty line. It was also promised that every BPL family would get 35 kg of wheat or rice at the rate of Rs.3 per kg. That promise was also not fulfilled and we do not even find the political will to implement the programmes. You have to understand that these are the hurdles in the way of the prosperity of the nation.

Many members are saying that the State Governments are responsible for the spiralling prices. But can you tell me on what count the State Governments are held responsible? Can you tell me who determines the minimum support price? It is the Government of India that does it. No farmer gets the support price. Be it sugarcane, wheat or paddy cultivation, the cultivators are always a deprived lot. There is no one to purchase their produce. Food corporation of India does not procure paddy or wheat — only the traders purchase the produce and resort to hoarding as a result of which prices shoot through the roof. We all have the experience that there is huge disparity between the wholesale market prices and retail market prices. This situation is exploited by the middlemen and hoarders. The Government has to take strong measures to curb these malpractices. The Essential Commodities Act has to be implemented in a fresh manner.

We have seen that on one hand population is rising and on the other hand unemployment is also increasing day by day. In future there might be a population explosion and on that day situation will be worse. The Government should not forget this. All the developed countries in the world have tried to check population.

We have also seen that the farmers are not given subsidized fertilizers or subsidized seeds. Forward trading is also rampant. The Central Government determines the prices of export and import. We came to know from Sushma Swaraj ji that export import go on simultaneously. When price in world market is less and price in India is more at that time commodities are imported and when world market price is more than indigenous rates, then commodities are exported. This is not a good practice. These are to be kept in mind.

Sir, I am a new member of this House and I want to say that price rise is a burning issue, a national problem. If common people do not survive whom are you going to represent? People are our inspiration and we are here to express their concerns. So the

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

\*\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

Government has to take adequate measures to ameliorate their lot and help them to live with dignity.

With these words, I thank you for allowing me to participate in this debate and conclude my speech.

\*SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Sir, there has been an unabated increase in the prices of essential commodities across the country. Prices have been soaring constantly for the last five years. The centre conspires to malign the image of the State Governments and the states of the centre and vice versa. The common man is bearing the brunt of price-rise. The discussion on price rise has taken place 9 times during the last 5 years. However, there has been no control over the prices so far. People are starving. The prices of essential commodities are increasing inversely in proportion to the wages earned by workers. The Government is hypocrite in terms of food security, as it should open up the abundant food reserves. Both the Union and the State Governments have failed to check hoarding and black-marketing. There has been a decline in domestic production and income and the statement of the hon. Minister of Agriculture adding fuel to the fire whereas supply of all the commodities should be increased in the market to control the prices of essential commodities. The Minister of Agriculture boasts of record production whereas the Minister of Finance attributes the rising prices of essential commodities to natural calamity. There is no provision for the farmer to carry his produce to the market and he is not even getting remunerative prices for them. He is rrecting under debt. He is compelled to commit suicide. As per the Swaminathan Report production should be given a boost by providing loan to farmers at 4 per cent interest. The Government is trumpeting the National Rural 572 Employment Guarantee scheme whereas unemployment has increased in the country. There have been gross irregularities in NREGA. Migration from Rural to Urban areas is taking place as the income of the poor is not increasing. Inquiry in regard to the scams in import and export perpetrated during the last five years should be held by constituting a Joint Parliamentary Committee. Public Distribution System is the responsibility of states, however, there are gross irregularities in the issue of BPL and Antyoday Cards. Foodgrains should be provided to BPL and

Antyoday Card holders by making all other arrangements. Food for work scheme should be implemented. The Government has not implemented this scheme even during natural calamity. Crores of rupees have been spent in the name of natural calamities but to no avail. No benefits are being accrued to the farmers in the name of crop insurance.

There is wide gap between demand and supply in the country. The statement of the Minister of Finance vindicates it. The prices are rising, however, no steps have been taken to check it. The rising prices have always been discussed but the result should have been achieved in a time bound manner. Adoption of price control policy as per the vision of Lohiaji would have checked the rising prices. The Government should adopt a policy for continuous rise. There should be immediate ban on export-import to check rising prices. Fertilizers, electricity, water and remunerative price of the produce will have to be provided to the farmers to augment production. Special provisions should be made for seven crore BPL cardholders. Monitoring of Public Distribution System in states and a change in the system can only keep a check on rising prices.

\*SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY (Bhadohi): There has been a steep price rise in the country. Today, the prices have risen in the country in an uncontrolled way. The public is aggrieved and the life of the common man has become difficult. The entire House is discussing price rise, however, why the prices have risen. Why the prices are increasing. The prices of pulses, sugar, rice, vegetables, flour, oil, ghee and spices have risen sharply. The price of milk has risen, but the Government is talking of figures. How these soaring prices would be checked, one needs to ponder over it. The prices have risen owing to the wrong policies of the Government. Hoarding has increased. The import and export policy has failed resulting in the failure to rein in the price rise. Sugar is at the rate Rs. 50 per kg. during the festival of Holi. The poor will not celebrate Holi. The Union Government is passing the buck on the State Government. Through you, I would request the Government to put a check on speculation market to control price rise. There should be check on hoarding and necessary facilities should be provided for agriculture to the farmers. Immediate measures should be taken to check starvation in the country. The statements of the hon. Minister of

Agriculture trigger a rise in the prices of sugar and milk at times. It is the responsibility of the Government to see that there are no starvation deaths in the country, however, the prices have risen owing to their wrong policies and actions.

The farmers are being exploited as a result of an increase in the prices of urea. While they should be extended benefits, they are rather being exploited. Failure to check price rise may even result in insurgency. People would be compelled to come out on streets. The onus would lie on the Government. The hon. Minister of Finance has made a statement in support of price-rise instead of checking the soaring prices. He is quoting figures while the country wants control over rising prices. The need of the hour is to see that the people of country may not starve.

There is a need to take immediate action to check price by paying attention to this burning issue. The prices of essential commodities should go down. The Government should clarify its policy. Production should be enhanced by irrigating the agricultural land and price rise should be checked after taking immediate action on reducing the increases prices of sugar, pulses, rice, vegetable, foodgrains etc.

*[English]*

\*SHRI PREM DAS RAI (Sikkim): The seriousness of the price rise is agreed to by the House and the Government as detailed out in the speech of her Excellency the President of India on the 22nd February, 2010.

If this is the case in the rest of the country then what must be happening in the mountain regions of our country including the North Eastern States? This is a question that this House and Government must also deal with.

We need to understand the reasons for this more this fully and this must be disaggregated to the various regions of this vast country. I do not think that the Government has taken adequate steps to fully come to grips with the situation. We do understand that there is price rise on account of the many explanations given and one of them is that there is also the high economic growth which spurs demand.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

I would also like to emphasize that the Government come out with a white paper on the price rise. I am of the opinion that the drop in production of food grains in the farmers' basket and other items of agriculture is more serious than is perceived. We need to look at the micro picture as well. I suggest that there be a much more holistic plan.

In case there is a drought once again then is there a contingency plan?

These and other measures need to be taken in all seriousness.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJU SHETTI (Hatkanangle): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today -common man is suffering due to price rise. There is need to ascertain the reasons behind this. But, if farmers are held responsible for price rise, then there is nothing worse than this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, prices are increasing in the market, farmers are not being benefited. Consumers are paying more but this money is not reaching the farmers. I have 'Amar Ujala' newspaper dated 22nd January. It says that common man has been burdened with four billion rupees. If this amount of four billion had reached the farmers, then, they would not have committed suicide. This amount has gone to the speculators. There has been profiteering to the extent of 180 million rupees in pigeon pea, 120 million rupees in other pulses, 15 million rupees in wheat and flour, 72 million rupees in rice and 8.80 million rupees in sugar. Hon'ble Minister of Finance just now said that prices are based on demand and supply. If there is manipulation in demand and supply, the brokers benefit. I am speaking in brief as I have not been allotted much time. I have a report of recently held conference of Chief Ministers on 6th February. As per the report sugar production was expected to be a record 220 lakh tonnes by 5 August, 2008. Price of sugar in Future Market was Rs. 1673 per quintal inspite of this.

**18.00 hrs.**

On 23rd October the production was said to be 205 lakh tonnes due to which price of sugar rose to Rs. 2112 in Future Market. It was reported 188 lakh tonnes in December due to which the prices rose to 2103 in Future Market. It was reported to be 161 lakh tonnes in

February, 2009 due to which prices rose to 2303 in Future Market. On 23rd June estimated production was estimated to be 148 lakh tonnes due to which price of sugar rose to Rs. 2421 in Future Market.

**18.01 hrs.**

[MADAM SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Madam, just now an hon'ble Member has said that it is not hard to assess the sugar production. It takes 12-16 months for harvesting after sowing of sugarcane. If you had assessed one year ago as to how much sugarcane will be produced in the entire country, one can assess how much sugar will be produced. Production of sugarcane has not increased in the country, but the data shown here after six month was done to benefit the speculators. It shows that there is big scam. Had it been investigated, then, the price of sugar would not have increased to that level in the market.

Madam, when there was scarcity of sugar even then it was being exported. There was a proposal for import of raw sugar at regular intervals and to provide subsidy to the refiners. Whenever the Minister of Consumer Affair said that prices of sugar will increase, the prices shut up.

Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the House to this point that when a responsible Minister of the Government makes a statement in the House, it will affect the market....(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Kindly conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJU SHETTI: What is the reason behind the difference between demand and supply? Who is behind all this? Farmers are committing suicide despite getting such good prices....(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: The time of the House is extended till the hon. Minister completes his reply.

Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJI SHETTI: On the other hand consumers are suffering due to price rise. Who is behind this? In whose pocket is this money going? Who are responsible for this? This needs to be pondered.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Sambhal): Madam, I would only like to recite a couplet....(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: Madam, one couplet will convey all my points. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: All right.

...(Interruptions)

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: Madam, it is like this; "Yeh bata ki kaafila kyon luta, mujhe rehjano se garj nahin, teri rehbari ka sawaal hai."

Therefore, it is my request that this is very important matter. It should be discussed above party lines, because it is a matter of humanity and not that of opposition or ruling party.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Thank you very much.

...(Interruptions)

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: Therefore, I want that efforts should be made to resolve the matter at all cost as it concerns humanity, the poor, farmers and labourers.

**18.04 hrs.**

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

### Cancellation of Sitting of Lok Sabha

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Madam, the Leaders of

various Parties as also a good number of the hon. Members have desired that because of Holi being on 1st March, the 2nd March may also be declared as a holiday and the sitting may kindly be cancelled. That is the request that I rise to make to you because we wanted this to be discussed in the BAC in that form. You may kindly put it to the House.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Please cancel the sitting of 3rd.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: No, that cannot be done. If possible, if need be also at that time, we may extend the House to 17th and 18th but that decision you may kindly take later. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat after saying such a wonderful poetry (sher).

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: For the present, you may kindly cancel the sitting for 2nd of March also.

MADAM SPEAKER: I think the House agrees to it.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Madam Speaker, there is Holi on 1st March and you are aware that Holi is celebrated throughout night in Bihar. Therefore, it is my request that 2nd March may be declared as holiday.

MADAM SPEAKER: There will be no sitting on 2nd March. Same has been said by the Minister of parliamentary Affairs just now. Shri Sharad Pawar ji, you continue your speech.

DR. SHAFIQUH RAHMAN BARQ: Madam Speaker, I ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Madam Speaker, I would like to share an information.

MADAM SPEAKER: Yogi Aditya Nathji, this is not the time to give information. Please sit down. I have asked hon'ble Minister to make his speech and he is making his speech. Therefore, please take your seat and listen to the hon'ble Minister.

....*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Madam Speaker, hon'ble Members of this House hon'ble Rajnath Singh ji and hon'ble Dr. Murali Manohar Joshi ji, are staging a demonstration to protest the price rise...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please take your seat.

....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. All this will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

18.07 hrs.

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

### Price-rise—Contd.

[Translation]

\*\*SHRI P.L. PUNIA (Barabanki): I am very grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on this important matter.

All of us listened to the President's Address on 22nd February. As per the convention first discussion on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address is held in the House. All aspects of this Address are discussed because President's Address is the document of Government's policies and future agenda. Therefore, the Opposition gets a golden opportunity to discuss every topic. Her Excellency, the President herself has expressed concern on the rising prices of essential commodities and has said in detail as to how the Government has formulated a strategy to check the price rise. The Opposition could have discussed this issue in detail, but two days time was wasted and it was said

\*Not recorded.

\*\*Speech was laid on the Table.

that first of all discussion on price rise should be held through an Adjournment Motion. The Government gave its consent to hold Discussion under Rule 193 on this topic in order to maintain healthy and cordial atmosphere in the House and, today discussion on this topic is being held, with the permission of the Speaker. The Opposition was having a single point agenda of disrupting the proceedings of the House so that they could tell the people that they alone are concerned about the people. But by not holding a discussion on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, the Opposition has violated a healthy convention, which is regrettable. They are not interested in holding a discussion on this issue, but instead playing politics. They talk about starving people, but they want to satiate their hunger by rules alone.

The price rise does not bother rich persons at all. The rich people want to purchase the costliest items and consider purchasing cheap items as dishonour to themselves, but the poor people are hit price rise. The prices have risen exorbitantly. We are experiencing it in our daily lives and news reviews are being continuously published in the newspapers. As per a survey, 78 crore people in the country have the purchasing power of only Rs. 20 a day and out of these, there are 10 crore such people who have a purchasing power of only Rs. 9 per day. We should be concerned about price rise particularly for these people and should make every effort to provide them relief.

There are reasons behind price rise. Today, not only India, but the entire world is affected by the price rise. This is a universal truth that India has suffered the minimum from on slaught of global slowdown. Since historic rise was made in the minimum support price in order to give remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce, the rise in market price of commodities was a natural corollary. Besides, that prices are fixed on the basis of demand/supply. 40 percent of edible oil required in country is imported from foreign countries. 15 percent of the requirement of pulses in country is fulfilled by import. Their prices are soaring in foreign countries and due to low production in the country, the prices have risen. Due to delay in the onset of monsoon in the country, the crops were not sown in large parts of the country, even if crops were sown, they became dry due to lack of water and most of the crops got ruined in floods in some areas. An unprecedented situation arose, the production of foodgrains fell, availability also decreased. Thus, the price rise was unavoidable.

But the Government has taken a very important decision of taking effective and concrete steps to minimize the effect of this problem on common man. Her Excellency, the hon. President has mentioned all these steps and said that taking measures for giving relief to common man from price hike will be the top priority of the Government. Despite increase in the minimum support price of foodgrains, no increase in the prices of foodgrains released under Public Distribution System has been made since the year 2002. Today rice is being made available at the rate of Rs. 5.65 per kilogram to BPL families and Rs. 3 per kilogram to Antyodaya Card holders and wheat is being made available at the rate of Rs. 4.15 kilogram to BPL families and Rs. 2 per kilogram to Antyodaya card holders. Whereas the support price of wheat is Rs. 1100 per quintal and after bearing other expense it costs Rs. 1350 per quintal to the Government. The support price of paddy is Rs. 1050 per quintal and after bearing the expenses of processing it to get rice and after other expenses it costs Rs. 1945 per quintal to the Government. This way foodgrain subsidy has increased to Rs. 55745 crore, whereas it was Rs. 25160 crore in the year 2003-04.

Import of foodgrains, edible oil and pulses has been made completely duty free so that more and more essential commodities may be imported from foreign countries into India.

- Export has been completely banned so as to check the export of essential commodities to other countries.
- 30 lakh tonnes of wheat and rice will be released for the open market in the next two months so as to improve the availability.
- 5 lakh tonne wheat and 2 lakh tonne rice will be released through retail centres of the NAFED and co-operative network under the Union Government.
- Additional quantity of 36 lakh tonne wheat/ rice was released through the PDS in January-February. It was over and above quantity of food-grains being given to the cardholders.
- The State Governments continue to receive subsidy at the rate of Rs. 15 per kg., on retail on the imported edible oil and pulses for distribution through the PDS.

A comprehensive strategy has been evolved to check the rise in prices and provide relief to the common man. Some concrete steps have been taken to raise the availability of essential commodities in the market. Export has been completely banned. Import duty has been exempted on import of foodgrains. The State Governments have been authorized to fix a stock limit for the traders in order to put a check on hoarding. Bharat Nirman Yojana of the Union Government and the works undertaken under the MNREGA have increased the income of the people in rural areas which has resulted in increase in their purchasing power. The Union Government has taken every step that was essential in the present circumstances. The Union Government can neither tackle this problem alone nor can it be blamed solely for this. There is a need for co-operation by all. The State Governments should take this problem more seriously and I am of the opinion that except for a few states, all other states are not taking it seriously.

Under the Open Market Scheme, the Union Government allotted 10 lakh tonne wheat in December and 5 lakh tonne wheat for the month of January to March to the wholesale consumers/mills. The wholesale consumers/mills lifted 5.91 lakh tonne of wheat through the State Governments out of a total of 15 lakh tonne wheat. Had the entire quantity reached the open market, the prices of flour and wheat would have certainly come down.

The State Governments were allotted 10 lakh tonne wheat upto December for retail sale but only 2.42 lakh tonne wheat was lifted by them. Except the Delhi and the Rajasthan Governments, other states did not show any special interest in this regard. The time period for lifting the previous quota has been extended and an additional quantity of 10 lakh tonne has been allotted. Similarly, 10 lakh tonne rice was also allotted to the State Governments but they have lifted only 4.36 lakh tonne. If the State Governments had lifted the entire quantity and had sold wheat and rice in retail market through their agencies, prices could have been checked through this. This action has to be taken by the State Governments only and they should show urgency in this regard. Foodgrains, sugar and kerosene oil is made available to the BPL and Antyodaya cardholders at subsidized rates. Wheat and rice are made available to the Antyodaya cardholders at a rate of Rs. 2 and Rs. 3 per kilogram respectively through the Public Distribution

System, however, the owners of the fair price shops in connivance with the employees of the states sell the foodgrains and other items in the market due to which the cardholders remain deprived of this facility. If, in reality, the most poor having the Antyodaya card get foodgrains, sugar and kerosene oil at subsidized rates, it relieves them from the scourge of price rise.

MNREGA is a revolutionary scheme. There is no restriction in regard to the BPL and the APL list. It is a demand-based scheme, the person who will demand will be issued a job card and will be provided employment for 100 days every year at Rs. 100 per day as wages. If this scheme is implemented in a proper manner, a person earning Rs. 100 per day is capable to lead his life while facing price rise; however, irregularities are being committed by the State Governments in implementing this scheme also. Earlier there were complaints regarding non-payment of full wages. Arrangement of payment through cheques was made on behalf of the Union Government. Now the complaint is that the funds are being withdrawn by opening fake accounts and in this way corruption is taking place in an open manner. The State Governments are unable to put a check on this. The job cardholders are not getting employment.

The Union Government has waived import duty in view of the serious scenario and has imposed ban on export. However, on the contrary, what the State Governments are doing. They are imposing heavy taxes on wheat, rice, sugar and petrol. They are encouraging price rise by imposing taxes on wheat, paddy and rice. In states like Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh the Bharatiya Janata Party is in power and it is being projected that the party is most concerned about price rise. However, 12.5% tax has been imposed on sugar in these states. If the leaders, who are raising their voices here, have even on iota of morality, they should protest against their party's Government and ask them to waive these taxes.

There is a need to take action against profiteers. The State Governments are not taking any action under the Essential Commodities Act and the Act to check black marketing which falls under their domain. Last week, an assessment of the prices of pulses was done and it was found that despite fall in the wholesale prices, retail prices did not show corresponding price trend. In Lucknow, the wholesale price of Arhar (Arval) was Rs.

60/- per kg. while in retail it was being sold at Rs. 80-90/- per kg. Similarly, the wholesale price of Arhar (Doyam) was Rs. 50 per kg., while in retail it was being sold at Rs. 72/- per kg. Thus a profit of Rs. 20/- is being recovered on per kilogram pulse. The wholesale price of 'Urad dal' has come down by Rs. 16/- per kg., however, the retail prices have not declined. The role of the State Governments is very important in this regard. If there is a decline in the wholesale prices, its impact should be reflected on retail prices forthwith. We do not want that the small traders should be harassed. We want that negotiations be held with the trade unions to solicit their co-operation. Even then, if we do not get relief, stringent action should be taken. However, it has to be done by the State Governments.

As this serious matter is concerned with the common man, therefore many meetings were held at the Prime Minister level and he invited Chief Ministers of all States in one of the meetings and this issue was discussed in detail. The Chief Minister of the largest state of the country having maximum number of poor did not attend this meeting and blames the Union Government by holding Press Conference in the State capital. If in reality she wants to provide relief to the poor from price-rise, she should have made her contribution by participating in this discussion.

- The Union Government imported 20 lakh tonnes of raw sugar to control the prices of sugar and the sugar mills of Uttar Pradesh were supposed to process that sugar into white sugar, but the Uttar Pradesh Government did not grant the permission to sugar mills and the raw sugar is still lying at ports. Had this sugar been made available, its prices would definitely have come down.
- The availability of foodgrains is the major issue. Foodgrains, oilseeds and pulses are grown in fields and are grown by farmers only. There is a need to pay attention towards the problems of farmers. As per the report of the Swaminathan Commission, loan should be made available to the farmers at the interest rate of 4 percent and I believe that the agricultural loan comprises not more than 3 to 4 percent of the total amount of loan in India. Therefore, agricultural loan should be made available at a nominal rate of 1 percent. Seed, fertilizer etc.

should be made available on time. When urea is needed, urea is not available, DAP is available and when DAP is required, it vanishes from the market and urea is available. The State Governments are required to pay attention to this whole system to reform it. There is a need to make the crops of sugarcane, oilseed, pulses, paddy, wheat profitable for the farmers. Population has to grow demand of all items has to rise. We have limit to increase the agricultural area. There is a need to increase productivity. There is a need to add more agricultural land by converting barren land into cultivable land. While giving special attention to crop insurance, there is a need to reform the existing system. There should be crop insurance for every farmer, if the crop of any farmer is damaged, he should get the insurance claim.

In the end, I would like to say that the Union Government has discharged its responsibility in regard to this important problem. The State Governments are lacking sensitivity and I would like to submit that this is a national problem which is very serious, it should not be politicized. If the country is facing a problem, there is a need of cooperation by all to face the same. It is very easy to criticize, but efforts should be made to find out effective solution thereof.

\*SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Machhlishahr): Today a hue and cry is being raised every where on constant price rise. Of course, upper middle class and upper class is not affected by this and they will not be affected by it at all. Lower Middle Class and the poor and the working class is most affected by the price rise. Today, wheat flour is available at a rate of Rs. 18 to Rs. 20 per kg. Arhar Dal is costing Rs. 80 to Rs. 90 per kilogram. Sugar has reached upto Rs. 40 per kilogram. The price of milk is raised after every two-four months. The price of turmeric has reached upto Rs. 13 thousand per quintal whereas its production is 701.66 lakh tonne per annum.

Similarly, the prices of vegetables are sky-rocketing, not to talk of fruits. Apple is being sold at a rate of Rs. 60 to 70 per kilogram and banana at a rate of Rs. 30 per dozen. Egg which was earlier available at a rate of Rs. 15 to 20 dozen, is now being sold at Rs. 50 per dozen. Not only the prices of flour, pulses, rice,

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.



vegetables, fruits have soared, the prices of industrial goods have also shown steep rise. The prices of consumer goods manufactured in factories are constantly increasing. The industrialists of the country are constantly increasing the prices of industrial goods in a bid to earn more profit and the Government is ignoring it. Even the prices of health related and life saving drugs and medicines are being increased arbitrarily. It is shocking that the Drug Regulatory Organization run by the Government has itself increased the prices of 119 drugs during the last few months. Instead of controlling the price rise, the State Governments too, are increasing it. Bus fares in Delhi have been raised by more than fifty times. Metro fares have also been increased. It has not only affected the common people, but the poor and the working class involved in manual labour are facing the brunt of price rise most.

As per our Minister of Agriculture, there is a reserve of 300 lakh tonnes of wheat and 172.11 lakh tonnes of rice in the country's godowns which is more than the standards set for buffer stock. They, however, contend that the speculators have increased the prices of foodgrains, so should it be assumed that the strength of speculators, black marketeers and hoarders are more powerful than the Government.

The monsoon remained almost normal during the year 2004 to 2008. It was claimed that in the year 2008, there was record production, then how did the price of rice increase by 46 percent, price of flour by 55 percent, price of wheat by 62 percent and the price of salt increase by 42 percent?

The fact is that the leader of the present Government is not bothered in regard to the price-rise. He holds that price-rise is not an obstruction, but a means to achieve progress of the country. The Prime Minister is a great economist, but I do not know under which rules and theories of economics he holds price rise beneficial for national interest.

Our 70% population is engaged in agriculture sector and agriculture is a very big source of employment, but the Government wishes to reduce such a dependence on agriculture. Perhaps the Government wishes to copy the US. Agriculture has a contribution of less than even one percent in the US national economy. Thus, the contribution of agriculture to the gross domestic product is just four percent in that country. The US administration

holds the opinion that the development of the country will take place only when the people's dependence on agriculture will be less. Our Government is perhaps trying to copy the same view of the United States of America. Our Prime Minister, too, has begun to emphasise the need for reducing peoples' dependence on agriculture while knowing this fact that agriculture contributes 6.5% to Indian economy and 17% to gross domestic product. Our Prime Minister wishes that 40 crore people should be relieved from agricultural activities. Does the Government want to send these 40 crore people to the US or Britain by relieving them from agriculture. The fact is that whenever the Congress party comes to power, it brings inflation with it. Our Government sees the condition of the country associating it with the fluctuation of the share market, not with the prices of foodgrains and vegetables. The report of the Arun Sen Gupta Committee constituted by the Government itself contends that the per capita income of 77% citizens of the country is less than Rs. 20 per day whereas even 200 grams of pigeon pea pulse are not available in Rs. 20 today. In today's situation, it has become difficult for the 77% citizens to get two square meals.

The Government gives more importance to the wishes of the multinational companies rather than the poor. This Government has handed over the people to the market. Today all the laws are being enacted in the interest of the capitalists. That is why, the quarterly profits of the industrialists are getting to Rs. two to three thousand crores.

The figures show that every fourth person of the country is going to bed hungry stomach at present. There are more than 21 crore people who are not getting proper meals to satisfy their hunger. Not only that, the food item available per annum to each person has come down by 34 kilograms during the last 10 years. The consumption of food items was 186 kilograms per person in India around the year 1999, which has now declined to 150 kilogram. The Government has put the food items into the category of iron and metals for assessing the price rise of food items. Not only that, the Government is targeting just the hardworking classes by taking the plea of recession. That is the reason that the labour laws are being enacted keeping in view the interests of the capitalists.

The UPA Government forgets the fact that it is none other than the poor and the hardworking who have

handed over power to it by casting their votes in its favour, but after assuming the power it has totally forgotten the poor. The capitalists have become its favourite. Otherwise also, what affect will the price rise have on the rich class? The increasing prices of food items do not affect the rich class. It affects just those daily wage earner, hard working class which earns Rs. 50 to 100 as daily wages. It affects those factory workers who hardly get even Rs. 5000 a month.

In fact, if the Government wished to check the price rise, it would have launched a campaign against hoarders and profiteers, strengthened the public distribution system and provided the necessary consumer items to the needy by extending it. I would like the government to take steps as soon as possible to check price rise so that the poor could get relief.

[English]

\* SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): It is an admitted fact that prices of all essential goods are going up. In every session of the house from 14 Lok Sabha onwards we have been discussing the issue of the price rise but Government has failed to make any control on the trend of high price rise in the country.

Government say that there is a better growth rate of 7.6% and have been arguing that there is negative inflationary trend in the country. If this is true, these two economic parameters are better examples of a growing economy. But Government has to answer that why this message are not reflected in the day to day life of the common people.

So the claim of the Government that there is a better situation in the social as well as the economic sectors are contradictory that the reality we face now.

When we got to the details of the price rise it is shocking to note that the food inflation touch about 20% it was 1% in August 2009 and 7.81% in December and three times increase in the last two months.

Food inflation on 11th of 2009 is about 19.05, 12th of 2009 20% and 1st of 2010 again 20%.

The wholesale price index in 2009 April was 9.09% and in the December 2009 reached to 20%.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

The Retail price of rice for 1Kg. was 14 Rupees in 2007, 22 Rupees in 2008 and 32 Rupees in 2009 in the same period in the price of wheat for 1 Kg was 12 Rupees in 2007, 14 Rupees in 2008 and 24 Rupees in 2009.

The price of Sugar for 1 Kg Rupees 16 in 2007, 18 Rupees in 2008 and 50 Rupees in 2009.

At the same period the price paid to the farmers for Sugarcane 1 Kg in 2007 Rupees 8.5 and 2008 Rupees 9 and 2009 Rupees 10. For sugarcane in 2007 Rupees 8, 2008 Rupees 10 and 2009 Rupees 14.

These figures show when prices are high, the prices that the farmers receive doesn't show any such increase either in Rice, Wheat or Sugarcane.

Not only prices of these three commodities but prices of almost all the essential items have gone up.

It is shocking to note the price of wheat rose from 9 to 24 per kg. from 2004 to 2010 and Rice 10 to 32 Sugar from 14 to 50, Edible Oil from 14 to 100, Dalda 14 to 85, Channa Dal 25 to 56, Tur/Mung Dal 24 to 100, Besan 20 to 60, Milk 16 to 30, Kerosene 18 to 35 in the respective period.

Tendulkar Committee says there is 12% increase in poverty.

78% of our population spends 60 to 80% of their monthly income for their food articles.

Consumers have to pay three times more than the price paid to farmers.

Who are the beneficiaries of price rise? No doubt the benefit goes to multi nationals corporate and commodity companies they are getting 100 to 300% of benefits.

Why such a very serious situation of price rise become a day to day phenomena of our society. No doubt this is due to the failure of food policy and also economic policy pursued by the Governemnt.

The reasons are: (a) Food Procurement policy shifted from Government and FCI to Multinationals (b) Not implementing the essential commodities act strictly. (c) Government inaction to promote PDA system (d) The rise in the prices of Petrol and Diesel.

It is true that drought and floods effected our production. But the Governemnt has to take necessary steps to compensate the shortage of food items but we see when there is shortage of Onion, Government has exported Onion @ of 13 Rupees per Kg, whereas the domestic price is 45 Rs.

When there is a shortage of sugar production of 70 thousand million ton Government has exported Sugar at cheaper price.

The better way to control the price is the market intervention through PD system. In the demarcation of APL BPL Cards has really worsened the situation by rejecting statutory ration to majority of the people. The universalisation of the PDS system is the only way to bring down the price in the open market.

Kerala has been implementing the system for long time, Kerala has given rice to 25 thousand families @ 2 Rupees per kg. Government has given rice @ Rs. 9.80 to the APL families and has given rice @ 14 Rs Maveli Stores. Government has to meet a huge burden on this account.

Government has met 500 crores Rupees for these food security may be highest in the History of Kerala.

It is unfortunate to say that the APL Quota allotted to the state in the year 2007 was about 113648 metric tone now it is reduced to 17500 Mt. It means a reduction of 82% no Government can run in the PDA system if Central Government take such a rigorous stand.

Government claim that there is better food buffer stock, but instead of distributing the food grains through PDS System Government give it to the traders to the open market which would only assist the traders and assist to rise the price.

So the policy followed by the Government has to be changed immediately and take administrative steps to control the price rise. PDS system has to be strengthened by allotting more food grains to the states. Remunerative prices have to be given to the farmers for their commodities.

The objective of the Government should be to assist the poor people and not the mill owners who need profits at any cost.

[Translation]

\*DR. BALIRAM (Lalganj): The House is taking up the issue of constant price rise in the country. In this discussion, the Members of the treasury bench are attributing price rise to drought and at times to the rise of prices in the international market but are silent on the steps to be taken by the Government to check price rise. If this country is witnessing unabated price rise, it is only due to the wrong policies of the Government. This price rise has not been recorded all of a sudden. Even during the British rule, starvation prevailed. In order to deal with this situation Baba Saheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar had presented a separate Settlement Act before the Britishers in the year 1942 in which he had stated that our people who had children suffering from deprivation of food and clothes were the ones who were agricultural labourers having no land of their own and that their children would continue to suffer deprivation of food and clothes unless and until they were provided lands. Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar had stated that in comparison to the total agriculture land in the country the fallow and barren land in the custody of the Government was two-fold. If this land were distributed among the poor, their children would not suffer deprivation of food and clothes.

The British accepted this plan and stated that after the on-going Second World War land would be distributed among the poor under a five-year plan, but after independence all the plans were put into dustbin. That is why, there are a lot of fallow and barren land in India. If the Government had distributed this land among the poor, they would not have suffered starvation like this nor price-rise would have been that much.

The common man, today, is getting affected badly by the increasing food prices and the over-all price rise. Inflation is at its peak. Whatsoever may be the reason thereof, the pressure on the prices of food grains and food products is mounting. The Government's plea is that rise in prices is due to decrease in domestic production and increase in the prices of rice, pulse and edible oils at the global level. But my opinion is different from it. The situation is that the prices go up as rapidly as the Government announces to control the price-rise.

In a vast country like India where the majority of people (27.5 percent) live below the poverty line and

\*Not recorded.

they hardly get two square meals with around 25 crore people compelled to go to sleep with an empty stomach, the perception and imagination of hunger, malnutrition and poverty is dreadful in itself.

1.9 per cent families in India are facing starvation and this situation is worse in the States like West Bengal, Orissa, Assam and Bihar. As per National Family Health Survey 2005-06, 45.9 per cent people in the country are suffering from malnutrition and 27.5 per cent people are the victims of poverty. On the basis of these things, we have to endeavour to evolve policy resolutions so as to rein in these social maladies as well as the price rise. This is a matter of serious concern that despite attaining self-reliance in food production for the last three decades and surging food reserves situation of starvation is prevailing in the country even today. I demand that the Government shall resolve these issues at the earliest and, if necessary, review the funding of various intervening agencies and reconstitute them if needed so that proper arrangement of livelihood, sustenance can be made.

The income of the poor man has not increased in proportion to food price rise in the country. Per capita food consumption was 186 kilogram in the year 1999, which has reduced to 152 kilogram today. It means per capita food consumption has reduced by 34 kilograms. Under such circumstances, where is the difference between the demand and supply. Much improvement is not seen in the situation of poverty, though officially our growth rate is increasing, purchasing power is increasing, but poverty is also on the rise in the same proportion. Out of 35 States and Union Territories, 40 per cent people of our total population in three States—Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are living in poverty. Two-third of the total number of poor are living in six states namely, Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. The situation is more alarming in rural India. As per a survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organization, per capita purchasing power of these people is Rs. 20 a day in the country. In the year 2004-05, purchasing of power 32.3 per cent people in urban areas and 71.9 per cent people in rural areas was Rs. 20 and even less than that per day.

Prices are rising unabatedly in the country. The Government should check it, so that the people of the country are able to live a good life. The present situation

is such that on the basis of figures based on the wholesale price Index in January 2010, rate of inflation has crossed 17.94 per cent, whereas the Government is happy with a 7.2 per cent GDP growth and is saying that GDP has registered a handsome increase. The decline in GDP growth rate from 9 to 9.7 per cent in the year 2007-08 and year 2006-07 respectively signifies fall. In view of the price hike, the inflation rate has increased from 4.78 per cent to 7.31 percent (based on wholesale price index) in December. The price of potato has increased 40-57 per cent in the last 52 weeks. The price of pulses has increased by 41-24 percent, rice by 9.90 per cent, milk by 14-16 percent, wheat by 15.47 per cent, vegetables by 20.93 per cent, fruits by 8.6 per cent, edible oil by 50.0 per cent, salt by 50 per cent and coarse grain by 12.15 percent. Thus domestic food inflation based on whole sale price index for surpasses the overall inflation.

Global slowdown is being talked about, but prices are sky-rocketing in our country. If the prices are not checked, the situation will become bad to worse. The Hon'ble Supreme Court was also forced to urge upon the Government to contain price rise, but inflation is rising unrelented and uncontrolled. Cabinet Ministers are making different statements and they are saying that prices will soar further and only after the next rabi crop, it will be possible to check the prices. What is the reason that the hon'ble Prime Minister, hon'ble Minister of Finance and Minister of Agriculture do not want to control the price rise? The Government says that the State Governments are not cooperating and prices are increasing due to speculators. This statement is absolutely wrong, because the Government is incapable of controlling the prices and now the price rise is market based. The Government seems to be least concerned about rising markets but it is more concerned to check decrease in its GDP. The Union Government is probably not as serious on the issue of price rise as it should be. The Government of my state has checked the price rise by making collective efforts and has distributed all essential commodities and food items in a proper manner.

66 per cent people depend on agriculture in the country. The growth rate of agriculture has decreased from 4.9 per cent in year 2007-08 to 1.9 per cent in year 2008-09. This is due to faulty policies of the Government that rabi and kharif crop production has not been adequate or has not increased. Farmers do not

get water, fertilizer, seed etc. as per their need then how will production increase? The agricultural investment which was 11.9 per cent in the year 1999-2000, is less than 6.6. per cent today. There is need to free agriculture items from future trading and immediate ban should be imposed on this. Effective steps should be taken to increase per hectare produce. Such varieties of seeds should be developed which consume less water and give more produce.

Even today, cheap agricultural loan is not available to 73 per cent farmers. They have to take loan on higher interest rates from other sources, due to which they are reeling under the burden of debt, and are helpless. In such circumstances, National Food Security Mission is a right step in the right direction. It is very sad that this Mission is not initiated to ensure food security to the families. Due to it, the production of rice has fallen by 1 per cent, wheat by 2 per cent, sugarcane by 14.9 per cent, pulses by 9 per cent and per hectare production has also fallen. The Government should take appropriate measures in this regard.

We keep buffer stock for public distribution system and other welfare schemes. As per the standard practice at least 110 lakh and 52 lakh tonnes of wheat and rice should be available respectively but in this context 284.57 lakh tonnes of wheat and 153.49 lakh tonnes of rice are available in buffer stock. Similarly, the demand of sugar is 230 lakh tonnes, but due to low production and prices, the farmers are supplying less sugarcane to sugar mills.

The difference between demand and supply is giving them an opportunity to increase the prices. The Government is importing wheat, sugar, pulses, edible oil to check the prices. 5.5 million tonnes of wheat was imported in year 2006-07, 1.8 million tonnes was imported in year 2007-08. 10 lakh tonnes of white sugar was imported. Despite the import of 25-30 lakh tonnes of pulses, the increase in prices of essential commodities and edible items is continuing.

Traders, speculators and big companies have earned crore of rupees through future trading. The Government had once imposed a ban on future trading of pulses, sugar and rice, but later lifted it. I did not understand this flip-flop, therefore, it is required to be discontinued. Our public distribution system needs to be further strengthened because due to the loopholes and drawbacks in the system people are deprived of its

benefits. Prices are rising abnormally. Hon'ble Minister of Finance alleges that state Governments are not co-operating to round up the speculators and black marketeers. It is a very strange allegation. I want to say that in states where the ruling party at the center is also in power, such persons should be arrested to show the way to contain price rise. Government cannot shirk its responsibility. If State Governments will keep on functioning in such a manner, will the Union Government remain a mute spectator to let the people suffer.

Lastly, I would like to say that the Government is not at all serious in curbing price rise. The common man is a victim of fraud and cheating. Poor are being neglected and forced to starve. I want that the Government should regulate the market, control price rise and strengthen public distribution system. Policies should be based on ground reality for price fixing. Allegation and counter-allegation would not help. It is quite improper to say that it is the responsibility of the states. Prices are determined by the Union Government. Political will is required, only then we can curb this runaway price-rise.

\*SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (Bikaner): I am presenting some suggestion regarding price rise, which is being discussed in the House under rule 193. It is well known that common man and specially people living below poverty line are suffering due to price rise. Therefore, my suggestions for curbing price rise are as follows:

1. Biggest reason for price rise is future trading. Hoarders trade in lakhs of tonnes of commodities through computer trading due to which prices rise. Therefore, food items should immediately be removed from being traded in future trading and law should be amended accordingly.
2. There is need to implement the Essential Commodities Act strictly. Arrangement for speedy trials should be made for people violating Essential Commodities Act, and if possible, separate courts should be established for this purpose, since the district collector is already overburdened and cannot spare time for this. As a result guilty persons will be punished quickly and incidents of violation of Essential Commodities Act will decrease.

3. Import-Export policy should be reviewed since there is a food crisis in the country due to inadequate monsoon, and in such circumstances there can be no justification to export sugar and rice. Therefore, immediate ban should be imposed on export of sugar and rice.
4. Such system should be established by Chief Ministers of the concerned states that they receive daily reports regarding food items from the district collectors and Chief Minister should report in this regard daily invariably to the Government of India until there is reasonable check on price rise. It could be done through E-Mail.
5. Prices are rising due to uncertainty of monsoon. Hence, strict action should be taken against adulterators and hoarders and report of the action taken should invariably be forwarded daily to the Government of India by Chief Ministers of the States until the situation improves.
6. There is possibility of price rise and decline in farm produce due to declaration of increase in the prices of fertilizers and chemicals. Therefore, kindly withdraw the hike in prices of fertilizers and chemicals.
7. There is possibility of price rise further due to the uncertainty of monsoon and drought. Scientists of Indian Council of Agricultural Research may be directed to suggest alternate arrangements to overcome drought and uncertainty of monsoon. These suggestion may include: more use of bio fertilizers, drip and micro irrigation, and promotion of organic farming. Efforts should be made to produce more and more green fodder using innovative technique, so that livestock could be saved and production of foodgrain could be possible through alternate arrangement.
8. Public Distribution System should be reviewed. Facilities provided to people other than BPL should be discontinued immediately because hoarders are getting its benefits instead of the common people. Immediate action should be taken particularly in the field of kerosene. The money saved in this way should be utilized to check price rise.
9. Government is saying that prices are rising due to food crisis. In this regard I would like to suggest that barren and unutilized land should be made fertile to produce foodgrain. Means of irrigation should be developed more and more. A list of investors willing to invest in agricultural sector based on PPP mode should be prepared to give incentives, so that agriculture production could increase and the gap between demand and supply could also be reduced.
10. Many a time farm produce rots due to the unavailability of proper storage facility. Therefore, in this regard my suggestion is that a comprehensive scheme should be formulated to provide loans and grant permission to the farmers having 5 hectares of land to construct godowns for the storage of foodgrains. Assistance of NABARD could be taken for formulating the scheme.
11. There are so many agricultural development schemes which overlap. Therefore, a composite scheme should be formulated by technical agriculture experts, by reviewing the other existing scheme in which suitable provisions of those could be included in the said composite scheme. Rest of the schemes could be sidelined so that farmers are able to focus on the composite scheme to implement it for raising productivity.

[English]

\* Sk. SAIDUL HAQUE (Bardhaman-Durgapur): Unprecedented rise in prices of all essential commodities, food articles has caused a great concern to the people in general. It has threatened crisis in food front. The recent hike in the prices of urea along with government move to decontrol of price of fertilizer has added fuel to the fire:

India is currently witnessing one of the highest rates of inflation. Currently, the inflation rate for food articles on date 6th February 2010 is 17.97%. If we look at more disaggregated picture, we find that the inflation rate for pulse and potato is around 38%, for vegetables it is a round 20% and for onions and milk it is around

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

14%. In other words, all the food items that are used by the common people in this country are witnessing sky rocketing inflation.

The UPA Government has no intention of a course correction in the policies, which have resulted in continuing high rates of inflation of food items which reached almost 18 per cent (WPI) in the week ending January 31. The Government has consistently refused to accept its own responsibilities and has sought to explain away high prices through lame excuses, one of them being that high inflation rates are a global phenomenon. A comparison of the consumer price index of the G-20 group of countries shows why the alibi does not work. Clearly, domestic factors, not international ones are responsible for India having the highest annual inflation rates in the Consumer Price Index of the G-20 countries.

*G 20 Countries: Consumer Price Inflation  
for December 2009*

Country	Annual Inflation Rate
India	14.97
Russia	8.8
Argentina	7.7
Turkey	6.5
South Africa	6.3
Brazil	4.3
Saudi Arabia	4.2
Mexico	3.6
United Kingdom	2.9
Indonesia	2.8
Republic of Korea	2.8
United States of America	2.7
Australia	2.1
China	1.9
Canada	1.3
Italy	1.1
France	0.9
Germany	0.9
Japan	-1.7

The Government by asserting that the price rise is because of an increase in the income in the rural areas is actually undermining the impact that the inflation is having on poor and ordinary people. In other words, if the Government believes that the price rise is a result of the rise in the income in the rural areas, then it actually believes that this inflation is not hurting the poor.

But, what is the evidence that there has been an increase in the income in the rural areas? No data is provided. Contrary to what the Government wants us to believe, it is instructive to look at the data on farmers' suicides over the last few years. In the year 2008 alone, 16,196 farmers committed suicide in the country. Is this a symptom of rising income in the rural areas? The people in the rural areas suffer from acute malnutrition with more than 80% of the population not receiving the stipulated calorie intake of 2400kcal per day. The total public investment in the rural areas has declined drastically with the farmers also not being able to access cheap bank credit. As a result of all these, it has now become a well established fact that there exists a severe agrarian crisis in rural India.

It is indeed the case that there has been a shortfall in the agriculture sector and food production in the country. But the real issue is who is responsible for the short fall. It is easy to blame the drought conditions of the last year. But the real point is that the growth rate of food production has slowed down over the years in India. Moreover, even while registering a very high growth rate of GDP, the agriculture growth rate has been very slow. The reason behind such slow growth of the agriculture sector is the neo-liberal policies pursued by successive governments, where even after so many years of independence the share of investment in agriculture is only 3.3% of GDP (2008-09). The lack of investment in agriculture coupled with complete absence of land reform and opening up agricultural trade has resulted in the overall agrarian crisis.

One of the primary reasons for food inflation lies in the speculative activities in the commodity exchanges whereby essential commodities are traded in the future market giving rise to hoarding activities, which in turn generate inflationary pressures in the economy. The Government has stubbornly refused to ban future trading on these commodities. Secondly, because of the vested interests involved in the Government, the prices of sugar gets dictated by what is profitable for the sugar mills

lobby in Maharashtra. Added to all this is the question of the entire policy framework pursued in India which forbids the development of agriculture by protecting the interests of the farmers and the rural poor.

As such I urge upon the Government to take following actions as measure for controlling price rise:

1. To strengthen the PDS by making it universal and by providing food grains at cheap prices.
2. To stop forward trading of all agriculture products.
3. To withdraw recent hike in prices of urea along with governments move to decontrol the price of the fertilizer.
4. To implement land reform policies for the benefit of the poor and marginal farmers.
5. To increase the numbers of BPL families by changing the criteria for identifying BPL families and also to take action on the basis of Saxsena Committene and Tendulkar Committee reports.
6. To amend the essential commodity act for taking action against the hoards and black marketers with active cooperation with the State Governments.
7. To stop commodity exchange policy.
8. To introduce food security legislation.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Madam Speaker, I have been carefully listening to the discussions in the House on rise in the prices of essential commodities. At the outset, I would like to share the concern of all the hon. Members who have expressed over the escalation of food prices which we have witnessed in the last few months.

This is a serious issue which impacts the livelihood of many, particularly masses, and has been engaging the attention of the Government also.

[Translation]

This Government has always been trying to take whatever steps need to be taken to tackle the issue.

Whatever the input which we had received from the discussions the Government always tried to accept them, be it the move to provide the States with more power by amending the essential commodities list or be it the question of allocation of foodgrains ...*(Interruptions)* taking into account the good position of foodgrains stock and keeping in view the norms of buffer stock, excess stock in the godowns of the Government, efforts were also made to take different types of decisions through Government of India to allot the said stock to each states.

Madam, there was a suggestion that Prime Minister should convene a meeting of all the Chief Ministers of the country and whatever the suggestions coming forth from the State Governments in the said meeting should be accepted to the maximum extent possible. Acting on this suggestion Prime Minister convened the meeting of all the Chief Ministers of the country and all through the day each Chief Minister of the country presented their views and shared their experiences in the meeting and in order to formulate future strategy, a Committee was set up comprising of the Chief Minister of certain States and Ministers of the Central Government, even the terms of reference for the said Committee has been prepared.

Perhaps you may not be ready to accept what I intend to say, after listening the speech, Basudeb Achariyaji made a mention of it. Something was said about the statement of Prime Minister, In the meeting of the Chief Ministers he said that.

[English]

the worst time is over and the situation will improve.

[Translation]

Leader of Opposition presented some figures of the market before the House. I have to see it, I will collect those figures from her and will also collect some information about the source and try to find more information in this regard. Everyday I get data from all the markets of the country. At this time, a trend has been visible for several weeks that there has been an impact of our steps on the prices of the essential commodities. The process of decline in prices has started. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEKAER: Please listen to him.

...*(Interruptions)*



SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Here I have the Delhi edition of Financial Express dated 24th February.

[English]

The Financial Express of 24th February says: Prospects of better rabi yield soften pulses and vegetable prices.

[Translation]

in columns they have. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Raigad): He is quoting from the newspaper. ...(interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Madam, how can they disturb the hon. Minister like this? ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji, please take your seat.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I am aware that the news about the process of the crisis blowing over is a bitter pill for you. I know it....(Interruptions) I am ready to give official information, I am ready to give newspaper information also.....(Interruptions) Delhi issue of Amar Ujala dated 24th February, Wednesday-Pulse prices starting to drop in the country. They have given a detailed report on this portion.

[English]

The Hindustan Times, Delhi of 24th February says: "Delhi Government's intervention brings down dal prices and other commodities prices". The Financial Express says: "prices of the vegetables, pulses and other items are on the decline. The Business Line of 21st February says: Cheaper cereals and vegetables signal easing of inflation.

[Translation]

Now-a-days all these reports are appearing in the newspapers, I am not going into them. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): We are perturbed by listening to various figures. This will not resolve anything....(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

18.15 hrs.

At this stage Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, Shri Lalu Prasad and some other Hon. Members left the House.

18.15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hrs.

At this stage, Shri Basudeb Acharia, Shri Nama Nageshwara Rao and some other hon. Members left the House.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: They did not allow the House to run for two days and have been saying that they want to hold a discussion on that. Today when the discussion started, situation is like this only. They do not want to listen to him....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The Government of India has got a special cell under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs which collects daily figures of many items, at least 17 items, and which reports to the concerned Ministry.

One point raised here by the hon. Leader of the Opposition is that price of rice has gone somewhat near to Rs. 32 per kilogram. On 24.11.09 – this is Delhi market retail price that I am giving – the price of rice was Rs. 23 per kilogram. One month back, it was Rs. 23. One week back, it was Rs. 23. Yesterday also, it was Rs. 23. What I am trying to say is that prices had stabilised at Rs. 23 and not Rs. 32. ... (Interruptions) I will definitely come back. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I did not say 32, I had said 25. You have shown interest in knowing the source of my figures. My source is my own ration bill, my source is my own vegetable bill as the figures in the bill were written in tiny letters, I got it typed and brought it here. These figures are of the day before yesterday. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please maintain order.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Now, the hon. Leader of the Opposition had given one particular figure for atta. My information about atta is this. Three months back, the price of atta was Rs. 17 per kilogram. One month back, it was Rs. 17.5. One week back, it was Rs. 17. Yesterday also, it was Rs. 17.

Now, I come to gram dal. Three months back, its price was Rs. 40 per kilogram. One month back, it was Rs. 39. One week back, it was at Rs. 37. Yesterday, it was Rs. 36.

Then, tur dal's price three months back was Rs. 91 per kilogram. One month back, it was Rs. 87. One week back, it was Rs. 76. Yesterday, it was Rs. 73.5.

The price of urad dal three months back was Rs. 77 per kilogram. One month back, it was Rs. 74. One week back, it was Rs. 68. Yesterday, it was Rs. 67. So, the price of urad dal has come down from Rs. 77 to Rs. 67. Similarly, the price of masur dal has come down from Rs. 69 to Rs. 59.

For sugar, I can give market figures of yesterday. In Delhi, it was Rs. 41. Those who know about the sugar, sugar industry and sugarcane, they know the details also. There are also some of the hon. Members who are sitting on the Opposition side, who are very knowledgeable. They are also running sugar mills and they also know all these details, and they will accept one thing that the trend is that sugar prices are also going down. Yesterday, in major States of UP and Maharashtra, and particularly Maharashtra, the S-30 sugar has been sold at Rs. 3,140 a quintal which was Rs. 4,600 one month back. So, this clearly indicates that sugar prices are also going down.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (Sheohar): How did it become expensive earlier? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I will come to it. I will definitely come to it. There were so much talks about the potatoes here. Today the situation of potatoes is such that

[English]

the price of potato three-months back was Rs 19; its price one-month back was Rs. 20 and its price one-week back was Rs. 9. Today its price in Uttar Pradesh is Rs. 4.50, and in West Bengal it is Rs. 2. ...*(Interruptions)* In fact, I met a delegation under the leadership of Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

[Translation]

The way price of potato is coming down in West Bengal, in view of that the Government of India is required to cooperate with us to purchase potato so as to protect the interest of farmers there. We were to meet today but that could not be held. A meeting shall be held tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. I would like to assure all our colleagues of left wing on the part of the Government of India that wherever price of potato is coming down. I will extend my whole-hearted support as far as practicable to protect the farmers. We are ready to adopt this path...*(Interruptions)* The same situation is witnessed in case of onion.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad East): I fail to understand. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The price has already come down. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Harin Pathakji, please sit down. Please allow the honourable Minister to speak up.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: So, I have collected all the prices from all the States, but I do not want to go into the details about this.

I had said that it is correct that the situation was quite serious as it had affected masses and affected many people in this country. The Government was also equally worried and equally serious, and many actions were taken by the Government. Firstly, our total long-term effort was to see how we can improve the agriculture production and productivity, and I will go into the details about what exact action has been taken, but immediate actions were needed in this. What have we done in this? Firstly, it was our responsibility — when there was a mismatch between demand and supply — to see that how we will be able to improve availability. Policy-decisions were taken to encourage imports and simultaneously discourage exports for the sake of improving availability.

The hon. Leader of Opposition has given some information about simultaneous import and export. I will come back and give details about that also. ... *(Interruptions)* In certain cases, subsidy has been given to the Public Sector units to import and distribute some of the commodities through the PDS. My senior colleague, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the Finance Minister has given details about what subsidy we are providing today for edible oil; what subsidy we are providing today for pulses; what is available in the PDS; and how it is comparatively cheaper than all others. Hence, I will not take the time of the House to mention these.

The Government of India has given considerable support to the Public Distribution System to ensure that the vulnerable sections of the country are protected, and one of the most important things is that since the year 2002 till today the issue price of wheat and rice has not been changed for AAY, BPL and APL. We have provided substantial rise to the farming community, but these prices have not been changed till today.

My colleague, the Finance Minister, has given some details about this year's overall situation.

This year, the hon. Members will recollect, in the last Session, we had discussed at length the issue about the situation arising out of poor monsoon and its impact on the production and productivity. It was reported that it was one of the worst droughts that we had seen after 1972. Some of the States had taken immediate action. The State Governments declared a total of 333 districts as under drought. These States are Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Nagaland, UP, Bihar,

Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Orissa, Jammu and Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh. These State Governments had declared that all these districts were affected because of the poor monsoon.

The States of Maharashtra and Karnataka have faced another calamity. Initially, there was a serious situation because of drought. It had affected the sowing operation of paddy, it had affected the sowing operation of oilseeds, and it had affected the sowing operation of pulses. However, in Maharashtra and Karnataka, there were sudden rains also. The rains were such that they had affected the entire agriculture, many houses were affected in Shri Geete's area, and we have witnessed a similar situation in Karnataka because of floods. We have seen a similar situation in one part of Andhra Pradesh too.

Irrespective of this, initially, our report was that we were definitely going to lose a substantial quantity of paddy crop. In Kharif, the major crop is paddy. Punjab and Haryana, these two State Governments have taken special precautions. They tried their level best to save the paddy crop. They bought electricity from other States. They have paid more money for that. The Government of Bihar had introduced a scheme to provide subsidized diesel to save paddy crop. All these Governments have taken proactive actions and because of their efforts, they have succeeded in saving the paddy crop. It is because of their effort, as on today, the initial expectation was that there would be a gap of at least 16 million tonnes in case of paddy, but that has been brought down to nine million tonnes. I would like to congratulate the Governments of Bihar, Punjab and Haryana who have taken these initiatives.

*[Translation]*

Doctor Sahib has just mentioned me a thing. I am least aware of Punjabi. However, I tried to comprehend it in which probably you tried to put across the point that we purchased electricity at higher price, saved our crops, we called on the Prime Minister. He called on me, However, we did not get even a single penny from the Finance Minister. Perhaps this was the complaint that you made. Your complaint is genuine. You of course, called on the Prime Minister, you did see me and the Minister of Finance. However, the manner in which the Government functioned under the leadership of Badal Sahib that deserves our praise and we will not stay

confined to it only. Honourable Prime Minister has thought something about it. The states of Punjab and Haryana will be provided with succour at the right and opportune time. I am sure this matter will come up before the House at the right time.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAJ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): Subsidy was provided on Diesel in Bihar.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: In Bihar we have given 50 per cent subsidy and announced an assistance of Rupees 1000 crore even without raising a demand to this effect. For once it was demanded by them. We have extended this support without demand. Nitishji did not demand it but he took the initiatives. He showed the path. So the Government of India has taken this measure. I would like to thank the Government of Bihar. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ (Sambhal): Please tell about Uttar Pradesh also.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Where this initiative was taken, it was done.

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (Ghosi): When you do not provide support even after raising a demand, how will you give without making a demand. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI: The situation in Bihar will improve if you give something to the state.

MADAM SPEAKER: Dara Singh ji, Rama Deviji, please sit down.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I have already stated that the Government of Bihar has not put forward any demand. The Government of India had responded to their needs by taking initiatives on its own. Timely efforts were raised given the circumstantial requirements. Now we are baffled with the problem as to why prices are going up. I would like to submit one thing in the House. Before UPA came to power, the erstwhile UPA Government had presented its agenda before the country wherein it was declared that the Government will make its all out efforts to provide the farmers with fair price. Farmers will not be allowed to suffer. We will always keep it in mind.

[*English*]

Basically, it was the thinking of this Government or the objective of the Government to raise the income level of the farmers and improving terms of trade for the agriculture.

[*Translation*]

The Government of India decided to take this measure after taking a comprehensive view of the same. This will partly or wholly have this bearing on price rise. This aspect was taken into consideration before taking this step. The first thing is that the number of farming families in the country is nearly 12 crore. If we go by five members in a family, it comes to 60 crore people engaged in the farming sector. In this figure I have not counted landless labourers who in some way or the other are associated with agriculture.

[*English*]

By and large, about 62 per cent of the population of this country depends on agriculture. It was a conscious decision that was taken by this Government. Unless and until we improve the overall condition of the sizeable sections of the society, we will not be able to improve the country and country's economy. We may take many decisions to improve the industry. We may encourage trade that is very much required. But unless and until 60 per cent population or 58 per cent population whose purchasing power is going to be weak and if they are going to disassociate from all these developments, I think, this country or this society has no prospect and future. So, it was deliberately decided that we have to improve the purchasing power of this particular section.

[*Translation*]

For years together the price we were paying them, the procedure of determining prices that was there, on these fronts, it was always taken into consideration how it would impact the market. It is also important because we can't afford to undermine the market factor. We can't overlook the interests of the common men.

However, we don't think we need to go to that extent in which the growers may not suffer themselves but they were coming to a pass. ...(*Interruptions*) Three months back I went to a village in Punjab where I came across an old man of about 92 years of age. He asked

me to convey to the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh that for the first time they were getting such a price for wheat. They had not ever received Rs. 1100 per quintal. What the UPA Government is paying them..(Interruptions). He told me....(Interruptions) The way certain steps have been taken to raise the Minimum Support Price has really sent a wave of happiness among the farmers. It does not matter whether it pleases you or not...(Interruptions) This 92 years old farmer told me one thing. 'Bhai Sahib, I want to tell you that my daughter was married 62 years back, at that time I had to sell 5 bags of wheat to buy 10 gram gold. I had to dispose off five quintal wheat for 10 gram gold. Today I have to sell 15 to 16 bags of wheat to buy 10 gram gold. This makes one thing clear that there is a need to pay the farmers a substantial amount for their produce. The price of the rest of the things were going up and there is a big hiatus in the price of agricultural produce vis-a-vis the rest of the commodities. An initiative was taken under the leadership of Manmohan Singhji in the UPA Government to remove these disparities. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Raigarh): Maximum number of farmers have committed suicide during the last five years.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I am telling you that also.

[English]

To boost production, the minimum support price of wheat has been increased from Rs.640 per quintal to Rs.1100. The minimum support price of paddy common variety has been increased from Rs.560 to Rs.1000. Despite a huge cost to the Government, the MSP of wheat has been enhanced by 72 per cent and of paddy by 79 per cent. This is not restricted to wheat and rice only. The same approach has been taken on pulses, on oilseeds, on cotton. An hon. Member asked as to what happened in Vidarbha.

For the first time, Vidarbha farmers have got between Rs.2,500 and Rs.3,000 per quintal for their cotton, which they never got for a number of year. I have seen on many occasions there was agitation from the Vidarbha farmers

[Translation]

I have seen on many occasions there was agitation from the Vidarbha farmers that an amount of Rs. 700 should

be given to us, Rs. 1200 should be offered. Rs. 1500 should be given or Rs. 2000 should be given. The Government has provided Rs. 2500 to Rs. 3000 without any demand to this effect. Such bulk procurement never ever took place in Vidarbha. I would like to give you an example that the data of Rural Bank deposits were found in Yawatmal where maximum incidents of suicide have been reported. You collect the data from there and one thing would be clear that the amount deposited by the farmers in the Bank this year is far higher than ever deposited by them. This itself speaks volumes that they have got a fair price. ....(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The real problem is, unfortunately some of the State Governments are not taking initiatives to execute these schemes. Ultimately, these schemes have to be implemented by the State Governments. The Government of India, Cotton Corporation of India is ready to provide whatever money is required, even advance money was also provided, but those State governments have not taken any initiatives. Unfortunately, the farming community and cotton growers from that area has been affected. ....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

The Government has increased the prices of wheat, paddy, millets, maize, oilseeds, all pulses and the cotton etc. in such proportion that it is going to be reflected as growth in production of the country. This process was initiated at several location and in different regions. As I said in the beginning, it is the responsibility of the Government to protect the interests of the poor in the society. In view of this sense of responsibility, no changes, have been effected in three categories of AAY. BPL and APL through PDS. The issue price has remained the same. Its impact is reflected in the total subsidy.

[English]

When I took over this responsibility about six years ago, the total burden of the subsidy was Rs. 19,000 crore but this year, I think, we would cross Rs. 72,000 crore.

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\*Not recorded.

That type of burden has been consciously taken by the Government just protect the interests of these weaker sections.

[*Translation*]

The policy of the Government is clear and it has tried to do justice to the farmers by providing them reasonable price in order to bring change in the condition of the farmers. The Government has taken the financial burden on it by granting subsidy in order to provide consumers particularly the poor commodities at reasonable prices. The Government has been implementing this scheme for the last several months.

A question has been raised here that there is discrimination in allocation. I would like to clarify this before the House that—

[*English*]

whatever allocation has been given to AAY, BPL and APL it has not been reduced at all. It is true that the APL variety category, certain quantity was reduced in the last two years and there was a reason because most of the States have not lifted. The Government of India has allotted food grains to all the states, but in the APL category, the lifting was less than 30 percent.

In some States it was less than 20 percent.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): At that time the market rate was less.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Anyway, but that was not lifted. It was not lifted for two to three years.

[*Translation*]

after lifting it continuously for three years, we observed that there was no support from the people, and also the support from the Government was also not there, then only we reduced the quota and did not do anything other than that. We did not effect reduction in the allocation. This year, there was a change in the situation. The prices began to rise. We had a very good stock position and even today it is good. There is a need to generate availability in the market for such stock. We provide 35 kg. wheat and rice to AY category and BPL to generate availability and we have continued the same. Besides, BPL category was being provided grains upto

10 kg, we made certain changes in this scheme. The change was brought in such a way that we provided 35 kg of foodgrains to the APL category in the entire North-Eastern states, hilly states, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands. We implemented this. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar): This was not done.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: You do not ever get anything. You please sit down. Yesterday, when the Railway Minister was delivering her speech, you were demanding a train upto Andaman from Chennai. I was watching that. It is upto you how much interest you wish to take in that. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: You are wrong. Your Government was there in Andaman. ...(*Interruptions*) A survey was conducted. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: You please address the Chair.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I am not yielding. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

All these states were given 35 kg of foodgrain. In addition 20 lakh tonne more wheat and rice was allotted to all the states. We fixed its price as MSP only. What is the meaning of MSP? We charged the same price for that as we pay to the farmers while purchasing their foodgrains, whereas our prices do not remain the same to that extent. Mr. Finance Minister has given details about this in his speech. When we purchase one quintal paddy, we pay Rs. 1000 to the farmers for that. When the government of Punjab purchases it, we have to pay 12 percent tax to the government of Punjab, thus we have to pay extra Rs. 120/- for the same paddy. We pay Rs. 50 for gunny bag and also pay for loading and

unloading and thereafter we pay for its transportation. In this way, its cost comes to nearly Rs. 1600. When we purchase one quintal of paddy, we get 62 kg rice out of it. The price of this rice rises further by Rs. 20 to 21. In spite of such a high rate, we provide this to the general public, as I had earlier mentioned, at the rate fixed in 2002. The Government of India is sharing such a big responsibility. We purchase a big stock and pay to farmers at the rate of 1100 per quintal for wheat and Rs. 1000 per quintal for rice. We pay Rs. 1100 to farmers and we provide additional quota to State Government at the same rate of Rs. 1100. This means, we have not charged the gunny-charges. We have not charged the taxes, which we have paid to the governments of Punjab and Haryana. We have not charged the loadings-unloading charges. Besides, we have not even charged the existing local commission. Today, the leader of Opposition has also so mentioned that we had fixed one price for farmers, while the price in the market was different.

I need to take further information from her, as other state governments have written to me in a different way....*(Interruptions)* I would like to inform you as to why there is more allocation. More allocation is meant to give relief to the general public from the problem of price hike. Besides, we made more allocation at MSP.

*[English]*

Day before yesterday, 22nd February, 2010, I have received a letter from the Chief Minister of Bihar. He has written:

"Although we have allocated some quantity of wheat and rice for lifting under OMSS, the prospect for their lifting under this scheme do not seem very bright when an effective price gap between the market price and price under this scheme is there."

*[Translation]*

It means that we have given the food-grain to the State Governments at the Minimum Support Price. Nitish ji has said that our people would pick up this commodity but I do not believe this, because the rates prevailing in the market are less than this, even far below than this. I mean to say that market prices are less than MSP. The Leader of Opposition had mentioned that we offer one price to the farmers and for general public

there is some other price. To explain this difference....*(Interruptions)* I would explain the other difference.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad East): What about consumer price?. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: This letter I got yesterday from Shri Ram Prasad Chaudhary,

*[Translation]*

The Minister of Food and Supplies, Uttar Pradesh. The Government of India have fixed the "price of wheat at Rs. 1140 and of rice at Rs. 1507. If we include the handling and wage charges in this fixed price, it would not be possible to sell this wheat and rice in the open market because rice and wheat is available at a lesser price in the market of Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

What these State Governments are communicating to me. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

Yes, support price, we have allotted to the State Government but the State Government is not ready to lift the same and the State Government is writing to me that this commodity is available in the market at a lesser price than ours and that is why they cannot lift the foodgrain at MSP. It was said here that farmers are paid one price and prices in the market are double and triple than that. We have to find out truth in this because the state government is trying to deal it separately. ...*(Interruptions)* It is told that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: You have said that I have mentioned that there is a lot of difference in the support price and retail price and I have given these statistics. You are mentioning that you have fixed the support price for wheat at Rs. 10.80. Is this the support price?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: It is Rs. 11. '

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I had said that Flour is available in the market at the price of Rs. 20. Just

see the gap. You gave rice at the rate of Rs. 11 but it is bring gold at Rs. 25. You yourself had mentioned that it is Rs. 23. I did not say that it is Rs. 32, instead I mentioned it as Rs. 25. I have brought the typed copy my ration bill of the shop from which I get my ration. The amount which I spend every month is mentioned in the bill. Common housewife has to. *...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Madam, you want to highlight the impact on common man. You are saying that. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: He is confronting the figures presented by me. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: You should refute what he has said.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: He is giving consent to my figures.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: You go to those places where there are big markets.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I go to Kendriya Bhandar. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You all may please sit. The hon'ble Leader of the Opposition is speaking.

*...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Jagdambika Pal ji, you please take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: The Minister of Agriculture has given consent to my figures. These are two figures i.e. Support price and Retail price. *...(Interruptions)* Citing my name has said that the Leader of Opposition was stating about the difference between support price and market price. It means what I was saying is true that there is a difference. You are giving support price of Rs. 11/- per kilogram to farmers whereas in the market it is Rs. 25/- per kilogram. You please accept this. I have brought it myself. You come with me, I will show you because you have given the rate of Rs. 11/- per kg. to farmers whereas in the market the

rate is Rs. 25/- per kilogram. Both these figures are true. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister is saying something. You all please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Harin Pathak ji, you please take your seat.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Your figures may be true. I know which shop you visit. *...(Interruptions)*. I do not even know that. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Geete ji, why have you stood up? You please take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I do not buy from Khan Market, I buy from Kendriya Bhandar.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I do not know. As I have said the rate of our rice is of a particular variety. The rate of which is of common variety. It seems you have brought the rice of a different variety.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I have bought Parmal variety of rice.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I do not know this.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sushma ji, it seems that you do not eat the rice of common man. You eat the best quality of basmati rice. We eat brown rice. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Munde ji, you may sit. Rama Devi ji, what is going on? What are you all doing? You please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Shah Nawaj ji, what are you doing, please take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)\**



[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record like this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Geete ji, why do you stand up every time? You please take your sit. Do not stand up.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The Leader of Opposition has put forth another issue before the House that the Government has. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Geete ji, you please take your seat.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Government has understood the need to keep the buffer stock to protect the interests of the common man. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Why have you all stood up? What are you saying? You all may please sit.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: She has said that the Government has not maintained buffer stock. There was a need to maintain buffer stock, I agree.

**19.00 hrs.**

Whether it was the NDA Government or the UPA Government, till date, buffer stock is maintained for only two items i.e. wheat and rice. As far as the position of buffer stock of wheat is concerned, I simply want to say that there are norms for buffer stock i.e. buffer norms. This Government has further improved these norms after coming to power. One of the reforms was made as buffer norms plus strategic reserve. This Government has tried to make the position comfortable by keeping more Paddy, cereals in the strategic reserve. The figures which I am giving is the present position of our stock which includes both norms of buffer and strategic stocks. I am not talking of these figures but of the stock. As on 01 January, 2010, there was a need of 82 lak tonnes of wheat combining strategic norms and buffer stocks. We have a buffer stock of 230 lakh tonne. ...(Interruptions) As on 1 January, 2010 there was a need for keeping 118 lakh tonne rice according to the buffer norms and we have 242 lakh tonnes.

...(Interruptions) These two facts prove that.

...(Interruptions) There have been certain problems in it.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please listen, the Minister is responding.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR. The Government of India has maintained whatever buffer stock, which is required as per the norms. It is not like that we have kept it empty. Government of India has fulfilled the demands of the categories of public distribution. Along with this, Government tried to bring down the prices by selling extra two million ton in the open market, that material was sold. All the flour-mills which prepare flour were allotted additional 20 lakh ton, it was sold off. Along with this, an additional quota of 20 lakh ton was provided to the State Government, through this step an effort has been made to increase the availability in the market. I am forced to make complaints that some....(Interruptions).

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Tell us why the prices have not come down? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Prices have come down. Some of the State governments have not taken the goods even after its allocation. We can alert them... ..(Interruptions).

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam, I have said the same thing that prices have come down but the Minister of Agriculture is not ready to acknowledge that price-rise..... ..(Interruptions)

**19.03 hrs.**

*At this stage Shrimati Sushma Swaraj and some other hon. members then left the House.*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down, you please take your seat. Why are you on your legs?

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Jagdambika Palji, why are you on your legs?

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: What are you doing? How can you act like so?

....(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Do not resort to sloganeering like this.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: One more allegation has been made by the Leader of the Opposition.

[Translation]

She said that irrespective of the fact that the position of rice in the country was bad, Government of India exported non-basmati-rice-This is not true. Government of India did not export rice in the year 2008-09 and 2009-10. A ban has been imposed on rice export. Only nine lakh fifty thousand ton were given to the neighbouring countries on diplomatic grounds.

[English]

It was done on the request of the Ministry of External Affairs. These countries are Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal. They are our neighbouring countries. There was a request at the Government level. It was done on a Government to Government level. It was not trade or any export. Except that not a single grain was exported. So, the allegation that has been made is not correct.

One more allegation was made here that this Government has exported wheat also. That information is also not correct. We have not exported wheat. We are not encouraging export of wheat. For the time being we have practically stopped export of wheat, rice, pulses, all types of edible oils and sugar.

[English]

One more allegation has been made that we are exporting sugar. That is not correct. In that particular year, we have not exported sugar.

[Translation]

Last year, only one lakh thirty thousand ton sugar was exported, it was an old contract. Apart from this, there

were no other contracts. A point which has been repeatedly made, is that India took steps to give ten thousand ton sugar to European countries. I would like to clarify this point before the House. European countries have certain quota for their countries. When we did not complete the quota, even if we have surplus then also, we are not entitled to send the goods there. Therefore, a responsibility was there on India to give ten thousand ton. In order to fulfil that responsibility, permission was granted through the Ministry of Commerce.

[English]

It was done on the condition that equivalent sugar has to be imported. So equivalent sugar will be imported and then only equivalent sugar from India will be exported to European countries. So, there is no question of any effect or impact on our stock-position. That is the position.

[Translation]

An issue came up here that why a buffer stock for sugar was not maintained. I feel that perhaps they do not have much knowledge about it. Sugar is such an item, which cannot be stored for more than one or one and a half year. It catch fire, it gets rotten. No government has ever maintained a buffer stock for sugar, not even when the NDA was in power and today also there is no such buffer stock. This is a fact that three-four years ago there had been a huge increase in the production of sugar in the country. Sugar available in the country was equal to double the requirement of it in the country. Market of sugar in the country, as well as in the world witnessed a downfall. Here sugar mills were not in a position to pay farmers. In such a situation it was necessary to extend support. In such a scenario, till the time we dismantle the stock, encourage export, there was no other option left before us. Therefore, by extending financial support from sugar development fund and by giving export incentive sugar was exported from here. After two years when we came to know that-overall production of sugarcane was on the decline, when figures from all the states reached us, initially they told that in their states there was no bad impact on the production of sugarcane, crushing will take place in the proper way. But six months later the same state government said that there was a difference between their knowledge and position prevailing on that day. Plantation of sugarcane is comparatively less there in the states. When

this information came up before us, we stopped the export.

The export was done away with and by maintaining 100 lakh ton as stock, efforts have been made to fulfill the needs of the people of this country. In this year our production slowed further down. I feel that production will be around 160 lakh ton. We have 24 lakh ton as carry over, there will be an availability of 184 lakh ton. Our requirement is 230 lakh ton. In order to bridge the gap in between by giving incentive.

[English]

we have not put any taxes and we have allowed anybody to import. They can import raw sugar and they can import fine sugar. Fortunately, the industry has already contracted substantial quantity. Some quantity has been reached to country and some quantity is on the way. I am confident that whatever the requirement of the country is, that gap will be fulfilled because of this import. But the prices at which the farmers were getting today, my observation is that the farming community are quite happy about it. I recollect and the hon. Members will also recollect last year immediately after the elections when we met here, for the first two days, the House could not function because of the agitation from the sugarcane farmers. I think the hon. Members will recollect it. There was a demand that we should provide such and such price to the farmers. The Government conceded their demand. A new formula has been adopted and a new price has been announced. Fortunately, in most of the places, the industry is also paying the same price. As on today, the farmer in Uttar Pradesh is getting somewhat near to Rs. 250/- to Rs. 260/- per quintal price for sugarcane which he never got in the last 50 years.

Madam, I do not want to give more information. I do not want to give the name of one district. In my home State in one of the districts, which produces sugarcane and I had been there for some reason, I visited three Assembly segments. The Collector gave me the report in the three Assembly segments. It is essentially sugarcane producing districts. In the three Assembly segments in the last four months, 55,000 motor bikes have been purchased by the farmers. I have also seen that the work of digging well was going on. They are buying new equipment. A lot of them are constructing their houses. So, the rural India is really changing,

particularly the sugarcane area is changing. ... (Interruptions) I was saying that the cotton farmer has never seen Rs. 3,000/- in the last 40 or 50 years. So, it is a conscious decision of the Government of India to provide better prices.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): Hon'ble Minister, farmers of Uttar Pradesh are getting 250,260,280. ... (Interruptions).

MADAM SPEAKER: Jagdambika Palji you please listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: If you have yielded the floor then I will talk for a minute. The government of Uttar Pradesh has registered cases against such farmers who are getting this amount and against such mill owners whom you are giving money, which is creating hardships. Mill owners are absconding from there in the fear that they will be put behind the bars as they have not bought the sugarcane based on reservation instead they bought it from open farmers. I would like to bring this fact into your cognizance.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Your point is correct. Their delegation met us also. I have written to the Government of Uttar Pradesh in this regard and I am sure that some steps or other have been taken in this matter. But there is a good thing in this also, I heard, you say that farmers are getting more than 250 as price in your area also. Till date the farmers of Uttar Pradesh never got this price, this government tried to pay them this price. All these steps will have an impact to some extent on the prices. When the price of can touches Rs. 250 per quintal or Rs. 2500 per ton, then the price of sugar will also go up. But the price of sugar, which was going up, some changes took place in it. I feel that the price of sugar can stabilize around 835-836.

Madam Speaker, today we are seeing this trend here and the price of sugar will touch Rs. 50 per kilo, no such situation prevails today. So I would like to say only this much that as I have said initially that the policy of the government is that farmers get right price, efforts have been made to implement this policy. Government's policy is that the vulnerable section should get grains at fair price. Till date, we have not made any changes in

the issue of price of grains and the government has taken the entire responsibility on its shoulders. The grains, which are being supplied to the states, today also, it is being provided at the rates of the year 2002. That's why the Government of India is trying to protect the interest of the said classes. As regards the rest of the sections of the society and the APL category by enhancing the production and availability, we are trying to alleviate also the issue of price-rise being faced by APL category. I believe that the farmers of the country, once they get right price, will increase their production and whatever deficiencies are there in the country, the gap between demand and supply, he will put in hard work to bridge the said difference as the policies of the Government is in his favour. Therefore, there will be changes in the entire situation. As the Prime Minister said

[English]

"The worst time is over". I am absolutely confident about that. The worst time is over. We are on the line of better days. I am sure the situation will change.

[Translation]

Whatever hardships are being faced by the common man, there will be changes in it. There is no need to say anything more. So, I am concluding my speech with these words only.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, thank you.

DR. K.S. RAO (Eluru): Madam, I have a very important point to make.

MADAM SPEAKER: No.

DR. K.S. RAO: Please allow me to put one question.

Mr. Minister, with the support of the Government of India and with the encouragement from the Government of India, in Andhra Pradesh, the coastal districts are suitable in climate for raising the palm tree gardens. The farmers have raised palm tree gardens in one lakh hectares but the rate of palm oil has suddenly fallen from Rs. 6300 per tonne to Rs. 3400 per tonne thereby the entire farming community, who have raised the plant

for four years now— only after four years, it will come to the crop-bearing stage—is in difficulty. The farmers are in the condition of cutting all the palm trees. If the hon. Minister were to pass on the same subsidy which is given to importers of palm oil from Malaysia and other countries to these farmers, there will not be any need for import of edible oil from other countries, particularly palm oil, which is now running to the tune of 60 lakh tonnes. Will the hon. Minister promise in this House that he will pass on that subsidy which is being given to the traders to the farmers so that permanently this problem is solved?.... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Not so many questions are allowed. This is not a Question-Answer Session.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (Idukki): The Government is trying to import palm oil. It will badly affect the coconut oil farmers in Kerala. So, I demand that it should not import palm oil to Kerala.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The solution for this is there. In the Agriculture Ministry, there is a Scheme called the Market Intervention Scheme where 50 per cent losses will be borne by the Government of India and 50 per cent losses will be borne by the respective State Governments. I am ready to take up this issue of coconut oil with the Kerala Government and of palm oil with the Government of Andhra Pradesh. If both the Governments are ready to accept the Scheme, the Government of India will enter and purchase at MSP that material and save the farmers.

DR. K.S. RAO: Hon. Minister, I thank you for this.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, thank you.

*The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 26th February, 2010 at 11 a.m.*

19.19 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, February 26, 2010/  
Phalguna 7, 1931 (Saka).*

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